

# Praise God

## Lesson At-A-Glance


Scripture Reference  
**Psalm 8**

Lectionary Sunday/  
Church Season  
**Trinity Sunday**

Lesson Focus  
**God is awesome!**



### Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Arrival Time</b> Kids make a large hand-tracing mural and do an Activity Page.	Activity Pages 	Pencils, markers, mural paper, masking tape
<b>Circle Time</b> Kids do a welcome clap, review the lectionary season, and learn about the Holy Trinity.	Leaflet	Apple, knife, plate
<b>Prayer Time</b> Kids pray and make the sign of the cross.	None	None

### Open the Bible (15 minutes)


	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Praise God Storytelling</b> Leader or kid reads aloud from the Spark Story Bible, and kids use body rhythms to praise God.	Spark Story Bibles	None
<b>We Praise God!</b> Kids praise God using their own psalm and sign language for the word <i>God</i> .	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	None
<b>God's Creation</b> Kids draw a favorite part of God's creation.	Leaflets	Markers

## Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>We Can Care for Creation</b> Kids discuss ways to care for the world.	Leaflets	Markers
<b>God Made the Moon</b> Kids learn about the moon.	Leaflets	None
<b>Draw It!</b> Kids play a drawing game.	None	Paper from a recycling bin, pencils

## Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Good-bye Time</b> Kids select what they will do at home this week and share a good-bye handshake.	Leaflets	Pencils, scissors
<b>Prayer Time</b> Kids sing a song of praise.	Family Pages 	None

 Visit [www.sparksundayschool.org](http://www.sparksundayschool.org) for more Spark content! Watch a short Lesson Prep Video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find four downloadable resources for this lesson: an Activity Page, a Family Page, and two additional in-class activities.

# Gather (10 minutes)

## Arrival Time

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Set out copies of the Activity Page for this lesson and pencils on a table. Before class, cover a tabletop with mural paper, and secure the edges with tape. Place the markers within easy reach for the kids.

**God made each person different. Some people have big hands; others have small hands. On the mural paper, trace your hand. Use a different color marker to make it look colorful, too. The hand tracings can overlap—it actually makes a cool design if you let them overlap. Let's try to do as many hand tracings as possible. Trace both of your hands more than once. And you can trace each other's hands. After we've all had a chance, let's look at what unique hand sizes and shapes God made! Today's Bible story is a song, praising God for making you and me and everything else!**

Invite kids to do the Activity page. When all kids have arrived, invite them to join you in a circle or a small group.

### Spark Resources

Activity Pages



### Supplies

Pencils  
Markers  
Mural paper  
Masking tape

## Circle Time

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**Let's say hi to everyone today. God welcomes everyone into the family of God! Let's do a welcome clap for each person in our class! Pat your hands on your lap twice; then clap your hands once.** Demonstrate and practice these actions until everyone is in rhythm together. Keep the *pat-pat-clap* rhythm going, but now, add a kid's name when you clap your hands. (Examples: *pat-pat-"KATIE!"* and *pat-pat-"TOM!"*) **Every time we clap our hands, we'll say the name of someone here today. Let's start with name of kid today.** Repeat the pattern until each person's name has been spoken. End with: *pat-pat-Welcome!*

If the kids in your class tried the Faith on the Go! activities from last week's leaflet, be sure to invite kids to share what they did. Ask everyone how they showed love to someone or helped another person during the last week.

Hold up the leaflet and point to the picture of the leafing tree on the gold background and the lectionary date. **Last Sunday, we celebrated the Day of Pentecost, the day when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples in Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit came in a rush of wind and little flames of fire. We are now in a new season of the church year called the Season after Pentecost. With this new season we have a new picture, a tree that is growing and leafing, just like you are growing!**

**Today is the first Sunday after Pentecost, but it is also a special day in the church year called Trinity Sunday. The color we see on our leaflet for special days is gold. On this special day, we remember that God is the Trinity—one God but three parts: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.**

### Spark Resources

Leaflet

### Supplies

Apple  
Knife  
Plate

**One way to help us understand the Trinity is by using a piece of fruit. God is like this piece of fruit. God is made up of three parts. The first part, God the Father, is like the skin of the fruit. The skin is strong and protects the fruit, just like God the Father is strong and watches over us.**

**Who is God the Son?** (*Jesus*) **The second part, God the Son, is like the part of the juicy flesh of the fruit.** Cut the apple open. **This part of the fruit is food. It helps us grow big and strong. God sent Jesus to earth to help us to grow big and strong in our love for God.**

Remove a couple of the seeds and hold them in your hand. **See the little seeds.**  
**What happens when you plant the seeds?** (*They grow into a new plant and make lots of other fruit.*) **God the Holy Spirit is like little seeds. God the Holy Spirit gives us faith to believe in God's love. As we read the Bible, pray, and help others, the Holy Spirit helps us to grow in God's love, just like a great big fruit tree.**

## Prayer Time

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**One way that people remember that God is the Trinity is to make the sign of the cross. In some churches, when they hear the words "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit," they make the sign of the cross like this.** Use the same hand to touch your forehead, your chest, your left shoulder, then your right shoulder. **Let's all try it. Touch your forehead, your chest, your left shoulder, then your right shoulder.** Repeat the actions, this time using the words. **I'm going to pray a short prayer, and then we'll make the sign of the cross together.**

**Dear God,**  
**Thank you for being awesome and wonderful.**  
**We know you are too special to call by just one name.**  
**So we pray this prayer** (Cue the kids to get ready for the sign of the cross.)  
**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**  
**Amen.**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

## Open the Bible (15 minutes)

### Praise God Storytelling

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**Today's Bible story is a song, called a psalm. Psalms are words to songs. Many of them were written by King David. The psalm we're going to read today is a happy psalm. The writer is praising God for making you, me, and everything else. But not all of the psalm writers were happy. Some were angry. Others were sad. But all of the psalm writers knew that God always listened to them.**

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

None

Pass out the Spark Story Bibles and invite everyone to find Praise God on pages 158-159. Wait until all kids have found the story, assisting those who may need help. Encourage kids to follow along as you read or ask for a volunteer to read aloud.

**Each one of us is wonderfully created by God. Let's use our bodies as musical instruments to praise God. Each time I say, "Praise God!" you will respond by copying the action I do.**

**Praise God!** Click your tongue, and have kids join you. Continue to repeat the words and follow with a different action. Try hand claps, finger snaps, leg pats, palms rubbing together, stamping feet, knee knocks, clapping hands against cheeks, and pounding chest. Invite kids to name other actions, and lead the class in this praise. **Look at all of the things we can do with our amazing bodies!**

Have a brief conversation about the story. Ask the kids these questions:

- 1. What is a psalm?** *(a song or a poem to God)*
- 2. In Psalm 8, our Bible story, what does God ask people to do?** *(to take care of the earth and everything that lives on it)*
- 3. What are some things you can do to take care of the earth and everything that lives on it?** Affirm all responses.

## We Praise God!

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If kids are not already seated at a table, move to one for this activity. Give each kid a leaflet.

**Look at the Bible story picture on the first page of the leaflet. We can see that it's nighttime. What do you see in the picture?** *(moon, stars, cloud, sky)* **Who created all of these things?** *(God)* **Yes! In the psalm, the writer is thanking and celebrating God for creating these wonderful things and everything.** Hand out stickers to kids. **There is a word on our large sticker today. What is it?** *(God)* **Put the sticker in the space to finish the title of our activity: We Praise God!**

**We're going to say a psalm of our own to God today. We'll use our bodies to say the word *God* in sign language and do a cheer to praise God for making all of creation. To sign the word *God*, hold out a flat hand. Hold your fingers up to heaven and bring your hand down in front of your face. We'll sign and say the word *God* at the beginning of each sentence. At the end of each sentence, jump up, pump your arms into the sky, say, "Hooray for our awesome God!" and sit down.** Point out the cheer on the leaflet and the line that they will be saying. Practice this response. Do the cheer together. **The next time you get a big hug, see a beautiful flower, or listen to a bird singing, you can praise God. You can praise God every day for all of the amazing parts of God's creation.**

**Let's look at the bottom of this page and read about where we can find this story in the Bible.**

**Spark Resources**  
Leaflets  
Lesson Stickers

**Supplies**  
None

Today's Bible story, Praise God, is from the book of Psalms. If you open to the middle of most Bibles, you will find Psalms in the Old Testament. The book of Psalms has 150 songs of praise and prayers. King David wrote most of the psalms in the Bible.

Now look at the bottom of the third page in your leaflet. It has the same words that we just read, but it's missing some important words. Use the word stickers to fill in the blanks. Which word do you think goes where? (*Praise, Psalms, songs*)

After attaching the stickers, read the statements together.

If you are interested in teaching your kids a Bible memory verse from the story, use this one. Teach it to them by inviting them to echo what you say, one phrase at a time. Teach kids the meaning of these words:

*Sovereign*: God is bigger, more powerful, and more important than any of us.

*Majestic*: God is like a great king.

**O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! Psalm 8:1**

## God's Creation

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Invite kids to open to the second page of their leaflets. **In our Bible story, we heard that our awesome God made you, me, and everything else! King David, the writer of Psalm 8, praises God for making the whole world. Spend a moment thinking about all of the things that God made. Then draw a picture of one of the most awesome things you think God created.** Give kids a few minutes to draw.

Invite everyone to do a show-and-tell about their drawings.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Markers

## Activate Faith (15 minutes)

### We Can Care for Creation

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**Let's look at the third page of the leaflet. In our Bible story, God gives people a big job to do. God asks people to take care of the earth and everything that lives on it. Let's look at some ways kids like you can take care of creation.**

**What do you see in the first picture? If you've ever planted, watered, weeded, or cared for a garden, stand up! Let's count how many people have cared. Now, sit down and color in the circle. Let's try the next one.** Repeat for each of the remaining pictures. **What are some other ways you have cared for creation? How many of you turn off the water when you are brushing your teeth? Have any of you poured leftover drinking water on your houseplants?** Share some of the ways you have cared for creation, too. **Every time you care for God's creation, you are showing love for God.**

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Markers

## God Made the Moon

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**Turn to the back page of your leaflets. One of the amazing things God has created is the moon. What can you tell me about the moon?** Affirm responses. **Let's read aloud some moon facts to learn more about this wonderful part of God's creation.** Invite volunteers to take turns reading the facts. Help with the words as needed.

Spark Resources  
Leaflets

Supplies  
None

**Over thousands of years, people have made up stories about the moon. One of these stories is that the moon is made of green cheese. That's a pretty silly one. But scientists today still don't know what the moon is made of. Another story is that the moon has a face. Can you see the man in the moon in the photo? It's really just the landscape on the moon—the craters and mountains—that makes it seem like the moon has a face. Our God is an awesome God!**

## Draw It!

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**We're going to play a game that uses recycled paper. It's called Draw It! Let's divide into two groups.** Groups can sit at opposite ends of the table or in two circles on the floor. Give each group a piece of paper and a pencil. **Here's how we play. Each group will send one player up to me. I'm going to whisper to each of the players something from creation that God made. They will return to their groups without speaking a word. Then they will draw a picture of what I whispered to them. The first group that guesses their player's drawing correctly gets a cheer from the opposite team.**

Spark Resources  
None

Supplies  
Paper from a recycling bin  
Pencils

**The cheer goes: Rah! Rah! Rah, rah, rah! (repeat 3 times)  
Hooray for you!**

Here are some possible things to draw: star, sun, flower, moon, tree, person, dog, cat, rain, rainbow. Be sure each kid has a chance to be the artist.

## Send (5 minutes)

### Good-bye Time

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**Thank you for coming to class today. We talked about how God is awesome, amazing, and the creator of the whole world and every living thing. We celebrated Holy Trinity Sunday as we talked about how we call God Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We learned about the incredible moon that God made. God is awesome!**

Spark Resources  
Leaflets

Supplies  
Pencils  
Scissors

Direct attention to the back of the Faith on the Go! slip on the bottom of the back page of the leaflet, and have the kids fill in the blanks with the name of someone

they want to give this slip to, their own name, and today's date. Encourage them to mark one or more of the ideas or add their own. Have kids cut the slip off on the line, ready to give to someone else.

**After class, give this slip to someone you want to do the activity with. It's like a coupon for time with you. Next week, we can tell each other what we did to share God's love and remember our Bible story!**

**Let's stand in a circle and share a special class handshake! Join hands and follow me.** Swing hands forward and back as you say, **Good-bye, good-bye, good-bye, my friends.** Lift hands up in the air. **God bless you 'til we meet again!** Repeat the handshake with these words: **Good-bye, good-bye, good-bye, my friends. God's love for you will never end.**

## Prayer Time

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Sing this song to the tune of "B-I-N-G-O."

**Let's all sing to praise God!**

**You will recognize the melody of the song. It is the same as the song, "B-I-N-G-O."**

**Let's learn the actions first:**

**God: point finger up high**

**Awesome: raise arms high**

**Wise: point to head**

**Strong: flex biceps**

**Good: cross fists over chest**

**Great: stretch arms out in front**

Practice these several times, then sing:

**Our God is awesome, wise, and strong,**

**Our God is good and great-O!**

**G-R-E-A-T, G-R-E-A-T, G-R-E-A-T** (clap as you sing each letter)

**Our God is good and great-O!**

Each time you repeat the song, remove one letter from the word *GREAT*, leaving behind only the clap. On the last verse it will be all claps instead of G-R-E-A-T.

Be sure to send the leaflets and Family Pages home with kids, dismissing them as appropriate.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None