

## Session 2

Created in God's image

Children experience that God made everyone special. He created each of us in his image. We are the crown of his creation.

**Scripture:** Genesis 2:6–25

**Supplies:**

- Creation cube from Session 1
- Sandbox
- Mirror to put in the sandbox
- Copy of the crown on cardboard
- Decorations for the crown



### Welcome

Divide the children into groups of no more than 5. The first child begins with “My name is... (child gives their name). God made me special. I can do... (child names something they can do well like drawing, singing, do sums, sport, etc.) well.” The group repeats “Your name is... God made you special. You can do... well”. Then the next child gets a turn.



### Worship

**Settle down ritual:** Children quiet down and lie on the ground/grass, close their eyes and listen to sounds around them or to a CD with nature sounds (or MP3 sound clip from the Kix website). While the children are lying down with their eyes closed, the group leader begins saying: “God made everything. He also made you and me. He loves me very much. He blew his breath into me,” (take three deep breaths and exhale them slowly).



### Word

Optional: Use the creation cube again.

Let's have another look at what God made:

Day and night

Heaven and water below the earth (*put a small container of water in/beside your sandbox*)

Land (*Take a hand full of sand and let it run through your fingers*) and sea (*scoop some of the water with your hand and let it pour down through your fingers*)

Sun, moon and stars

Fish (*put plastic fish in the container of water*) and birds (*put a picture of a bird on a branch and put it in the sandbox*)

Plants (*put fresh twigs in the sand*) and animals (*put pictures of animals on sticks or use plastic animals and put them in the sand*)

*Put all of the above strategically on the side of the sandbox so that the middle is open for today's session.*

Then God did something very special. *(Take a piece of clay and make a person while you're telling the rest of the story).* He said: "I want to make people. I want them to take care of the earth. They must care for the fish and the birds and the animals." God made a person from the mud of the earth. The person wasn't alive yet. God blew his breath into the person's nose. The person immediately came to life. *(Blow on the little person and place it in the middle of the sandbox).*

The Lord gave the person a very special garden to live in. He told the person to take good care of the garden. *(Take a small garden fork or normal fork and toss the sand around a bit or make patterns in the sand).* He also told the person: "You can eat fruit from all the trees in the garden. Only the fruit from one tree you can never eat. It is the fruit from the tree of knowledge. The day you eat from that tree's fruit, you will surely die!"

The Lord let all the animals walk past the person and he gave each of them a name. *(Move some of the animals past the person in the sand and say: "I name you elephant, zebra, ostrich, etc.")*

The Lord also said: "It is not good that the person is alone in the garden. I will make someone who will suit him and can help him."

Then the Lord let the person fall into a very deep sleep. *(Lay the person down in the sand.)* While he was fast asleep, the Lord took one of his ribs and closed the hole with skin again. The Lord made a woman from the rib and took her to the person. *(Take a small clay figure from under the sand that you made and hid beforehand and place her next to the other person.)* The moment the person saw her, he said: "Finally I have a partner, someone who is like me! She differs just a little bit from me, she is a woman!"

This man and woman were named Adam and Eve. They were the first man and woman that God ever made.

Now close your eyes and listen to this Psalm, Psalm 8, that David wrote. He wrote about the people that God made, because He didn't just make Adam and Eve. He also made you and me and He made us very special! "Oh Lord, our Lord, everyone on earth can see how wonderful You are! When I look up at the heavens, I can see how mighty and strong You are. Even small children can praise You for it. Even people who don't like You, must admit how wonderful You are.

When I look up at night, I see the moon and the stars that You made. And then I wonder: Why do you still think of mankind? You don't need anything from people. Yet You made us so important. You use us to take care of everything that You made. We can take care of tame animals like sheep and cows. But we can also take care of the wild animals. We can decide over the fish and the birds.

O Lord, our Lord, everyone on earth can see how wonderful you are!"

Children reflect on the story:

1. I wonder how you feel about knowing that you are the crown of God's creation (the best He made).
2. I wonder why God made you the crown of His creation and what it means to be the crown of creation.
3. I wonder how God feels when people treat each other badly or say bad things about each other.



### Working and Playing

- Put a small mirror in the sand and invite the children to look into it one-by-one to think about the miracle that He created.
- Make a crown with the words: "You are the crown of God's creation." Let the children decorate it.

**Closing prayer to end the session**

