



LESSON ONE

IN THE BEGINNING
THERE WAS TRUTH

PLANTING SEEDS

LARGE GROUP

TEACHER TIP

As this is the first lesson, take extra time to go over the questions and the Challenges. Don't expect the children to learn everything today. They will be studying the same process for many weeks. This repetition will enable them to easily learn the Challenges and other repetitive items. The concept of the Trinity is a difficult one. We simply want the children to grasp a basic knowledge of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.



SUPPLY LIST

- A glass of water
- A Crock-Pot or hot plate of very hot water
- A small bag of ice kept in a cooler
- Teaching posters: L1-P1, L1-P2, L1-P3, L1-P4, L1-P5, L1-P6

OPTIONAL TEACHING SNACK

- One apple per student
- Caramel dip (optional)
- A sharp knife to cut the apples
- Small plates
- Napkins

LEVEL A

- A Bible for each student
- Student activity pages

LEVEL B

- A Bible for each student
- Student activity pages

LEVEL C

- A Bible for each student
- Note cards for each student
- Pen or pencil for each student
- Student activity pages

MEMORY VERSE

**In the beginning God created
the heavens and the earth.**

Genesis 1:1

PLANTING SEEDS

LARGE GROUP

1

WORSHIP TIME

Lead children in worship using the following songs from the Trackers of Truth worship album included with the curriculum.

1

GOD IS CREATOR (Genesis 1:1-3)

2

THE WAGES AND THE GIFT (Romans 3:23; 6:23)

3

WALK IN HIS WAYS (Psalm 128:1)

The first song reflects today's memory verse, and the next two reflect the memory verses for the coming weeks.

2

TRUTH TIME

The children will begin with our Prayer for Truth and the Tracker's Pledge. Say the prayer and pledge aloud, encouraging the students to repeat after you. (Ask two volunteers to hold the prayer and pledge large posters so that the class can see them.)

OUR PRAYER FOR TRUTH

T - Teach me Your truth.

R - Reveal Yourself to me through Your Word and Spirit.

U - Unite my heart to Yours.

T - Transform my life to be like Jesus.

H - Help me to follow You.

TRACKER'S PLEDGE

In every area of my life,
I pledge to track down truth
in God's Word, walk in truth
by following Jesus, and live in truth
through the power of the Holy Spirit.

PLANTING SEEDS

LARGE GROUP

3

QUESTION TIME

Ask three volunteers to hold the question posters so that all may see the words. Lead the students through the questions and answers.

WHO REVEALS TO US THE TRUTH?

God the Father

WHERE CAN WE LEARN THE TRUTH?

From Jesus through God's Word

WHO WILL HELP US LIVE THE TRUTH?

The Holy Spirit

4

CHALLENGE TIME

Lead the students in the following steps to learn the books of the Old Testament.

- Step 1 will teach the Challenge, which is an acronym to help remember the books.
- Step 2 will teach the meaning of the acronym, which represents the first five books of the Bible.
- Step 3 will teach what each of these books of the Bible is about. Review several times with the students. Say each section clearly and ask the students to repeat after you. *(Ask volunteers to hold the Challenge posters found in this lesson, or let them point to the poster with a flashlight.)*

As you introduce the first Challenge, make sure that the students understand that the Challenge will reveal truth. Only God's excellent love will never disappoint.

PLANTING SEEDS

LARGE GROUP



BIBLE TRACKER CHALLENGE

STEP 1: ASK, "WHAT'S CHALLENGE #1?"

God's **E**xcellent **L**ove **N**ever **D**isappoints

STEP 2: ASK, "WHAT'S IT STAND FOR?"

God's: Genesis
Excellent: Exodus
Love: Leviticus
Never: Numbers
Disappoints: Deuteronomy

STEP 3: ASK, "WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?"

• **GENESIS: THE BEGINNING**

(Form arms in a circle over your head to signify the world.)

• **EXODUS: LEAVING THE SLAVERY OF EGYPT**

(March in place.)

• **LEVITICUS: THE LAW TEACHES US A HOLY WAY OF LIFE**

(Hold left hand up, like a pad of paper. With right hand, act like you're taking notes.)

• **NUMBERS: GOD DIVIDED THE ISRAELITES INTO TRIBES. HOW MANY TRIBES?**

*(Count on your fingers to twelve, representing the twelve tribes of the Israelites.
 Children say, "twelve tribes" in response to the question.)*

• **DEUTERONOMY: HOW TO LIVE FAITHFULLY IN THE LAND**

(Hold up both hands in the air, as if you are holding up the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments.)

PLANTING SEEDS

LARGE GROUP

5

LESSON TIME

Lead the students through the lesson laid out in the following pages. The Prepare section will give tips and insight for implementation. The Teach section will offer creative, scripted dialogue for teaching the lesson. The Wrap-Up section will offer creative, scripted dialogue for practical application.

PREPARE

The children will be introduced to the main characters of the program through the video. Have the screen and video ready for quick and easy implementation. The students will learn about creation, as well as these nuggets of truth.

- God, the Creator, is the Beginning and the End, the A and the Z.
- Jesus was in the Beginning with Father God, you see!
- Father, Son, and Spirit: three in one, the Trinity!

Read Genesis 1, Revelation 1:8, and 1 John 1:1 in preparation for this lesson. To explain the concept of the Trinity, the teacher should have prepared before class the following items: a glass or pitcher of water, a small plastic bag of ice kept in a cooler, a Crock-Pot or hot plate filled with water, heated to produce steam. Another option for this would be to have an adult volunteer put a mug of water in the microwave while you are teaching the beginning part of the lesson. The illustration calls for the children to see steam as a form of water. Be prepared to explain that the illustrations are not an exact representation of the concept of the Trinity, but are merely a means of getting a basic overview of the concept.

NOTE: Some church leaders believe that all physical illustrations of the Trinity are unhelpful. If you are not comfortable using these illustrations, simply skip ahead to the next part of the lesson.

TEACH

SAY: Welcome to the first day of Trackers of Truth! This year you will learn to track down truth in God's Word, walk in truth by following Jesus, and live truth through the power of the Spirit. As Christians, we want God's truth to be ingrained in our hearts. "Ingrained" means to be fixed, firm, unshakeable, or deep-rooted. We want to teach you the Word of God so thoroughly that it will become fixed and firm in your heart, that you will grow an unshakeable faith in God, and that the truth of the Scriptures will be deep-rooted in your life.

SAY: Each week will have a "down on the farm" theme, and throughout the year you may learn some things that you never knew. The Bible uses many farming illustrations, but since we don't all live on farms like most people did in the time the Bible was written, we may not understand what the illustration means.

ASK: For example, what does it mean to sow something? (Allow for responses.)

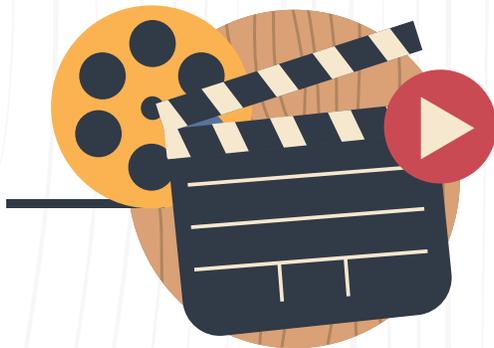
PLANTING SEEDS

LARGE GROUP

SAY: To sow something means to plant it. When you want to grow strawberries, what do you have to sow? Strawberry seeds. When you want to grow carrots, what do you have to sow? Carrot seeds. If we want to grow in the truth of God’s Word, we must plant seeds of truth. But planting seeds is not the only thing we must do. We must water the truth by coming to church. We must fertilize the truth by praying and worshipping God. Over the course of the next year, we will learn lots about sowing and growing!

SAY: To begin, let’s meet some new friends who will help us this year learn more about sowing truth and growing spiritual fruit. Watch this!

PLAY THE VIDEO FOR LESSON 1.



SAY: That story of the techie barn crew—and the pig!—is fiction. It’s not really true, of course. But it can still point us toward truth.

ASK: What truth could we learn from our friends in the video? (Allow for responses.)

ASK: When the crew went back in time, whose voice said, “Let there be light!”? That was God. God is the Creator and He was in the beginning. God always is, always has been, and always will be. Who wants to volunteer to help me?

Select three students to hold the Scripture posters of Genesis 1:1 (L1-P3), Revelation 1:8 (L1-P4), and the Greek letters (L1-P1).

SAY: Let’s start at the very beginning. Genesis 1:1 says, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” This is the very first sentence of the Bible, which we know and believe to be true. So, who can tell me who was in the very beginning of everything? (Allow for responses.)

SAY: God was in the beginning. Revelation, which is the last book of the Bible, says that God is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet, and omega is the last letter of the Greek alphabet.

Point to the Greek letter posters. Then point to the Scripture poster of Revelation 1:8 and read aloud.

SAY: So, the Bible tells us that God is the A and the Z, the Beginning and the End, and He is everything in between! There is only one God, and we need to know that God is everything and we need to trust Him with everything in our life. God is trustworthy and that is the truth.

SAY: Now, there is only one God, but God exists in three persons. This is called the Trinity. The three persons of the Trinity are God the Father, God the Son (called Jesus),

PLANTING SEEDS

LARGE GROUP

and God the Holy Spirit. All three persons of God were at the beginning of the world, which is described at the beginning of the Bible. Let me explain what I mean. I need two more volunteers to help me.

Give the volunteers the Scripture posters of Genesis 1:2 (L1-P6) and 1 John 1:1 (L1-P5).

SAY: 1 John 1:1 says, “We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life.” Who is John talking about? Jesus!

SAY: Jesus, who came to earth in human form, was from the beginning. So, God was in the beginning, Jesus was in the beginning, and Genesis 1:2 tells us of a third person who was in the beginning. It says, “Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.” So, who was the third person there at the beginning? *(Allow for responses.)*

SAY: The third person of God is the Holy Spirit, and He was in the beginning, too. So, we have learned that the three persons of God are God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—three in one! This can be a bit confusing, so I have an illustration to help you. This illustration is not a perfect example, but it may help you understand the Trinity in a simple way.

(Show a glass of water.)

ASK: What do I have in this glass? That’s right! It is a glass of water. *(Show a bag of ice. This should have been kept in a cooler until the time for the illustration.)*

ASK: What do I have in this bag? That’s right! It is a bag of ice. What is this ice made from? Water! So, both are water but are in different forms. *(Point out the Crock-Pot or hot plate with the steaming water.)*

ASK: What is that rising from the Crock-Pot? That’s right! It is steam. What is steam made from? Water!

SAY: So, all three are water. God the Father; God the Son, Jesus; and God the Holy Spirit: all three are different persons of the same God. We call this the Trinity, three in one!

WRAP-UP

Have a volunteer hold the three truths poster (L1-P2) while you review the below with the class.

SAY: Let’s review quickly the three truths we have learned today:

- God, the Creator, is the Beginning and the End, the A and the Z.
- Jesus was in the Beginning with Father God, you see!
- Father, Son, and Spirit: three in one, the Trinity!

Have the children repeat these three things several times. Explain to the children that they will hear more about the Trinity in the next part of the lesson. End the lesson with the following prayer. After the prayer, if you are following the large-group/small-group teaching method, dismiss the students to their age-appropriate small groups. If you are following the single-classroom teaching method, continue on to the Watering Seeds part of the lesson.

WATERING SEEDS

CONTINUE LARGE GROUP OR TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

PRAY: Father God, thank You for creating us and all things. Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross to save us. And Holy Spirit, thank You for guiding us into all truth. In Jesus' name, amen.

6

REVIEW TIME

If you are following the large-group/small-group method, this section will be taught in age-appropriate small groups. If you are following the single-classroom method, continue teaching in large group.

Welcome the students to small group and make sure everyone knows each other's name. Review the following truths with the children.

- God, the Creator, is the Beginning and the End, the A and the Z.
- Jesus was in the Beginning with Father God, you see!
- Father, Son, and Spirit: three in one, the Trinity!

(Pick volunteers to try to say the rhyme aloud from memory. Consider giving rewards for those who are willing to try.)

SAY: I have another illustration to show you concerning the Trinity. Remember, this illustration is not an exact representation of the Trinity, but it may help you to understand the basic concept. *(Take an apple and show it to the class. Point to the outside of the apple.)*

ASK: What is this called? That's right! It is called the peel and it is part of the apple. *(Cut the apple in half. Show the inside of the apple. Point out the sweet part of the apple, explaining that it is another part of the apple. Lastly, point to the core of the apple.)*

ASK: What is this called? That's right! It is called the core, and it is part of the apple. Three parts of the apple are all different, yet all the parts are the same apple—three in one. This is similar to the concept of the three persons of God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, the three persons of the Trinity.

SAY: Now we are going to have a snack together. As you eat, remember the concept of the Trinity. *(Pass out small plates and napkins. Cut apples into slices and let the children dip the slices into caramel dip.)*

God, the Creator,
is the Beginning and the End,
the A and the Z.

Jesus was in the Beginning
with Father God, you see!

Father, Son, and Spirit:
three in one, the Trinity!

WATERING SEEDS

CONTINUE LARGE GROUP OR TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

7

ACTIVITY TIME

As time allows, pick one or more of the following activities to continue the lesson. Pick the activity with consideration of the age of your students.

LEVEL A: KINDERGARTEN THROUGH SECOND GRADE

Encourage the children to bring their Bible each week. If some of the children do not have their Bibles with them or if they do not own a Bible, provide one for each to use during the lesson. Allow the children to pass the Bible around, feel the cover and carefully open the pages.

SAY: The Bible is the Holy Word of God. If something is holy, that means it is very special because it's so different from everything else. It should not be treated like any old book. It should be handled carefully and respectfully. Every word of the Bible is the inspired Word of God. God selected certain people to write down what He told them to write. There are two main

sections of the Bible: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament is the section that tells what happened before Jesus came to live on the earth. The New Testament tells what happened after Jesus came to live on the earth. This year, we will mainly focus on the Old Testament.

Show the children the two sections of the Bible. Then, show the children the first five books of the Old Testament and review Challenge #1 with them.

If time allows, guide the students through the age-appropriate activity pages found in the student activity page booklet.

LEVEL B: THIRD AND FOURTH GRADE

Spend time teaching the children how to look for Scripture verses in the Bible. Use the following as a means of teaching this valuable skill.

SAY: First, find out if the book is in the Old Testament or New Testament. The books are always in the same order. Some people have the order memorized, but if you don't, just check the table of

contents in the front of your Bible. The table of contents is your friend!

EXAMPLE: JOHN 3:16

SAY: After the book name will be two numbers separated by a colon (:). Each of the books is further divided into chapters. The chapter number will be the first number.

WATERING SEEDS

CONTINUE LARGE GROUP OR TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

JOHN 3:16

Each chapter is further divided into verses. They are numbered also, and the number after the colon is the verse number.

JOHN 3:16

SAY: For example, try looking up John 3:16. John is in the New Testament. It is the fourth book in the New Testament, preceded by Luke and followed by Acts. Once you find John (be careful,

because there are also 1 John, 2 John, and 3 John at the end of the New Testament), look for chapter 3, then look for verse 16. If you found it, it will start out like this: “For God so loved the world. . .”

Encourage the children to look up the Bible verses that were discussed today: Genesis 1:1, 1 John 1:1, Revelation 1:8.

If time allows, guide the students through the age-appropriate activity pages found in the student activity page booklet.

LEVEL C: FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADE

Provide the opportunity for more practice finding Scripture. Encourage the students to become more familiar with their Bibles. Have the students open their Bibles to Genesis. Give each student a note card. Ask them to write down what happened on each of the first seven days, as found in Genesis 1. Then, ask the students to locate each of the first five books of the Old Testament. As they look for these books of the Bible, they should use Challenge #1 as a helpful tool.

If time allows, guide the students through the age-appropriate activity pages found in the student activity page booklet.



ACTIVITY PAGES

LEVEL A:

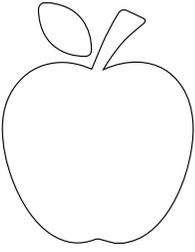
LESSON ONE **LEVEL A**

IN THE BEGINNING ... THERE WAS TRUTH!

Name the three persons of the Trinity:

MEMORY VERSE

Open your Bible to the very beginning. Find the first book of the Bible, the book of Genesis. Write the word GENESIS in the space below.



COLOR ME!

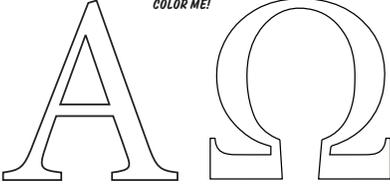
© 2018 by Tracked of Truth | www.trackedoftruth.com

LESSON ONE **LEVEL A**

IN THE BEGINNING ... THERE WAS TRUTH!

- Look at these letters.
- One is like the first letter in our English language.
 - > Can you point to that letter?
- One is not like any letter in our English language.
 - > Can you point to that letter?
- Color in the letters.

COLOR ME!



These letters mean the beginning and the end. God is the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega.

© 2018 by Tracked of Truth | www.trackedoftruth.com

LEVEL B:

LESSON ONE **LEVEL B**

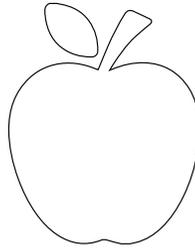
IN THE BEGINNING ... THERE WAS TRUTH!

Name the three persons of the Trinity:

MEMORY VERSE

Open your Bible to the very beginning. Find the first book of the Bible, the book of Genesis. Read Genesis 1:1-2.

Write the word GENESIS in the space below.



IMAGINE THIS APPLE IS CUT IN HALF. COLOR THE PEEL, THE SEEDS, AND THE CENTER!

© 2018 by Tracked of Truth | www.trackedoftruth.com

LESSON ONE **LEVEL B**

IN THE BEGINNING ... THERE WAS TRUTH!

X W L B B Z G
I O Z G D M E
E V O L F N L
P D U V K E O
S S U T I V F
Z D G K Z E P
Q G R D T R A

- Read the words below the puzzle.
- Look for these words in the letters of the puzzle.
- Circle each word that you find, then cross that word out in the list.

What two words from Challenge #1 are missing from the word list? Write them in the spaces below.

GOD'S LOVE NEVER



© 2018 by Tracked of Truth | www.trackedoftruth.com

LEVEL C:

LESSON ONE **LEVEL C**

IN THE BEGINNING ... THERE WAS TRUTH!

Look up the following verse and write it in the space below.

GENESIS 1:1-2

Name the three persons of the Trinity:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



© 2018 by Tracked of Truth | www.trackedoftruth.com

LESSON ONE **LEVEL C**

IN THE BEGINNING ... THERE WAS TRUTH!

N Q T R M S R C L A J G J L S
L C Q E W E M A F B E I G E O
E T A V P I X O W N K Y X V K
E Y H E K F W C E K Y N J I Y
X F S N H Q S S E M N K G T C
T W A U T I S O L P J I O
L O V E D S O N W H L H A C Q
T B T O Q O O N H M Q E L U Y
S W J N Z R X C T K P L N S B
P X E S E L G E T P L I M T U
Z P D T D I S A P P O I N T S
C O U U R W Q S R E B M U N O
G E H H U F P G T A F P L J E
D Y X F B Z W N D H Q G B I I
E K B E R Y P G R P U F D J H

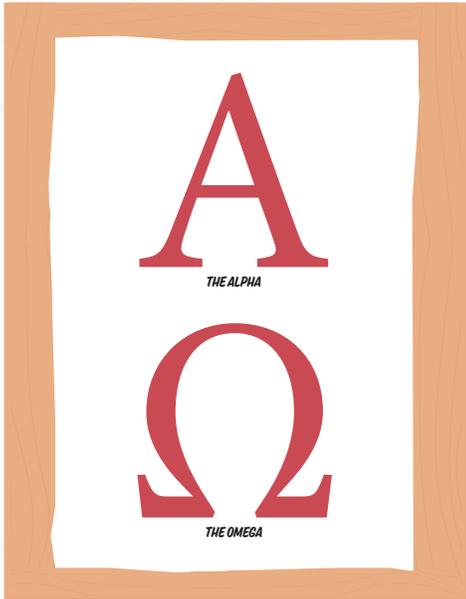
- Read the words below the puzzle.
- Look for these words in the letters of the puzzle.
- Circle each word that you find, then cross that word out in the list.
- After you finish the puzzle, use the space below to describe what you learned today in Trackers of Truth.

Today in Trackers of Truth I learned...

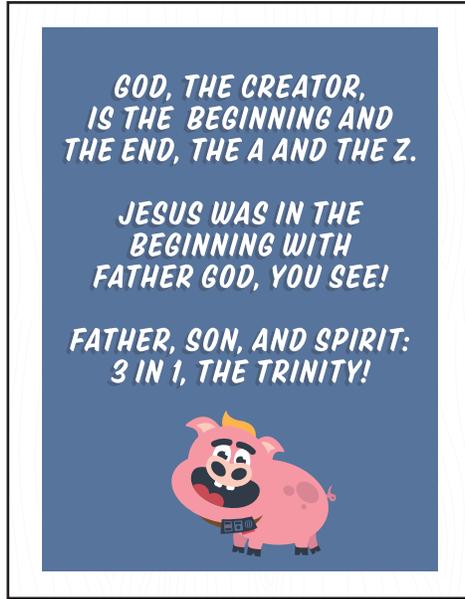
DEUTERONOMY GOD'S
DISAPPOINTS LEVITICUS
EXCELLENT LOVE
EXODUS NEVER
GENESIS NUMBERS

© 2018 by Tracked of Truth | www.trackedoftruth.com

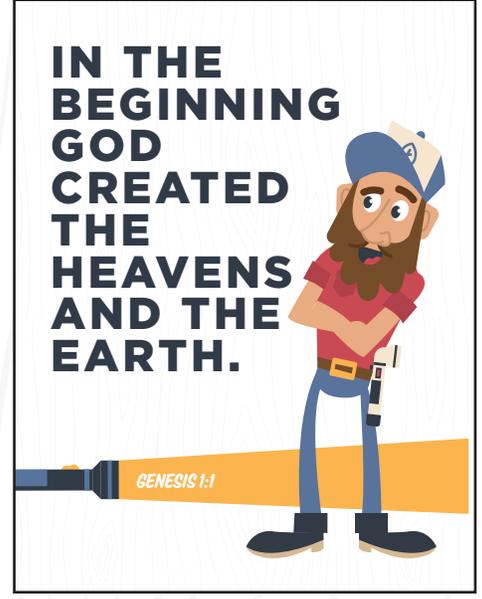
POSTERS



L1-P1



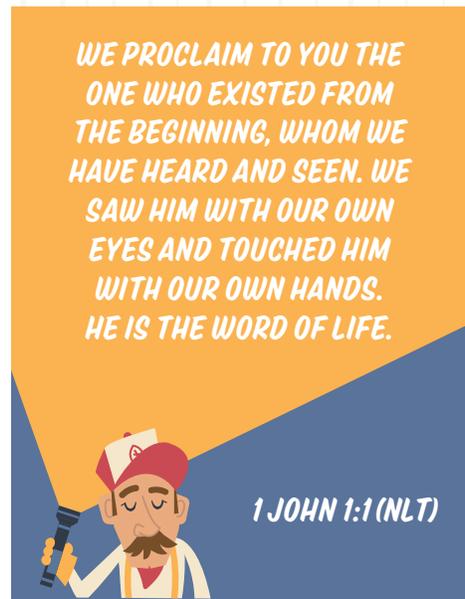
L1-P2



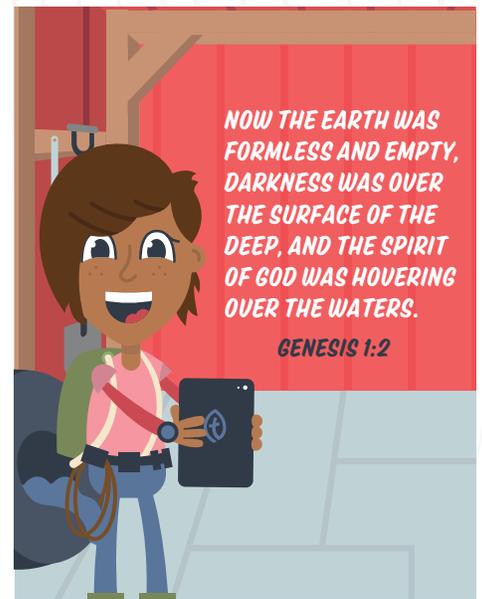
L1-P3



L1-P4



L1-P5



L1-P6