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## INTRODUCTION

In His infinite wisdom, the Creator of the cosmos brought our world into existence. When this ultimate Builder constructed us out of nothing, He gifted those made in His image with the ability to be builders themselves. It is not that we can speak the world into existence, as He did. But we can be constructive with the talents and skills with which He has gifted us. In this unit you will delve into the various aspects of the Builder, His builders, the demolitionists (those attempting to destroy good), and the call to recruit new builders of His house.

### **The Builder**

Group members will examine key Scriptures pertaining to the creative acts of God, as He brought the cosmos into existence from seemingly nothing, and will explore the awesome power of the Creator and His love for life.

### **The Builders**

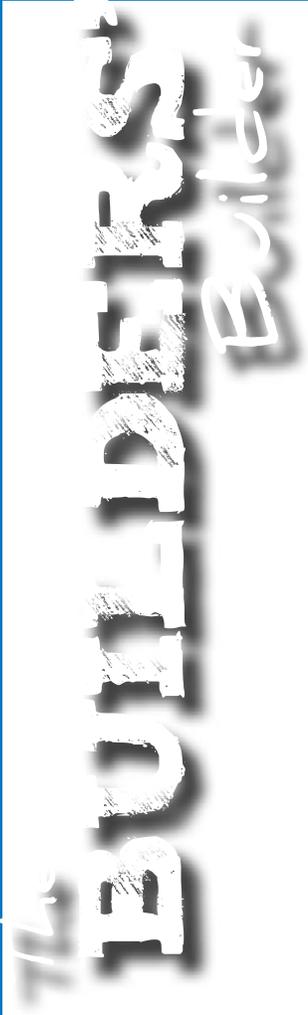
Group members will learn that whatever their creative abilities, God has graced each child of God with the talent to be a builder of God's House.

### **The Demolitionists**

Group members will understand that the gifts God has given them to build up God's House can also be used destructively. They will analyze how some members selfishly attempt to tear down the Lord's Church, even those with possible sincere intentions.

### **Calling New Builders**

Group members will see that being living examples of Christ and offering people the unconditional love of God goes a long way to saving souls.



SAMPLE

# Session One

# The Builder

## MATERIALS NEEDED

- Student handouts
- Pens or pencils
- Bibles

## LESSON OBJECTIVE

Group members will examine key Scriptures pertaining to the creative acts of God, as He brought the cosmos into existence from nothing, and will explore the awesome power of the Creator and His love for life.

## CONNECT

To begin this session, explore this logical premise with your group. According to science, for every cause there is an effect, which implies that for every effect there was a cause. Think about this with your group. How can something come from nothing? Life must have an origin, even if you believe in the theories of evolution. Something had to enact the motion of change. In this study we will propose the biblical view of what, or Who, started it all.

Something cannot come from nothing. Therefore, something has always been. We call *that* something, God. He is the Builder, Creator, or Architect of all that exists in the cosmos. From the tiniest microbe to the largest dinosaur, the Builder created us as that which He deemed good (Genesis 1:31). Life begets life.

## CONSIDER

Provide each group member with a copy of the handout, “The Builder.” This handout will help participants stay on topic during the course of the study discussion.

Referencing the handout, read Psalm 33:6-9. Talk with them about the importance of accepting the biblical account of creation as *fact*. Reflect upon and discuss the power of God’s voice. God not only means what He says, He does everything according to His Divine Nature. Life produces life. Therefore, it is inherent in God’s nature to *create*.

Referencing the handout, read Psalm 148:5. Discuss with your group the foremost reason God deserves our praise, based on this text.

Some people have foolishly asked, “Where did God come from?” Ask your group to differentiate between temporal nature and the eternal nature. Explain: *If something has a beginning, it is not eternal because eternity has neither a beginning nor an end. Yet, we have all witnessed birth and death. So, we know that humankind and earthly life as we understand it is not eternal.* Ask a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1. How does this verse begin? This verse clearly indicates that the cosmos is not eternal. Yet, God existed before time began. Discuss this concept with your group.

Switching gears a little, what exactly does it mean to create? Many artistic people consider their works to be creative. An architect takes raw materials and builds

masterful skyscrapers. Explore with your group the difference between human ingenuity in creative works of art, literature, and music versus the commands of God who calls for light, and it appears (Genesis 1:3). Ingrain in them the principle that something cannot come from nothing. So, God is the source from whom all life springs.

Referencing the handout, read Acts 17:22-30. Pointing to verse 28, ask your group: *In what sense are all people the offspring of God?* Discuss the passage with the intent of describing God's Eternal Creative Nature. The Builder is always at work creating. From the inception of the world we live in to making us new creatures in Christ, and onwards to preparing a special place for us in God's eternal abode (John 14), God is forever creating. He is the Creator, the Builder.

Read Deuteronomy 33:27. According to this verse, God is eternal, meaning He has no beginning and no ending. Ask group members: *How did God respond to Moses in Exodus 3:14, when he asked God His name, to tell Pharaoh who had sent him?* This "I Am" came to be known as the highest name of God. In John 8:58, Jesus identified Himself with that name. Ask your group if they can recall a passage that places the Son of God at creation. Referencing the handout, read John 1:1-14. Scan down through the passage with your group to find verse 14. Discuss the role of the Word in the creation of the cosmos, and how He is still spiritually creating today. Ask: *What was the role of the Word in creation? What does it mean that all things were made through Him?* According to John 1, the Word was the agent through whom God spoke the world into existence (also see Psalm 33:9). And, explain to your group that according to 2 Corinthians 5:17 Christians are a *new creation* in Christ our Lord. The Word is the cause, reason, or communication of God's Message.

Summarize and read the important verses from Genesis 1. Notice that God brought the creation into existence in stages. He worked systematically and thoroughly. Each day built upon the preceding. At the end of the week God rested. He stopped working and reflected on His masterpiece and declared it good. Indeed, everything God does is splendid.

## COMMIT

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. Discuss in what sense Christians are a new creation in Christ. To say that we are a new creation implies there was an old creation. Since the fall of Adam, all people have been born into a sinful environment and come to fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23; 5:12). Explain: *Without Christ as a personal Savior, all of us are dead in our sins. Thus, once we come to Christ we are spiritually born again.* Read Ephesians 2:1-5, prompting group members to describe the new creation they have become as Christians.

End this session with prayer, praising God for His role as Creator and asking for continued grace to learn more of Him.

During your closing prayer, include a time of group prayer, asking participants to praise God in one-sentence declarations regarding His creative power.

# Student Handout 1

## The Builder

The Creator is the source of all life; the entire cosmos (the universe and everything in it) came into existence at the command of His voice. Our spirits come into new life when we come into a new relationship with the Master Builder.

Psalm 33:6-9— God spoke and \_\_\_\_\_.

Psalm 148:5— God commanded and they \_\_\_\_\_.

Genesis 1:1— Who created everything that is \_\_\_\_\_?

Acts 17:22-30— In what sense are all humans the offspring of God?

Deuteronomy 33:27— Since God is eternal, He has no \_\_\_\_\_ and no \_\_\_\_\_.

John 1:1-14— What was the role of the Word in creation? What does it mean that all things were made through Him?

2 Corinthians 5:17— In what sense are Christians a new creation in Christ?

Ephesians 2:1-5— What does it mean that we were dead but are now alive in Christ?

God has great power  
to create something new  
within us!