# NOVEMBER: CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, AND IN JESUS CHRIST HIS ONLY SON, OUR LORD

**CLASSROOM SHEET**

**Opening Prayer:** Dear God, we thank you for creating us in your image and likeness. Thank you for the earth you have given us to live on, and heaven which is our eternal home. Help us to live as true sons and daughters of You. Amen.

**Bible verses:**

Genesis 1:1-2:11 The creation story

Genesis 1: 27 God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 2:21-23 the Lod God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man.

**Information (choose what to concentrate on based on grade level):**

* Creator
	+ God created everything, including us.
	+ God created us because He loved us so much! He wanted us to share His love. Our purpose is to know, love, and serve God and live forever with Him in heaven.
	+ We can create too. Animals can’t create art, poetry, stories, or anything, but we can!
* God created us in His image and likeness. We share characteristics of God.
	+ We have an intellect and can think. Animals can’t do this, that’s why they don’t go to school.
	+ We have a will and can choose. Cows eat grass, they don’t even think about it. But we choose what we want to eat.
	+ We were made for love. God made us to know, love, and serve Him.
	+ We have life and a soul. Animals do not have eternal souls like us. That is why they don’t go to Church.
* We are both body and soul. Our bodies will die, but our souls will live forever either in heaven or hell. Eventually we will get our bodies back at the end of time.
* God created us male and female. That is the only distinction God made. He never makes a distinction about rich or poor, race, or anything else.
	+ The male and female distinction is made because together a male and female community (a marriage) shows God’s love to the world. They also take a special part as co-creators of God’s creation as they create children.

**Discussion points (make it your own):**

* Body and soul
	+ When you are on the playground and I punch you in the face, does it hurt your body? Does it hurt your soul too? Yes because you cry and it hurts your feelings too. What if I said very mean things. Does it hurt your soul? Does it hurt your body? Yes because you typically sit down, crouch over, and cry and it makes you feel bad too. We can’t separate our body and soul.
* How are people different from animals. Let’s make a list! Remember, we have a soul, and they don’t.

**Questions/Activities:**

**young:**

* Go through Genesis 1:1-2:11 and have the kids draw what God created each day! (1. light/darkness 2. sky 3.earth/sea/plants 4. sun/moon 5. all creatures of the sea and sky 6. all land animals and humans/male and female he created them). If you want paper divided into 6 squares for this purpose, let me know!)
* create a creature! God created all the creatures of the earth. You can create too. Use your imagination.

**middle:**

* Go through Genesis 1:1-2:11 and have the kids draw what God created each day! (1. light/darkness 2. sky 3.earth/sea/plants 4. sun/moon 5. all creatures of the sea and sky 6. all land animals and humans/male and female he created them). If you want paper divided into 6 squares for this purpose, let me know!)
* If we are made in God’s image and likeness, how should we treat ourselves? How should we treat others? What are some practical ways we can make sure we treat everyone, including ourselves as an image of God?
	+ That also means we are very good! God even said so!
	+ This is our God-given dignity that no-one can take away.
	+ Demonstrate with a coin or dollar bill. This is worth $1. Even it is dirty, stepped on, chewed up and spewed out. The kids will still want the $1 because it still has worth. The same is true of people. Others may treat us poorly, but they can never take away our worth.

**older:**

* Go through the characteristics that we share with God. Intellect, will, made for love, and have life and a soul. How do we use these? How do these differ from animals?
	+ Go through after the fall our intellect was dimmed, our will was weakened, we love the wrong things or love the right things in the wrong way, and we now experience death. What example of these do you see in everyday life?
	+ They did a study where children were given an oreo and two options. They could eat it right away or they could wait 10 minutes and get 2 oreos. Many waited and got 2. The children then did a semi-difficult puzzle and were given the same options. Almost all ate it right away because their will power had been weakened. This is what causes our “hangry” affect. Or when tired people get grumpy. Our will power has been weakened. But we can exercise it to strengthen it, just like our muscles. What are examples of a time your will power was weakened and you made a bad decision? What are ways we can exercise our will power?
* Male and female are the only distinctions God made. Our world tells us there is no difference between male and female, but that is not true. What are the differences between male and female? Are these differences bad if God made them? What distinctions does our world make that God never did? Do I make distinctions that God never made?

**Closing Prayer: Pray the Creed together.**