



**Shape hearts.
Change lives.**



**Teacher
Guide**
Fall 2017

PreTeen
Grades 5-6

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PreTeen Contents

Grades 5-6

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Your opinions are important to us! We value your experience and listen carefully to your comments—guiding our curriculum development and improving HeartShaper. Go to HeartShaper.com/Opinions to take our short, 12 question survey and receive a free activity book download.

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How to Use HeartShaper®

Welcome to HeartShaper Children's Curriculum!

With HeartShaper Children's Curriculum, your students will be engaged in Bible stories through multisensory learning, Bible skill-building activities, and focused life application.

Here's how to start


- Pray for God's help to guide preteens to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Read these introductory pages and the unit pages.
- Use the HeartShaper teaching tools.

How the lessons are organized

- 1 Focus In:** Preteens are introduced to the lesson theme and focus.
- 2 Explore His Word:** Preteens will interact with the Scripture passage and develop Bible skills.
- 3 Make It Real:** Preteens will discover how the Scripture applies to their lives.
- 4 Live It Out:** Preteens will plan and begin to practice the principles of what they've learned.

Important things to know

- **Bible Memory** lists the passage students will learn in each unit.
- **Focus** is the main thought that students will learn and remember in each lesson.



A Powerful God

Lesson 1

Scripture: Genesis 1:1-28
Bible Memory: Psalm 139:13-16
Focus: ♥ God's power and love are seen in creation.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion
 Lord God, how Your power and love are shown in the glory and majesty of creation! As Your Spirit moved over the water, may it work in my life and in the lives of the preteens I teach. May Your Spirit help them move from merely knowing the facts of creation to a personal faith in Your power and love. Give me Your words, Lord, to lead the preteens to know You more and more. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 1 at a Glance

Activity	Quick Step	HeartShaper Materials	Other Materials
1 FOCUS IN Use one or more of these activities to help students experience the wondrous of God's creation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quick Step: Creation Guess-It Game Option: Creation Match-Up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources sheet 2 Resources CD Creation Match-Up printable file 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> dark construction paper, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, reusable adhesive pencils
2 EXPLORE HIS WORD Use these activities to help students describe God's power and love as seen in creation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bible Exploration: Genesis 1:1-28 Bible Memory: Psalm 139:13-16 Optional Bible Skill Builder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities for lesson 1 Resources sheet 3 Resources CD Optional Bible Skills 1, Bible Basics, and Bible Books and Divisions printable files 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bibles, roll paper, markers, reusable adhesive, pencils Bibles, reusable adhesive, whiteboard, dry-erase marker Bibles, card stock, scissors
3 MAKE IT REAL Use one of these activities to help students identify examples of God's power and love in His creation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quick Step: Look Closely Option: God's Power and Love 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities for lesson 1 Resources sheet 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pencils paper, pencils
4 LIVE IT OUT Use one of these activities to help students experience God's power and love as seen in His creation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quick Step: Just Pray Option: Dough Creations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities for lesson 1 none 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pencils modeling dough

PreTeen Teacher, Unit 1, Lesson 1 7

Want more of an overview?

Go to www.heartshaper.com/for-teachers. Look at the Overview by Age Level, and click on PreTeen. Whether you're new to HeartShaper curriculum, not sure how to use the different parts of the curriculum, have never taught, or haven't taught for a while, take a few minutes to go through this overview. You'll be glad you did!

- **Quick Step™** activities are easy to prepare and teach. All that's needed are the curriculum materials and normal classroom supplies.
- **Option** activities are included in every step. YOU choose what works best for you and the different kinds of learners in your class.

Special Needs

Reach kids with special needs



HeartShaper gives the resources you need to train teachers and adapt lesson activities so you can include kids with special needs right in your Sunday school classes.





Look for this symbol throughout the teacher guide to identify activities that work well for all kids, including those with special needs. Additional helps for teaching kids with special needs can be found on the *Resources* CD and at www.heartshaper.com/special-needs.





Examples

<p>Quick Step Take the Challenge </p> <p>SAY: God cares deeply about how we treat our parents or the grown-ups who care for us. The Scriptures are clear— God wants us to honor our parents. I hope you'll accept the challenge to always honor your parents. Ask students to turn in their leaflets to the activity Take the Challenge. Read the instructions. Encourage them to write specific times when they will honor their parents in these ways. Give students time to work on this.</p>	<p>Materials</p> <p>Activities for lesson 2, pencils </p>
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When you see this symbol after a title, it means the activity will work well for all kids, including those with special needs.

<p>Option You Can Do It!</p> <p>Before class, get an outgoing student to help you. Show the student the worksheet, and tell him that, when the activity starts, he is to do all the things on the list. He should start immediately with number 1 and do all of them, even though no one else may do them.</p> <p>Give each preteen a copy of the You Can Do It! sheet. Tell them to work on the page by themselves and not to talk while they do it. Don't say anything if students start doing the things on the list. For those students who did not do anything, give them candy when they ask you for it.</p>	<p>Materials</p> <p>copies of <i>Resources</i> CD You Can Do It! printable file (1 per student), wrapped candy </p> <p> Whisper to rule-based or extremely structured preteens that this is merely an experiment to see what happens</p>
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When you see this symbol in the narrow column, it may give you a helpful tip on how you can tweak the activity to make it better for kids with special needs.

<p>Quick Step Show Me</p> <p>SAY: Show me the perfect smile. Pause as preteens do that. Show me the perfect frown. Pause as preteens do that. Show me the perfect muscle. Pause as preteens do that. Show me the perfect wink. Pause as preteens do that. Show me the perfect finger snap. Pause as preteens do that. Show me something else you can do that's perfect. Pause as preteens do that.</p> <p>ASK: Who thought that you had the perfect smile, frown, muscle, wink, and finger snap? Accept responses. Who do you know that does everything perfectly? (no one) What does the word perfect mean? (having no mistakes or flaws, completely correct or accurate)</p>	<p>Materials</p> <p>none </p> <p>Teaching Tip</p> <p>Continue to display the Poster for the Quarter (<i>Resources</i> sheet 1).</p> <p> See the <i>Resources</i> CD Special Needs Helps 9 printable file for another way to offer this activity for preteens with special needs.</p>
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Or this symbol may indicate that there's an adaptation on the *Resources* CD that will make the activity work better for kids with special needs.



Shaping Special Hearts blogtalk radio show is for anyone who wants to learn more about ministering to families who have children with special needs. Listen as our hosts and their guests discuss topics such as developing a special needs ministry, helping families who have kids with special needs, and reaching out to the church and community in the area of special needs. On-demand episodes are available at www.heartshaper.com/special-needs/blogtalkradio.

Teaching Tools

These multisensory teaching tools are an integral part of HeartShaper!

PreTeen Activities

Your students will love the full-color activity leaflets designed just for them—they make Bible study fun!

- Helps preteens take a deep dive into Scripture
- Encourages preteens to think for themselves



PreTeen Resources

These resources will help you engage students with different learning styles.

These multisensory teaching tools include visual, printed, and audio resources.



Live Wire® student magazine

This weekly student magazine helps preteens take home what they're learning and helps their faith grow.



In the magazine you'll find:

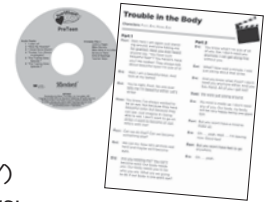
- Short stories and articles of interest to preteens
- Fun Facts, Spotlight On, and Did You Know? features, plus Have a Blast! puzzles and activities

On the 8 sheets you'll find:

- Bible Memory posters (1 per unit)
- Application-type posters and photo cards
- Poster for the quarter

On the CD you'll find:

- Recordings
- Printable files for students: activity pages for in-class use, lesson Scriptures (*KJV* and *NIV*)
- Printable file for teachers: reproducible pages for lessons, Bible Memory posters (*KJV*), special needs helps, teacher helps



Go online to HeartShaper.com and SundaySchool.com

Go to **HeartShaper.com** to find loads of resources for teachers and families! You'll also want to sign up to receive the HeartShaper biweekly e-newsletter.

FREE online resources for teachers:

- Overview by age level
- Training videos
- *Family Connections* quarterly letters
- Holiday helps
- Special needs resources
- *Leading Young Hearts to the Lord* pocket guide
- Puppet patterns

FREE online resource for families:

- *Faith & Family* guide for family devotions

And at **SundaySchool.com**, check out all the ways you can purchase your HeartShaper curriculum—print, downloadable Microsoft® Word docs, and downloadable PDFs!



For simple lesson planning, get the **PreTeen Teacher's Convenience Kit**. It contains one *PreTeen Teacher Guide*, one set of *PreTeen Activities*, the complete *PreTeen Resources* pack, and one set of *Live Wire* student magazine.

Teaching Preteens

With HeartShaper, preteens will grow spiritually

Preteens can know these important facts:

- God continually provides for His people.
- A growing relationship with God is important.
- Jesus, God's Son, wants to be their Savior and friend.
- The Holy Spirit is their helper and guide.

Preteens can show these godly attitudes:

- Desire to worship God.
- Feel valuable as a child of God.
- Accept and love people of other races, nationalities, and abilities as people whom God loves.
- Trust God in hard times.



Preteens can exhibit these desirable behaviors:

- Regularly read the Bible and pray for self and others.
- Show respect for those in authority.
- Develop God-given abilities to participate in the ministry of the church.
- Put God first in their plans and activities.

See the entire list on the *PreTeen Resources* CD or at www.heartshaper.com.

With HeartShaper, preteens will develop Bible skills

Preteens will build on these Bible skills:

- See the overall story or theme to the Bible; that history is God's story
- Begin to understand the chronology of Bible events
- Learn the major emphasis of the Old Testament and the New Testament
- Feel increasingly confident when using the Bible

Preteens will develop these new Bible skills:

- Recognize that there are different Bible translations and understand some of the differences
- Read and explain Bible verses and apply them to everyday life
- Use a Bible dictionary and other Bible tools to better understand Scripture texts
- Value time spent reading God's Word and use the skills they have acquired in personal Bible study

Preteens will gain even more with optional Bible skills:

If desired and you have time, the Optional Bible Skill Builder in each lesson (provided on the *Resources* CD) will help preteens learn these skills:

- List major Old Testament and New Testament events in chronological order and attach people to events
- Name the books and divisions of the Bible
- Explain the themes of Bible divisions
- Find and compare parallel Scripture passages.

See the entire list on the *PreTeen Resources* CD or at www.heartshaper.com.

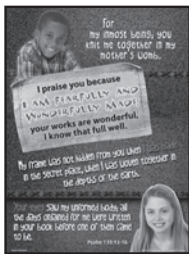
Unit 1

Living in God's Image

Bible Memory

Psalm 139:13-16

“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”



Bible Skills

Bible skills are intentionally integrated into each lesson. You'll help preteens learn how to use their Bibles so God's Word goes deep into their hearts.

Look for this symbol throughout the teacher guide to identify activities that work well for all kids, including those with special needs. Additional helps for teaching kids with special needs can be found on the *Resources* CD and at www.heartshaper.com.



Lesson	Scripture	Focus
Lesson 1 A Powerful God	Genesis 1	♥ God's power and love are seen in creation.
Lesson 2 Made in God's Image	Genesis 1; Psalm 8	♥ God made us to reflect His image.
Lesson 3 Everyone Counts	Genesis 1; Matthew 22; Galatians 6; 1 Peter 2	♥ Respect all people and treat them right.
Lesson 4 Celebrate Your Differences	1 Corinthians 12	♥ Accept people's differences.

HeartShaper Materials for Unit 1

PreTeen Activities

Lessons 1-4

PreTeen Resources

Visuals

- Sheet 1—Poster for the Quarter
- Sheet 2—Photo Cards, lesson 1
- Sheet 3—Psalm 139:13-16 Bible Memory Poster

CD

- Printable Files
 - Bible Basics, lessons 1-4
 - Bible Books and Divisions, lessons 1-4
 - Creation Match-Up, lesson 1
 - King James Version Bible Memory, unit 1
 - King James Version Scripture texts, lessons 1-4
 - New International Version Scripture texts, lessons 1-4
 - Optional Bible Skill Builders, lessons 1-4
 - Person Outline, lesson 4
 - Photo Cards, lesson 4
 - Prayer Request Cards
 - Respect Feud, lesson 3
 - Special Needs Helps (see CD Contents for complete list of files)
 - Teacher Helps (see CD Contents for complete list of files)
 - “Trouble in the Body,” lesson 4
 - What Does It Mean?, lesson 3

Live Wire student magazine

Issues 1-4

Additional Activities for Unit 1

Offer these activities for early arrivers, for students who finish activities quickly, or whenever there is extra time.

Unit Service Project—Welcome Bags

Let students decorate and fill bags to welcome new students. Since being the “new kid in class” can be rather difficult, fun welcome bags will help guests feel welcome and accepted. This project can be as elaborate or simple as you want. Use colorful small bags or containers (dollar stores are a good source). Brainstorm with your students what they could write on the bags. Some ideas include: “We’re glad you’re here” or “Welcome! Hope you come back!” Provide small items for students to fill the bags, such as fun activity pages and wrapped candy. Preteens could also include Kellogg’s® Rice Krispies Treats® in the bags and attach a note that says, “It’s a real TREAT to have you in this class!” Have preteens take turns giving the bags to new students in your class.

Beautiful Baby

Ask each student to bring to class a baby photo. Tell students not to show their photos to anyone before class. Collect the photos, making sure that the students’ names are on the backs. Tape each photo to a piece of construction paper and number each paper (don’t write on the photos). Then display them on a wall or bulletin board. Distribute paper and pencils. Ask students to write down who they think is in each photo, identifying each photo by its number. Then see who got the most correct. Point out that even though we all are different, even as babies, everyone is made in God’s image. Read aloud together Psalm 139:13-16. This passage is a reminder that each person is wonderfully made by God.

Prayer Time

Make copies of the *Resources* CD Prayer Request Cards. When students have private requests they would like you to pray about, they can write them on the “Dear teacher” request cards and place them in a box labeled “Prayer Requests for the Teacher.” When students have requests they would like their classmates to pray about, they can write them on the “Dear friends” request cards for you to share during your prayer time.

Optional Bible Skill Builders

Use the Optional Bible Skill Builder activities whenever you have time—before, during, or at the end of your class time.

The image shows two prayer request cards. The first card is titled "Dear friends." and has a section for "Please pray for" with two blank lines, and a "Thank!" section with a blank line. The second card is titled "Dear teacher." and has a section for "Please pray for" with two blank lines, and a "Thank!" section with a blank line.

A Powerful God

Lesson 1



Scripture: Genesis 1:1-28










Bible Memory: Psalm 139:13-16

Focus: ♥ God's power and love are seen in creation.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

Lord God, how Your power and love are shown in the glory and majesty of creation! As Your Spirit moved over the water, may You work in my life and in the lives of the preteens I teach. May Your Spirit help them move from merely knowing the facts of creation to a personal faith in Your power and love. Give me Your words, Lord, to lead the preteens to know You more and more. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 1 at a Glance

<p>1 FOCUS IN Use one or more of these activities to help students <i>experience the vastness of God's creation.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step Creation Guess-It Game</p> <p> Option Creation Match-Up</p>	<p>HeartShaper Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resources</i> sheet 2 • <i>Resources</i> CD Creation Match-Up printable file 	<p>Other Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dark construction paper, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, reusable adhesive • pencils
<p>2 EXPLORE HIS WORD Use these activities to help students <i>describe God's power and love as seen in creation.</i></p>	<p> Bible Exploration Genesis 1:1-28</p> <p> Bible Memory Psalm 139:13-16</p> <p> Optional Bible Skill Builder</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Activities</i> for lesson 1 • <i>Resources</i> sheet 3 • <i>Resources</i> CD Optional Bible Skills 1, Bible Basics, and Bible Books and Divisions printable files 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bibles, roll paper, markers, reusable adhesive, pencils • Bibles, reusable adhesive, whiteboard, dry-erase marker • Bibles, card stock, scissors
<p>3 MAKE IT REAL Use one of these activities to help students <i>identify examples of God's power and love in His creation.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step Look Closely</p> <p> Option God's Power and Love</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Activities</i> for lesson 1 • <i>Resources</i> sheet 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pencils • paper, pencils, timer
<p>4 LIVE IT OUT Use one of these activities to help students <i>praise and thank God that His power and love are seen in His creation.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step Just Pray</p> <p> Option Dough Creations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Activities</i> for lesson 1 • none 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pencils • modeling dough

Focus In (10 minutes)

- 1 Use one or more of these activities to help students **experience the vastness of God's creation.**

Welcome

- Welcome each student by name.
- Early arrivers will enjoy doing one or more of the additional activities described on the unit page.

Quick Step Creation Guess-It Game

Before class, tear apart the photo cards. Place a sheet of dark construction paper over each photo, leaving only a part of each photo showing.

Ask preteens to think how they would answer this question: **What do you think is the most ginormous, greatest thing that God created?** After a few seconds, have students ask others how they answered that question. When preteens are done, have a few volunteers share what they heard. Then divide the class into two teams. For a small class, let individual preteens play this game. Tell students that you'll show each team, one at a time, a photo of something that God created, but they'll only see a small part of it. If they guess what it is, award 40 points. If not, show a little more of the photo. If they guess it correctly, award 30 points. If not, let the other team guess, awarding 30 points for a correct response. If not correct, show a little more of the photo, awarding 20 points for a correct answer. When finished with the game, have kids display the cards on a wall or bulletin board.

ASK: **What do you think about God when you look at what He created?** (He's mighty and awesome. He's creative.)
What part of God's vast creation would you like to explore someday? Accept responses.

Refer to the photo cards. SAY: **Think about the vastness, the awesomeness of God's creation—from the depths of the ocean to the sun and stars, from a little baby to an elderly adult. Let's dig into God's Word to find out how ♥ God's power and love are seen in creation.**

Option Creation Match-Up

Give each preteen a copy of the Creation Match-Up page and a pencil. Let preteens work alone or with a partner to match Column A to Column B. When students are done, let volunteers take turns telling their matches. (Answers: 1=c; 2=g; 3=b; 4=h; 5=a; 6=d; 7=e; 8=f)

ASK: **What do you think about God when you consider what He created?** (He's mighty and awesome. He's creative.)
What part of God's vast creation would you like to explore someday? Accept responses.

SAY: **Let's dig into God's Word to find out how ♥ God's power and love are seen in creation.**

Focus

♥ God's power and love are seen in creation.

Materials

Resources sheet 2 Photo Cards, dark construction paper, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, reusable adhesive (optional: pushpins)



Tech Tip

Go online to find images of God's creation to show students. Or let preteens use their phones to search for images of impressive things God made.



For some preteens with disabilities, circulating through a room and approaching peers for information might be very difficult. Instead, put students into small groups and have them discuss the question.

Teaching Tip

Display the Poster for the Quarter (*Resources* sheet 1).

Materials

copies of *Resources* CD Creation Match-Up printable file (1 per preteen), pencils



The Beat

Check out The Beat, an optional Focus In activity that uses current events, trends, or media to introduce the lesson. Go to www.heartshaper.com and click on For Teachers/The Beat for a free download.

Focus

♥ God's power and love are seen in creation.

Explore His Word (25 minutes)

2 Use these activities to help students **describe God's power and love as seen in creation.**

Bible Background for the Teacher

God is uncreated, separate, and apart from any created thing. The existence of an uncreated creator is the reason there can be anything instead of nothing. The universe is not self-explanatory. It exists because God upholds it by His powerful word (see Hebrews 1:3). This great act of immeasurable power was also God's act of immeasurable love. It's clear that ♥ God's power and love are seen in creation.

God's work proceeded in an orderly fashion. He did not leave the world empty and uninhabitable. Genesis 1 does not describe any creative method of God beyond speaking. It is astounding for us to contemplate the perfection and intricacy of God's system! He had a plan that led to the final creation of human beings made in His image. Being created in God's image is God's acknowledgment that He puts more value on humans than on other elements of creation. As image-bearers, we represent God. Our holy living should reflect God's majesty. Genesis 1 lays the foundation for all that follows—from the very beginning to the very end when God will create "a new heaven and a new earth" (Revelation 21:1).

Materials

Bibles, 6 lengths of roll paper, markers, reusable adhesive, *Activities* for lesson 1, pencils



Note

The Scripture text is provided on the *Resources* CD in both the *New International Version* and the *King James Version*, if you want kids to read from the same Bible version.

Tech Tip

Go to www.biblegateway.com or a similar website to play a dramatized reading of the Bible verses.

Bible Exploration Genesis 1:1-28

ASK: **Where in the Bible would we look to read about the beginning of the world?** (Genesis 1)

Have preteens find in their Bibles Genesis 1:1. SAY: **Let's read together verses 1-28. Listen not only for what God created, but how.** Have volunteers take turns reading the verses.

ASK: **What do these verses tell you about God and who He is?** (God created everything. He is powerful. He loves His creation very much.)

How did God create everything? (by speaking)

Why do you think God created things in the order that He created them? (Students could give several examples, such as: God created dry ground before He created plants. God created the sky before He created birds. God created water and food supplies before He created people.)

On which day do you think God showed His greatest power? Why?

Answers will vary. Encourage students to talk about the many awesome things God made and how those things show God's power and love.

Divide the class into six groups. Give each group a length of roll paper and markers. For a small class, cut a long length of roll paper, and let preteens work together to illustrate all the days of creation. SAY: **Each group will illustrate one day of creation. Make your drawings match what Genesis 1 says in your assigned verses. Read closely so you'll illustrate what the verses say God created.** Day 1=verses 1-5; day 2=verses 6-8; day 3=verses 9-13; day 4=verses 14-19; day 5=verses 20-23; day 6=verses 24-28. Tell the groups to also write at the top of their papers what day of creation they are illustrating.

When students are done, ask them to display their illustrations, in order, on a wall. Beginning with day 1, let preteens explain what they drew. Ask these questions after each day of creation:

ASK: How is God's power seen in what He created? This will differ for each day of creation, but make sure students understand how only our powerful God could create what He did in the way that He did.

How is God's love seen in what He created? This will differ for each day of creation. (God created a lot of food sources to give us a big variety of food. God created a lot of trees and plants for us to use and enjoy.)

Distribute the leaflets, and ask preteens to look at the activity God, the Creator. Read the instructions, and let preteens pair up to do the page together. When students are done, have volunteers tell which days the things were created on, according to Genesis 1. (Answers: 1=day 1; 2=day 3 [according to only the Genesis 1 Scripture]; 3=day 3; 4=day 4) Also have volunteers tell which day each of the things pictured were created on. (Answers: A=day 4; B=day 5; C=day 6)

SAY: God planned every aspect of creation, and everything He made was for us! How awesome that ♥ God's power and love are seen in creation.

Bible Memory Psalm 139:13-16

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."

Display the Psalm 139:13-16 poster on a wall or bulletin board. Write "Psalm 139:13-16" on the board. Ask a volunteer to come to the board and tell what each part of the Scripture reference means. (*Psalms* is the name of the book, 139 is the chapter number, the colon separates the chapter and verse numbers, and 13-16 are the verse numbers.) Have preteens find Psalm 139:13-16 in their Bibles, and ask a volunteer to read the verses aloud.

ASK: Who wrote these verses? (David) If students aren't sure, have them look at the notes under the chapter number.

What do you think is the main thought in these verses? (that everyone is created by God and that makes everyone special, that everybody should praise God for making them)

SAY: No matter what you think of yourself or what others think about you, you are wonderful because God made you! ♥ God's power and love are seen in creation—and that includes you! These verses are important to memorize because whenever you are feeling down about yourself, you can remember the words of these verses—that God made you, and He made you in a wonderful way. Encourage preteens to begin memorizing these verses.

Materials

Bibles, *Resources* sheet 3, reusable adhesive (or pushpins), whiteboard (or bulletin board), dry-erase marker



Note

The Bible Memory in the *King James Version* is included on the *Resources* CD.

Optional Bible Skill Builder

Print the *Resources* CD Optional Bible Skills 1 printable file.



Focus

♥ God's power and love are seen in creation.

Make It Real (15 minutes)

- 3 Use one of these activities to help students **identify examples of God's power and love in His creation.**

Materials

Activities for lesson 1, pencils (optional: magnifying glasses)



Quick Step Look Closely

Ask preteens to look quickly at the shirts or tops they have on. Let several share what they see. Then ask them to look at their shirts or tops more closely, and let several share what they see. If you have magnifying glasses, let preteens use them. SAY: **When you look more closely at something, you see more details. That's how it can be with God's power and love in His creation. We may think about it once in a while, but when we look more closely or think about it more, we'll discover lots more.**

Ask preteens to turn in their leaflets to the activity Look Closely. Have a volunteer read number 1.

ASK: **What did God create in the sky or in space that shows His power?** (sun, moon, stars, planets, galaxies)

What did God create in the sky or in space that shows His love? Why do you say that? (the sun, it keeps us warm)

Tell students that for number 1 they might write something like this: "by the way He created the planets and by the way He created the sun that keeps us warm." Be sure to tell preteens that there are a variety of ways these can be completed. Let students work alone or with a partner on the rest. When preteens are done, let volunteers share what they wrote. SAY: **Let's try to look more closely every day to see examples of how ♥ God's power and love are seen in creation.**

Materials

paper, pencils, Resources sheet 2 Photo Cards, timer (You might have used the cards in the Focus In Quick Step activity.)



Option God's Power and Love

Ask preteens to hold up their arms and make a muscle. Look at everyone's muscles and point out who has the largest muscle. SAY: ___ (name of student) **is the most powerful person in our class.** Distribute paper and pencils. Ask students to draw the best heart they can. Look at the paper hearts and point out who made the best heart. ___ (name of student) **shows the most love of anyone in our class.**

ASK: **You agree with what I said, don't you? If not, why not?** (no; having a big muscle doesn't mean someone is the most powerful, making a good heart doesn't mean that someone shows the most love)

What's one way we can learn about God's power and love? (by thinking about what He created)

Give each student or pair of students a sheet of paper, a pencil, and a photo card (or cards) that shows something God created: group 1=sky or space; group 2=nature; group 3=animals; group 4=people. Each student is to answer this question: Thinking about the sky and space (or nature or animals or people), what are some examples of God's power and love? Tell preteens they have four minutes to come up with the biggest list they can. When time is up, let the students report. SAY: **Examples of how ♥ God's power and love are seen in creation are all around us. Let's praise and thank God!**

Teaching Tip

There are usually a few students who tend to dominate discussions. Encourage everyone in the groups to participate.

Live It Out (10 minutes)

- 4** Use one of these activities to help students **praise and thank God that His power and love are seen in His creation.**

Quick Step Just Pray

SAY: **Some people praise and thank nature itself. But we, as Christians, praise and thank God, the creator of nature. Some people praise and thank people for the great abilities they have. But we, as Christians, also praise and thank God, the creator of people. Let's praise and thank Him right now that ♥ God's power and love are seen in creation. Think about the vastness, the awesomeness, of God's creation.** Encourage preteens to call out what they would like to praise and thank God for. Tell students that they can simply call out a word or phrase, such as "family" or "the sun" or "my cat Whiskers." Encourage all preteens to call out something.

Then have students turn in their leaflets to the activity Just Pray. Ask a volunteer to read the prayer that's been started. Tell preteens to complete the prayer on their own, praising and thanking God for His creation. When students are done, invite them to silently pray their prayers to God. After a brief time of silence, close in prayer. PRAY: **Dear God, we are in awe of Your power. By speaking, You brought forth the world and everything in it. God, we are in awe of Your love. You show us love through the people You created to care for us. And You showed us the greatest love possible when You sent Jesus to earth. We can't praise and thank You enough. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Option Dough Creations

SAY: **Think about the vastness, the awesomeness of God's creation. Think about how powerful God is to create the entire world from nothing, just by speaking! Think about how deep God's love for us must be to create all the many things and people that He did—just for us!** Give each preteen some modeling dough. Encourage them to form something that they would like to praise and thank God for. It might be a person, something in nature or space, food, or an animal. As preteens work, you could play some songs that praise and thank God. When students are finished, let volunteers show and tell about what they made with the dough.

Close with a time of prayer. SAY: **Some people praise and thank nature itself. But we, as Christians, praise and thank God, the creator of nature. Some people praise and thank people for the great abilities they have. But we, as Christians, also praise and thank God, the creator of people. Because ♥ God's power and love are seen in creation, let's praise and thank Him right now.** Ask volunteers to offer praise and thanks to God for specific things and people He created.

Focus

♥ God's power and love are seen in creation.

Materials

Activities for lesson 1, pencils



Tech Tip

Let preteens choose a song that praises and thanks God and find photos that illustrate God's power and love in nature. Then let them create a presentation of these pics set to music.

Materials

modeling dough
(optional: songs from your music collection that praise and thank God)



See the *Resources* CD Special Needs Helps 1 printable file for activity adaptations.

Live Wire

Distribute *Live Wire* to students before they leave. They will enjoy the articles, puzzles, and other features included in this fun student magazine.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith & Family* pages available online to print and use with their preteens at home. Go to www.heartshaper.com.



Just For You

A Teacher's Vision

Why We Teach Kids

Adults send messages to kids all the time—by their behavior.
Sometimes these messages discourage kids,
demean their worth or diminish their hope.

But a Sunday School teacher who arrives week after week
to faithfully love and look at, smile and listen to kids,
sends messages through behavior, too.

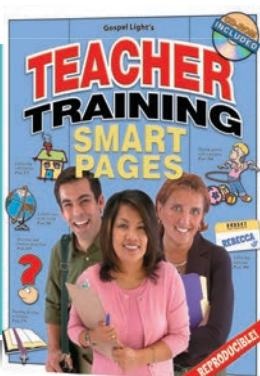
Those messages say:

“You are important to me and to God. I choose to spend time with you.”
“Your opinions and feelings matter to me because who you are matters to God.”
“You are valuable—not someday, but now. You are not a problem to me.
You are God's gift. I am glad you are here!”

Where else in the world can a disheartened kid find such affirmation?
What better way could a lonely kid
find the welcome, acceptance and love that is in Christ?

This is how God's kingdom comes—week after week, building life upon life.
To become faithful givers of such cheerful loving and patient teaching,
we must surrender ourselves to the love of God in Jesus Christ
Only He can empower us to love unselfishly, consistently and genuinely—
so that what we do sends the message that is truly from His heart.

Then our behavior will say that even without monetary compensation,
without applause or appreciation, we choose to love them
purely because we value them for who they are,
because we know Jesus loves them
and because we know
eternity would not be complete without their shining faces.



For more inspiration and training, you'll want to
get a copy of *Teacher Training Smart Pages*.
Available from your Christian retailer or at SundaySchool.com



**Shape hearts.
Change lives.**

HeartShaper helps kids grow to know and love God and His Word—and live it out!

What makes HeartShaper unique?

- Kids take five journeys through the Bible by the time they reach 6th grade.
- Bible skills, integrated into each lesson, build on each other from one age level to the next.
- Activity options are included in most steps of each lesson.
- *Quick Step™* activities, easy to prepare and teach, require no materials other than the curriculum and common classroom supplies.
- Special needs friendly activities are integrated into each lesson. Additional resources are available at www.heartshaper.com/special-needs.



You'll want to use all the multisensory teaching tools provided with HeartShaper:



PreTeen Activities



Live Wire™



PreTeen Resources



Products sold separately or in a kit

Plus, check out FREE online resources at www.heartshaper.com.