



# Piecing Together God's Story



## Activity One

### The Original Design

This is a 3-activity series focused on the gospel. We have created this based on the “3 Circles” resource from pastor, Jimmy Scroggins. We have found this resource to be a clear and powerful way to share the good news of Jesus with our kids and others.

Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so. —**Genesis 1:26-31**

It's difficult to understand how to experience the fullness of life if we do not understand the original design. We are part of a **bigger story** designed by the God who created us and loves us—it's His story. God made us in His original design to enjoy Him and His creation. He made people with presence, purpose, and peace. **His original design was perfect.**



The  
**Goal**

We want your child to know God made an original design that was perfect. We were made to enjoy Him and His creation.



## The Game

This activity is all about puzzles! Pick up one puzzle (or several), and let's get after it!

Specifically point out how cool these puzzles are when they are complete. (For example: "This puzzle looks so cool when it's put together the way it's intended to be." "Whoever created this did an awesome job.")



## Unfold the Family

Lead your family through the following discussion:

- **How did the creator of this puzzle intend for this puzzle to look?**  
(Like we have it, exactly like the picture on the box)
- **Isn't it amazing how you can put all these pieces together to show what the picture looks like?**
- **What would make this puzzle not work?**  
(If pieces were missing)
- **The original design for this puzzle is to look exactly like the image on the box once all the pieces are put together. When we perfectly put together the pieces the way we are intended to, it perfectly reveals the image on the box. In the same way, God also had an original design for His creation. When He created us, He created us to enjoy Him and His creation. He created us to enjoy His presence, His purpose, and His peace. His original design was perfect. Now that sounds amazing!**

Read the passage and pray together as a family.

**Prayer Prompt:** "God, thank you for creating me to enjoy you and your creation. Amen."

**Note:** The following two activities will build off this activity. We suggest you leave your puzzles out for the remainder of this series. If you'd like a framework for the teaching points of the next few activities, [click here](#) for the 3 Circles. (Also, consider a puzzle that you may want to frame as this will come into play in the next couple of activities.)





Activity Two

## The Brokenness



For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. —**Romans 3:23**

The original design God put in motion is beautiful. But when Adam and Eve sinned, everything was broken. Suddenly, the pieces of the puzzle were missing. They no longer could enjoy God and His creation the way they had before. They no longer could enjoy His presence, His purpose, and His peace. They were broken. In their brokenness, they ran, hid, and covered themselves. They were trying to fix and cover up what was broken. They wanted to go back to the original design. But no matter what they did, they were still left broken. Because of sin we are stuck in the same situation: broken. In our heart we long for the original design—His presence, His purpose, and His peace. But no matter what we do or what we pursue, everything leaves us broken. The things we do and pursue may temporarily fill the gap in our heart, but it just doesn't feel right. It's all broken.



### The Goal

We want your child to know sin destroyed God's original design, and in our brokenness, we can't get back to God's original design on our own.



### The Game

Lay the groundwork for this activity: "Let's look at these puzzles again from last time. They look great the way we did them according to their original design, right? Well, here's the tricky part: what if several of the pieces were removed from the puzzle? Would it still reflect the original design, or would it be messed up and broken?" (Show them what this looks like, and take away 10% of the pieces.)

Now, your child will be tasked with creating the pieces to fill the broken space. Do everything you can to help your child cut out, draw, and color replicated pieces to fit into the gaps where the original puzzle pieces were removed leaving the puzzle messed up and broken. Be as detailed as possible to attempt to make the puzzle look like its original design.

We suggest you play into the heart of this activity. (For example: “This is a lot more challenging than I thought it would be.” “I feel like no matter what we do it still doesn’t look like the original design. It’s still messed up and broken.” “No matter what we do, I don’t think this will ever be the same.”)



Lead your family through the following discussion:

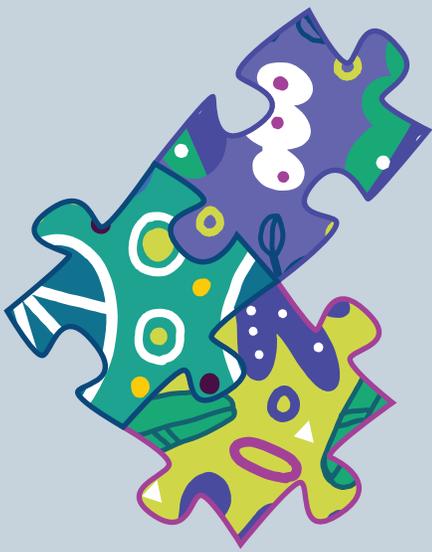
- You worked hard to fill in the gaps on the puzzle. How do you think it looks?
- Do you feel like it’s back to its original design?
- If you worked harder and spent more time on this, do you think you could ever make it look exactly like it is supposed to look?  
(No, it would always be broken and messed up.)
- In the same way, as we discussed last time, God’s original design is beautiful. It is for us to enjoy Him and His creation. But there is a problem. The very first people God created sinned against God. This means they disobeyed Him. And when they sinned, it messed up and broke His original design for everyone. They could no longer experience His presence, His purpose, and His peace the way He designed. (Parent, you may stop here and ask, “Does that make sense?”)

- So now, we no longer have the presence, purpose, and peace of God with us all the time. And that hurts. It leaves us broken. In our brokenness we try to find a way to get back to the original design. Some people try to do that by being good or smart, and for others it may be trying to be cool or by having a lot of money. There are many more ways that people try to get back to the original design. But there's a problem. No matter what we do, it will never fix things and get us back to the original design God has for us. I know that sounds sad, but next time we get to talk about the **GOOD NEWS!**

Read the passage and pray together as a family.

**Prayer Prompt:** “Jesus, I know sin messed up your original design, but thank you for the hope we have in You. Amen.”

**Note:** This activity builds off the previous activity, and the following activity will build off of this one. We suggest you leave your puzzle out with the created pieces in them so we can build off this for the next activity. If you'd like a framework for the teaching points of this series, [click here](#) for the 3 Circles.



## Activity Three

# The Good News



For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
—Romans 6:23

Good news is only good if it reverses something bad. The good news is not that we can clean ourselves up so God will love us. Rather, the good news is that while we were in our most unlovable state God looked at us and said, “I love you, and I want you!” God knew that in our brokenness we could never get back to Him, back to His original design. So he made a way to get us back. He sent Jesus to pay the price for our sins—that have broken us from the original design—and to rise again so that we can live forever with Him. Jesus loved us so much that He came for us, He died for us, and He rose for us. If we turn from our sin, trust in Jesus, and follow Him, we can spend the rest of our lives recovering and pursuing His original design for us—His presence, His purpose, and His peace. That’s good news!



### The Goal

We want your child to know God loves them so much that He made a way for them to experience God’s original design.



### The Game

Remind your child of how they tried to create pieces in the last activity during the game. Say, “Even your best efforts at making the puzzle look like its original design didn’t work. So I want to give you these pieces back so that you can make the puzzle perfect again.” Let your child put the pieces of the puzzle back into the puzzle.

You will need puzzle glue for this: Glue the puzzle so that you will forever have it as a reminder of the gospel through the 3 Circles. As you are letting your puzzle dry, draw the 3 circles on a sheet of paper that you can stick to the back of the puzzle as a memory piece. (You may refer to [this link](#) to the 3 Circles and draw it as your child watches and listens.)

We encourage you to frame it, take a selfie with it, and let your child share what they did with a couple of friends. This will be fun for them and allow them to share the good news with their friends and encourage them to do the same!



Lead your family through the following discussion:

- **Because of the missing pieces last time, it was impossible to get the puzzle back to the original design. No matter what you did, it just didn't look right. But how were you able to get the puzzle back to the original design this time?**

(The pieces had to be given back to you. You could not do it on your own. We had to help. We had to make it so that you could put the pieces back and make the puzzle look like the creator meant it to look.)

- **The brokenness in our lives is the same way. No matter what we do we can't get ourselves back into God's original design—to enjoy His presence, His purpose, and His peace. But God loved us so much that when we couldn't get back to Him, He made a way to get to us. He sent Jesus Christ as the way for us. Jesus came for us, died for us, and rose for us! And if we turn from our sins, trust in Him, and follow Him, we can spend the rest of our lives living for God and His original design. We can have a beautiful relationship with Him and enjoy His presence, His purpose, and His peace. And once we have a relationship with Jesus, we can share this good news with everyone!**



## Activity Three: The Good News

- Parents, be sensitive to the Spirit and where your child may be spiritually. Ask additional questions as needed. Be sure your child knows you're a safe place for questions. If you see they are convicted of their sins, they believe in Jesus, and they want to give their life to follow Jesus, lead them to Christ in your home, or connect them with someone in your local church to visit with your child.

**Read the passage and pray together as a family.**

**Prayer Prompt:** “God, thank you for loving me so much that you provided a way for me to get back to you through Jesus. Amen.” 

**Note:** This activity builds off the previous two. We suggest you join us in [gluing this puzzle](#) and going all-in to make this a memorable piece that will remind your children of the good news of Jesus as they grow up. If you'd like a framework for the teaching points of this series, [click here](#) for the 3 Circles.

Can you cut out these puzzle pieces and put them together again?

