

KidZone

Guide 1



The Biggest
Sand Castle
EVER

“Hey, Tanya! Let’s do something crazy. Let’s make the biggest sand castle this beach has ever seen!” Ron said.

Ron’s family was celebrating the Fourth of July by camping on the Oregon coast. They were delighted that Tanya, a friend from Russia, could join them.

It was a perfect day. The sand was warm and clean. The waves were as white as polished teeth. The sky looked as if God had spilled a giant bucket of deep blue paint. They felt as though they had fallen into a postcard.

Then they had this wild idea—to create the biggest sand castle the beach had ever seen.

“How would we begin with your biggest-sand castle idea?” Tanya asked.

“Watch this.” Ron marked a huge circle in the sand with his toe. Then he moved out five feet and made a second, even bigger, circle. “Here’s the deal,” he announced. “Let’s dig all the sand from between the circles and throw it into the center. Then we’ll use it to build a giant castle.”

Tanya grinned. “We could never finish it. It’s too big.”

“We won’t do it alone.”

“Who will help us?”

“I don’t know. Surely somebody will.”

No sooner had they started digging than a couple

walking by noticed their circles. “What are you doing?” they wanted to know. The expression on their faces said, “Tell me you’re kidding!”

“We’re building the biggest sand castle this beach has ever seen.”

“Cool! Can we help?”

“Sure!”

Soon someone else stopped to help, and before long whole families joined the fun. Over and over they gave the invitation to those passing by, “Hey, you guys!

Get over here! We’re making the biggest sand castle this beach has ever seen!” Ron’s job quickly changed from worker to construction foreman.

A man walked up to where they were working, folded his arms, and watched. He had muscles like a bricklayer’s; his butch haircut looked like a welcome mat. “You all need some tools,” he announced, “like a shovel.”

“Can you bring us one?”

He returned a few moments later with a driftwood log.

“I couldn’t find a shovel, but how about this?” He thrust it down repeatedly, breaking up the sand and making it easy to scoop up and move.

At one point thirty-five people swarmed around the castle like ants repairing their hill. In three hours the mission was accomplished. They all felt proud. Tanya’s smile was so big she could have eaten a banana sideways.



After all, she was part of the crew that had built the biggest sand castle that beach had ever seen!



God's turn

Imagine the blast God must have had creating the world! That's right; God made everything around you that you see. When you swim in your favorite lake—God made it. When you camp out in the woods with your friends—God made the woods. When you look up into the sky and see the billions of stars—God made them. When you hug your dog or cat—God made them just for you. God also made *you!*

Turn to the very beginning of your Bible. It will say “Genesis” at the top. Read the first verse of chapter one. Then write down in your own words what God did in the beginning.

1. Genesis 1:1 says:

Look at creation, and you will see signs of God’s love. That’s because God made it all for you and me. When He created the world, it was perfect. There was no litter, no sick pets, no death. No one was sad, and there were no problems. (You may be wondering, “What has happened to that perfect world?” Don’t worry—you’ll learn in a future guide who messed it up and what God did about it.)

It’s Been Said . . .

“The possibility of the earth just appearing on it’s own is like a dictionary being made from an explosion in a print shop.” *(Paraphrase of a quote from Dr. Arthur Conklin)*

You did not come from a monkey or an accidental big bang in the universe. You came from the hand of God. He created you because He loves you and wants to be your Friend and spend time with you.

Check out the rest of the story in Genesis 1. Write down what God created on each day. Be creative and list something unique if there is more than one possibility. For example, rather than writing that God created “plants” on the third day, say He created a “watermelon.”

2. Day 1 (Genesis 1:1-5):

Day 2 (Genesis 1:6-8):

Day 3 (Genesis 1:9-13):

Day 4 (Genesis 1:14-19):

Day 5 (Genesis 1:20-23):

Day 6 (Genesis 1:24-31):

Day 7 (Genesis 2:1-3):

God and you

In the creation story God refers to Himself by using the word “Our.” “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness” (Genesis 1:26). This is because God is really three persons—all called God—just like a family may have several members with the same last name. God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit are called the Trinity. We will learn more about this later. But we’ll discover how Jesus is in the center of the creation story.

3. Read John 1:1-3. In these verses Jesus is called “the Word.”

Write down what verse 3 says Jesus did:

In the beginning, Jesus made the world, and He showed control over all creation when He lived on the earth. One night Jesus and His friends were caught in a huge storm as they sailed across a lake. Jesus' friends watched in amazement as Jesus calmed the storm. "The men marveled, saying, 'Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?'" (Matthew 8:27). The Creator still reigns over all creation. And this Creator wants to be friends with the people He created.

What kind of God is God?

As you read in Genesis 1:26, God created us in His image. That means He made us to be like Him in many ways. That's why we can be His friends and care about Him. But even better is the fact that He cares about us. In Malachi 2:10 we read, "Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us?" In the Bible God calls Himself our Father.

While some dads are terrific, other dads don't treat their kids very well. Some kids don't even see their dads very often. But God is not like that. The Bible says that "God is love" (1 John 4:8).



He wants to spend time with you. If He were on this earth, He would play catch and go shopping with you. He wants to be your best Friend. He loves you no matter who you are or how bad you seem to be or how good you think you are.

In the next few lessons we'll learn much more about God's amazing love. It's the greatest love in the universe!



Talking to God

Here's a simple prayer you can pray to your Creator:

Dear God, Thank You for creating the world and creating me. Thank You for being my Friend. Please watch over me, my family, and my friends. In Jesus' name, Amen.

kidZone

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