Warming Up for God's Word

Materials Needed: Dirt

Directions: There are three different ways this object lesson can be done…

1. As a whole group – Call one child up at a time to complete the task.
2. In small groups – Divide the children up into small groups and have them work on completing the task together.
3. Individually – Each child is given the materials needed to complete the task.

What do I have in this container? (Allow time for the children to answer). That's correct. I have some dirt in this container. I want you to create a person out of the dirt. You can only use dirt; nothing else.

Give the children time to create a person out of the dirt. After allotted time, draw the class back to you.

How did you do with creating a person out of dirt? (Allow time for the children to answer).

Discuss the obstacles they faced creating the person. Talk about the victories they had creating the person.

Did you know that all God used to create man was the dust from the ground?

Let's take some time to read how God created man and woman. The Bible is God's holy word that He wrote. All the stories written in the Bible are true.

Reading God's Word

Read Genesis 2:7-25 aloud to the children.

Genesis 1-2 Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB)

Man and Woman in the Garden

7 Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being.

8 The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there He placed the man He had formed. 9 The LORD God caused to grow out of the ground every tree pleasing in appearance and good for food, including the tree of life in the middle of the garden, as well as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

10 A river went[q] out from Eden to water the garden. From there it divided and became the
source of four rivers.[r] 11 The name of the first is Pishon, which flows through the entire land of
Havilah,[s] where there is gold. 12 Gold from that land is pure;[t] bdellium[u] and onyx[v] are also
there. 13 The name of the second river is Gihon, which flows through the entire land of Cush.
14 The name of the third river is the Tigris, which runs east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the
Euphrates.

15 The LORD God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over
it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree of the garden,
17 but you must not eat[w] from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you
eat from it, you will certainly die." 18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be
alone. I will make a helper as his complement." 19 So the LORD God formed out of the ground
every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and brought each to the man to see what he would
call it. And whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names
to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal; but for the man[x] no helper
was found as his complement. 21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to come over the man,
and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place. 22 Then the LORD God
made the rib He had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 And the
man said:

This one, at last, is bone of my bone
and flesh of my flesh;
this one will be called "woman,"
for she was taken from man.

24 This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become
one flesh. 25 Both the man and his wife were naked, yet felt no shame.

Recalling God's Word

- Who created man?
  - That's right! God created man!
- How did God create man?
  - He created man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils.
- How would you describe the garden?
  - Allow time for the children to describe different parts of the garden.
- What was Adam's job?
  - Adam was to give names to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal.
- How did God create woman?
  - He took a rib from Adam and made woman.

God Gives A Warning – It is important to take some time to emphasize the warning God gave Adam about not eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It will help pave the way for understanding the fall of man/sin entering the world.

- Was Adam allowed to eat from any tree he wanted in the garden?
    - No. There was one tree he would not eat from. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- How do we know this?
    - God told Adam. He commanded Adam not to eat of this tree.
- What would the consequences be if Adam did eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?
    - You will certainly die.

Explanation: Knowing those two things (good and evil) was what God was trying to shield His creation from. To know "good", Adam and Eve would have to experience evil because everything was perfect in the garden. God knew experiencing evil would be devastating to them, so He wanted to shield and protect His creation from this knowledge. God did not want Adam and Eve to experience evil.

Bringing God's Word to Life

Option 1 – Drawing the Garden

Directions: Give each child a piece of paper. Tell them to draw a picture of what they think the garden looked like based on what we read in Genesis 2. Feel free to reread the Bible passage to the children again to refresh their memories of the garden.

Give the children time to work on their creation drawing. When the children are finished, give each child time to share their creation with the class.

SAY: Look at the beautiful garden that God created. God is the creator of all things. We know this because the Bible tells us and we know that the Bible is true.

Option 2 – Name that Animal

Directions: Choose one child to play Adam. Then choose one child to play an animal. The child playing the animal has to act like an animal. Adam's job is to guess what type of animal the child is portraying by naming the animal.

SAY: We are going to play a game called Name that Animal. One of you will play Adam. One of you will play an animal. The job of the animal is to act out how that animal would behave. Adam's job is to guess the animal by saying the animal's name. For example, if you are the

animal, you might choose to be a snake. Then you would slither around on the ground or make your hands into a snake and make hissing noises. These would be clues to help Adam name what animal you are acting like.

Allow the children to take turns playing Adam and then playing the animals.

Let's Play A Game

Directions: This game is called Dust, Dust, Person. It is played like the game Duck, Duck, Goose.

Select one person to be the "Tapper," then have all of the children except for the "Tapper" sit in a circle on the floor.

The "Tapper" walks around the outside of the circle and taps each seated child on the head, saying "Dust" with each tap until he or she randomly decides to tap someone and say, "Person!"

The "Person" runs around the circle after the "Tapper," who tries to get to the "Person's" vacated spot in the circle and sit down before the "Person" tags him or her.

If the "Person" does not catch the "Tapper" before he or she sits in the vacated spot, then the "Person" becomes the "Tapper" and the game begins again. If the "Person" manages to catch and tag the "Tapper" before he or she sits down, then the "Tapper" is "it" again during the next round.

Memorizing God's Word

Directions: Teach the motions to the children. As you say the verse out loud, have the children do the motions with you and join you in saying the verse.

In the Bible, God tells us to hide His words in our hearts (Psalm 119:11, "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.") Memorizing God's word is important so that no matter where we go, we have God's words with us. God's words are true! The Bible is true because God wrote the Bible.

I am going to teach you some motions to go with the words to help you learn the verse. Are you ready?

"Then the Lord God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being." Genesis 2:7

Wrapping Up the Lesson

Directions – Read each of these to the children. After each Unwavering Truth, ask the children to give you examples of how they see God in each of these ways in their own lives.

Unwavering Truths about God:

God is With Us – The best part about God creating the world is that He was with Adam and Eve in the garden. He walked with them and he talked with them daily. God lived life with them in the garden because the garden was perfect.

Even though we can not see God like Adam and Eve, God did not leave us alone. He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for us so that we could be united with God. When Jesus rose again and went back up to heaven, God sent us the Holy Spirit to live inside of our hearts. If you have chosen to accept Christ as your personal Savior, the Holy Spirit lives inside you.

God promises to never leave you or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5)

God is Creative – His use of color in the sunrise and sunsets, the blues and grays of the sky, the uniqueness of all the creatures He created shouts about His creativity.

God is Powerful – God used dust and His breath to create Adam. That's it! His breath alone breathed live into Adam. God then created Eve from one of Adam's ribs. He didn't need a hospital or surgical tools to remove the rib. In His power, He took out one of Adam's ribs and created Eve from that one single rib. So cool!