

# Reflection Time Leader



## Overview

Explorers will...

- 🌀 Discuss what it means to arise and shine with love.
- 🌀 Connect the Creation Story with stories in their own interactions with creation.
- 🌀 Be challenged to shine God's love by caring for creation and all of God's creatures.

## Materials

- 🌀 Age-specific **Student Books** and/or **Reproducible Fun Pages**
- 🌀 **Bible Story Activity Stickers** (for younger elementary only)
- 🌀 Markers, crayons, and/or colored pencils
- 🌀 **Discovery on Adventure Island Complete Music CD** or audio file of the song "Creator of the Universe"

## Timeline

**for 20-minute centers**

- 🌀 4 minutes: Icebreaker
- 🌀 3 minutes: Discussion
- 🌀 7 minutes: Journaling
- 🌀 4 minutes: Reflection
- 🌀 2 minutes: Prayer and Worship

**for 15-minute centers**

- 🌀 3 minutes: Icebreaker
- 🌀 2 minutes: Discussion
- 🌀 5 minutes: Journaling
- 🌀 3 minutes: Reflection
- 🌀 2 minutes: Prayer and Worship



## Bible Story

### The Creation Story

(Genesis 1:1-2:9)

## Pathfinder

Arise! Shine with Love

# Icebreaker

## What Do You Love?

Explorers, we will be together a lot here on Adventure Island, so let's make sure we get to know each other well! Every Reflection Time, we'll start with a short get-to-know-you activity or Icebreaker.

The "Creation Story" tells us how God created everything over six days and found it all good. This session's activity will help us get to know each other better. Let's each tell the group:

- 1) Your name
- 2) Two things God created that you love
- 3) One thing that makes you wonder why God created it

## Discussion

- ☛ Why do you think the lanterns we are looking for are called Infinity Lanterns?
- ☛ Why do you think we are looking for the Infinity Lantern of Love first?
- ☛ Why is love so important to us? To God?

In the "Creation Story," as God created, God saw how each part of creation was good.

- ☛ What is something you've made or done that you thought was really good? What did you like most about it?
- ☛ How do you think God felt about creation in the beginning? How do you think God feels about creation today?

In our VBS song "Creator of the Universe," we sing, "*Day four, you created the sun, moon, and stars. And all of them declare how awesome you are.*"

How do you think these lights in the sky tell us how awesome God is?

How do different things God created show God's love?

(Optional: play/read the words to the song "Creator of the Universe")

The song, "Creator of the Universe," is a song of praise. Praise is just one of the ways we show our love for God. What are some other ways we show our love for God?



# Self-Learning

## Younger Explorers

First and second graders complete the activities on pages 2-4 of the **Younger Elementary Student Book** and/or pages 2-7 of the **Younger Elementary Reproducible Fun Pages**.

As Explorers are completing the self-learning activities, discuss the following questions.

- ➊ **According to the “Creation Story,” what did God do on the first day?** (*created light, separated the light from the darkness*)
- ➋ **On which day of creation did God create plants?** (*the third day.*)
- ➌ **What is one thing God created on the fifth day?** (*water creatures, flying creatures*) **on the sixth day?** (*livestock, wildlife, creatures that crawl on the ground, humans*)

God said that all that was created was good. On the seventh day, God rested and blessed this day and made it holy. Sometimes things we call holy are things that shine and show God’s love and God’s glory.

Speaking of God’s glory, who can say our **Signal Verse with me?** (“*Arise! Shine! Your light has come; the LORD’s glory has shone upon you!*” Isaiah 60:1)

If you wonder how you can arise and shine God’s love in creation, remember you don’t do it by yourself. You do it with the light that comes from God, whose glory has shone upon you!

## Older Explorers

Third through sixth graders complete the activities on pages 2-4 of the **Older Elementary Student Book** and/or pages 2-7 of the **Older Elementary Reproducible Fun Pages**.

As Explorers are completing the self-learning activities, discuss the following questions.

- ➊ **According to the “Creation Story,” how long did it take for God to create everything?** (*six days.*)
- ➋ **What does the story say God did on the seventh day?** (*God rested and blessed this day and made it holy.*)
- ➌ **What do you think God meant when God called everything good?**
- ➍ **Why do you think God created light on the first day? Why do you think God created humans on the sixth day?**

God said all that was created was good. On the seventh day, God rested and blessed this day and made it holy. Sometimes things we call holy are things that shine and show God’s love and God’s glory.

Speaking of God’s glory, who can say our **Signal Verse with me?** (“*Arise! Shine! Your light has come; the LORD’s glory has shone upon you!*” Isaiah 60:1)

If you wonder how you can arise and shine God’s love in creation, remember you don’t do it by yourself. You do it with the light that comes from God, whose glory has shone upon you!



# Reflection

## Arise and Shine!

Explorers, when we read or listen to the “Creation Story” in the first part of Genesis, we may be able to use our imaginations and see creation happening, one day and one creation at a time. This story is like a beautiful poem, filled with images and expressing great emotion, great love!

- 🕒 **When you think about this story, where do you find God’s love?**
- 🕒 **How does knowing this story encourage us to shine God’s light of love in the world?**

Our Pathfinder for this session is “Arise! Shine with Love!” As we think about the “Creation Story,” it’s apparent God put a lot of love into the work of creating our universe and everything in it.

- 🕒 **What are some ways you can put love into your work, the things you do, and the things you create?**
- 🕒 **What might help you remember how much God loves you as part of creation and as God’s child?**

Those are good ideas! Since prayer is a way we can put love in all we do and something that can help us remember how much God loves us, we are going to do that right now.

## Prayer and Worship

We will close each of our Reflection Times with worship and prayer.

In the “Creation Story,” the first words God spoke are “Let there be light.” We are going to do a responsive prayer. I will say a line, then we all will respond with, “God who created day and night, let love shine through me.”

**Leader: God, show me your creation and let love live in me.**

**All: God who created day and night, let love shine through me.**

**Leader: God, help me love each plant, the sky, the land, and the sea.**

**All: God who created day and night, let love shine through me.**

**Leader: God, help me love each creature that walks, swims, or flies so free.**

**All: God who created day and night, let love shine through me.**

**Leader: God, teach me to love each person as I know you love me.**

**All: God who created day and night, let love shine through me. Amen!**