

Photography Leaders Guide

Photography

Capturing God's Beauty and
Reflecting His Image

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Photography

Capturing God's Beauty and Reflecting His Image

LEADER'S GUIDE



Welcome to the Wildflowers Field Guide:
Photography: Capturing God's Beauty and Reflecting His Image
Thank you for saying yes to leading these girls.
What you do matters more than you know.
You are not just teaching a curriculum; you are tending young
hearts, planting seeds of truth, and modeling what it looks like to
walk faithfully with God. That is sacred work, and we are honored to
come alongside you.



**CHRISTIAN SERVICE
BRIGADE**

Hamburg, New York
800.815.5573
office@csbministries.org
www.csbministries.org

CSB Canada
877.272.3066
office@CSBcan.ca
www.CSBcan.ca

Authors: Heather Mattiuzzo, Joanne Curran, Joan Fountain, Jodi Miller, Eileen Reiner, Suzanne Richbart, and Rachel Shaeffer;
Editor: Laurie Sullivan; Design & Layout: Heather Mattiuzzo; Project Leader: Heather Mattiuzzo

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What This Field Guide Is About

This five-week Field Guide takes girls on a journey through the beautiful and purposeful skill of photography, learning to slow down, see God's glory in the world around them, and reflect His image from the inside out.

- **Week 1** — Seeing God's Creation: Creation is constantly speaking about how great God is. Girls learn to slow down, look closely, and listen, just like a photographer does.
- **Week 2** — Capturing Beauty with Purpose: True beauty begins in the heart. Girls explore what it means to present themselves and the world around them in a way that honors God, not for likes, but out of love.
- **Week 3** — Image, Identity, and the Heart: God made each girl fearfully and wonderfully. This week anchors their identity in God's truth instead of filtered images, likes, and comparison.
- **Week 4** — Preserving Memories and Telling God's Story: God invites us to remember His faithfulness on purpose. Girls learn to use photos and memories as a spiritual practice of gratitude and trust.
- **Week 5** — Grow and Celebrate: A flexible week to review, celebrate growth, and award recognition.

The Petal of Virtue for this Field Guide:

Purity

Choosing what we look at, treasure, and reflect; guarding our hearts and our image for God's glory.

Understanding Your Girls (Grades 3–6)

The girls in your Petal Pod are between the ages of 8 and 12, a window of life full of big questions, strong emotions, and growing independence. Here's what to keep in mind:

Grades 3–4 (Ages 8–10):

- Think concretely. Use tangible illustrations to explain spiritual ideas.
- Love to be creative and hands-on. Give them time to draw, make, and decorate.
- Need warmth and affirmation. They light up when a trusted adult notices them.
- May take stories very literally. Be ready to gently explain metaphor and meaning.

Grades 5–6 (Ages 10–12):

- Beginning to think abstractly and ask deeper "why" questions.
- May be navigating friendship drama, family stress, or feelings of "not enough."
- Want to be taken seriously. Invite their opinions and honor their thoughts.
- May push back or question. That's healthy! Create space for honest doubt.
- Vine Time Discussion Questions are differentiated for each grade band. Use the right set for your group, or blend both if your group spans grades.

NOTE: Leaders may wish to plan an optional Photo Walk or Gallery Night event as an extension of this Field Guide, a wonderful opportunity to invite families and guests to celebrate what girls have created and learned.

Planning for this event is not included in the five-week Field Guide here.



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How a Meeting Works

Each weekly meeting follows the same flow so girls know what to expect:

Segment	Time	Description
Welcome and Wonder	15 min	Arrival activity, icebreaker, or hands-on exploration that sparks curiosity
Meadow Gathering	10–15 min	Full group time: Opening prayer, Wildflower Song and Pledge, Seed Verse, Nectar Verse, theme intro
Petal Project	20 min	Hands-on activity and project connecting to the week's truth
Vine Time	25 min	Scripture reading & age-differentiated discussion questions
Back to the Meadow	5–10 min	Full group closing: prayer, reflection, recognition
Optional Snack & Fellowship	10 min	Relational time after dismissal

Total meeting time: approximately 75–90 minutes.

You don't have to do everything every week. The Optional Story and Optional Game are just that, optional. If your group runs long on discussion, let it! Deep conversation is always worth it.

Common Challenges and Solutions

A quiet girl hangs back during Vine Time and doesn't share.

- Give her a specific, low-pressure job in the Petal Pod Activity, and invite her opinion with a gentle direct question like, "I'd love to hear what you noticed."

The conversation turns to a sensitive topic, i.e., a girl mentions a hard home situation.

- Respond with warmth, not alarm. Affirm her, keep the group kind, and follow up privately afterward with a parent or your ministry leader as needed.

An overly energetic group gets loud and unfocused.

- Set clear safety expectations before you begin, assign every girl a defined role, and use a simple signal (like a raised hand) to regroup attention quickly.

Activities run long and you run out of time.

- Protect the Meadow Gathering and Vine Time as the non-negotiable core; the Optional Story is optional and can be given to the girls to read at home.

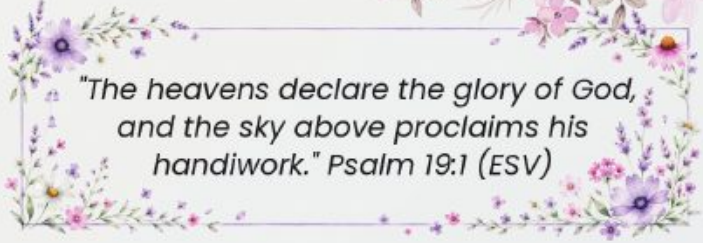


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Seed Verse vs Nectar Verse

Seed Verse: This verse stays the SAME all five weeks. It is the anchor verse for the entire Field Guide. Girls are encouraged to memorize it over the five weeks.

Nectar Verse: This verse CHANGES every week. It is tied to that specific week's lesson. It's a shorter verse girls can hold onto during the week. Encourage girls to write their Nectar Verse on an index card each week and put it somewhere they'll see it (mirror, lunchbox, binder).



*"The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his
handiwork." Psalm 19:1 (ESV)*

Petal Project Overview

The Petal Project is the main hands-on experience for each week. It gives girls an opportunity to create, explore, practice a skill, or work together while connecting what they are doing to the biblical truth they are learning.

Petal Projects may be completed in Petal Pod small groups or together as one large group, depending on the activity, your group size, available leaders, and what works best for your Wildflowers.

Each Petal Project includes a simple spiritual parallel to help you connect the activity to the week's Nectar Verse and lesson. As you lead, look for natural opportunities to reinforce that connection and help the girls see how the experience points them back to God and His Word. The Petal Project is designed to flow naturally into Vine Time, where girls will gather in their Petal Pods to talk more about what they experienced and how that truth applies to their lives.

Vine Time

Vine Time is the Scripture study and discussion portion of your Petal Pod Small Group time. It happens after the Petal Pod Activity, when girls have already had a chance to engage with the week's truth through their hands, and are ready to go deeper with their hearts and minds. Think of it like this: the Petal Pod Activity opens the door, and Vine Time walks through it.

During Vine Time, you'll read the week's Scripture passage together and work through a set of Vine Time Discussion Questions. Every week includes two sets of questions, one for Grades 3–4 and one for Grades 5–6, so you can meet girls right where they are. The younger questions tend to be more concrete and personal; the older questions invite deeper reflection and honest wrestling with the text.

A few Vine Time reminders:

- There are no wrong answers. Create a space where girls feel safe to share what they actually think.
- You don't have to get through every question. A rich conversation on one question is better than rushing through all five.
- Silence is okay. Give girls time to think before filling the quiet yourself.
- If a girl shares something vulnerable or tender, slow down. That moment matters more than the next question.

The name "Vine Time" comes from John 15:5a — "I am the vine; you are the branches." Vine Time is about staying connected to the Source, together.



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The Wildflower Song

Music by Philip P. Bliss
Words by Joanne Curran



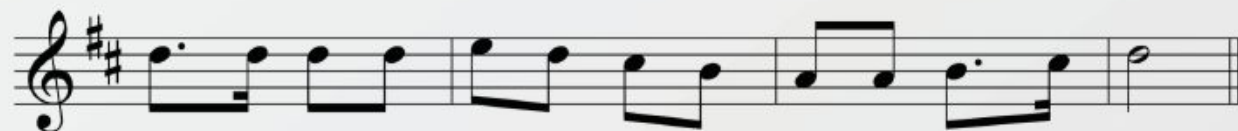
Wild —flow - ers, grow - ing Son - ward, bloom - ing where God plants.



Je - sus Christ gives love and new life, makes our beau - ty pure.



Hi - s Spir - it rains down on us when life's winds blow wild.



Hold - ing tight to faith and fam - 'ly root - ed in God's Word.



The Wildflower Pledge

*"As a Wildflower,
I will bloom boldly wherever God plants,
growing strong in His created purpose for me in Jesus—
to nurture with love, lead with grace, and serve with joy.
My roots will be deep and my beauty pure."*



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A Word About Sensitive Topics

The stories and Scripture in this Field Guide touch on real life: family difficulty, loss, fear, and unanswered prayers. Some of your girls may be living in hard situations right now. As you lead:

- Listen more than you talk. The most powerful thing you can do is make a girl feel heard.
- Don't rush past tears. If a girl gets emotional, slow down. That's the Holy Spirit at work.
- Follow up privately. If a girl shares something concerning, follow up one-on-one or with a parent after the meeting.
- You don't need all the answers. It's okay to say, "I don't know, but I know God does."

You are a Wildflower leader; not a counselor, but a caring presence. Have faith that God will work through your imperfections as you faithfully show up each week.

Leader Posture

- Focus on building relationships before instruction, a warm hello matters more than a perfect lesson.
- Celebrate growth, not completion. Notice the heart behind the effort.
- Ask questions more than you give answers. Allow the girls to discover the truth for themselves.
- Notice and affirm character moments. When you see joy, generosity, or humility, name it out loud.

The Blooming at Home Pages

Each week, girls have two take-home pages in their Field Guide called "Blooming at Home." These include:

- The week's Bible verse and a question about it
- Journal prompts, creative activities, and prayer invitations

Girls who complete all 8 Blooming at Home pages (2 per week $\times$ 4 weeks) earn the Honeybee Pin. You don't need to grade these. Simply ask girls to bring them back and celebrate completion warmly. If girls and their families experience and relate another activity to the theme, leaders can use discretion in accepting that as a substitute in their Blooming at Home pages.



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Achievements at a Glance

Award	How It's Earned
Petal Pin	Completing all four core weeks of this Field Guide
Honeybee Pin	Completing all 8 Blooming at Home pages
Petal of Virtue Patch (Purity)	Earned by completing this Purity Field Guide & leader-observed growth over time
Full Bloom	Earned when all 7 Petal of Virtue Patches are completed

Your Preparation Checklist:

- ☐ Read through all five weeks before your first meeting
- ☐ Gather materials for Week 1 (see Materials Checklist on page 7)
- ☐ Distribute Field Guides to girls before or at Week 1
- ☐ Let parents know about the Blooming at Home pages and Honeybee Pin
- ☐ Pray over each girl in your Petal Pod by name

Preparing for Week 1 of This Field Guide:

1. Send a reminder to families the week before asking girls to bring a phone or camera if possible. Have 1–2 backup devices available for girls who don't have one.
2. Gather materials for Week 1 (see Materials Checklist for each week on page 7)
3. Set up supplies before girls arrive so the room feels inviting when they walk in. Decorate "The Meadow" with flowers, leaves, and natural treasures and set out the Wonder Basket (materials found in Materials Checklist on page 7).
4. Come ready to set a tone of wonder and delight. Before the meeting, walk the scavenger hunt space yourself and note 2–3 things you find beautiful or surprising. Be ready to share your own "wonder moment" with the girls — your enthusiasm is contagious!

Opening Prayer for Leaders

"Lord, thank You for the women who show up week after week for these girls. Give them eyes to see the beauty You've placed in every girl in their Petal Pod. Give them words when they don't know what to say, and patience when things feel messy. Help them point these girls toward what is true, lovely, and worthy of praise, and help them believe it about themselves too. Make them instruments of Your light in these young lives. Amen."

**Now — let's slow down, look closely,
and see what God has made**



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Materials Checklist

Week 1:

- Wonder Basket items: small natural materials in a basket (pretty pebbles, seashells, pinecones, leaves, flowers, moss, etc.)
- Photograph and sheet of plain paper for object lesson
- Creation Scavenger Hunt Card (1 per girl — print from downloads ahead of time)
- God's Glory Photography Scavenger Hunt Card (1 per girl — print from downloads ahead of time)
- Camera or camera-enabled phone (1 per girl or pair — confirm with families in advance)
- Cardstock card, folded (1 per girl — for Activity 2 Creation Wonder Card)
- Colored pencils, watercolor paints, or markers
- Nature stickers (can be purchased in the Brigade Shop: store.csbministries.org)
- Fresh leaves (2–3 per girl — for leaf rubbing technique)
- Pencils (for scavenger hunt & leaf rubbings)
- Thinner printer paper for leaf rubbings
- Scissors
- Small cups of water (if using watercolors)
- Glue sticks or tape

Week 2:

- Printed portraits of people (some candid, posed, & artistic)
- 2 framed images (1 intentionally composed, 1 carelessly posed)
- 1 photography prop per table (glass of water, piece of fruit, smooth stone, flower, etc.)
- 1 bright lamp or flashlight per table
- Image Check Cards (1 per girl — print from downloads)
- Cardboard tubes (1 per girl)
- Aluminium foil
- Waxed paper
- Tape
- Pins
- Markers
- Stickers

Week 3:

- “Who I Am in Christ” truth strips (found in downloads)
- Bible
- Full-length mirror & sticky note
- Small handheld or tabletop mirrors (1 per girl)
- Truth Feed sheets (1 per girl — found in downloads)
- Pencils & markers or colored pencils

Week 4:

- Your own meaningful old photo
- Spare photos or magazine images for girls who forget to bring family photos
- Craft sticks or pre-cut cardstock frames (1 per girl)
- Cardstock backing sheets
- Washi tape
- Ribbon
- Colorful paper strips
- Markers
- Stickers
- Glue
- Scissors
- Camera/phone camera

Week 5:

- Cameras
- One personal note per girl
- Printed copies of the girls' Week 3 Portrait Session photos
- Tablecloth (for project display gallery)
- Flowers, candles, etc. to decorate display gallery (optional)
- Projects the girls completed throughout the field guide for the display gallery
- Snack: store-bought cupcakes, a fruit board, or sparkling juice in small cups
- Sticky notes
- Pencils
- Photography contact sheet
- Petal Pins, Petals of Virtue Patches, & Honeybee Pins

Downloads

When you purchased this Field Guide, a separate digital download was added to your Brigade Shop account. This download contains important resources and printouts for each week.



Seeing God's Creation

Purpose: Girls should understand that God's creation is constantly declaring His glory, and that a pure heart slows down to notice and treasure the beauty He has made.

Root Truth: God's creation is full of beauty that points us to Him. When we slow down and look closely, we see the work of His hands.

Petal Connection:

Purity is about what we choose to look at and treasure. This week we train our eyes to look for God's goodness in creation: what is pure, lovely, and worthy of praise.

Welcome & Wonder (10 min)

Greet the girls as they arrive at "The Meadow" and invite each girl to choose one object from the Wonder Basket, hold it close, and find ONE tiny detail she never noticed before (the veins in a leaf, the spiral of a pinecone). Go around and let each girl share her detail. Say: **"Today we become noticers. God filled the whole world with little works of art, and most people walk right past them. Wildflowers slow down and see."**

Meadow Gathering (10-15 min)

Open with both the Wildflower Pledge and Song.

Opening Prayer: **"Lord, thank You for bringing us together today. Open our eyes this week, really open them, to the beauty You've hidden all around us. Help us slow down long enough to see Your fingerprints in creation, and give us hearts that are quick to praise You for what we find. We want to look at the world the way You made it to be seen: full of Your glory. Amen."**

Seed Verse Intro:

Tell the girls to open their Field Guides to the front and read Psalm 19:1 together: **"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.' This is our anchor verse for the whole Field Guide. We'll come back to it every week. Start helping it sink into your heart now!"**

This Week's Nectar Verse:

Introduce the Nectar Verse: **"Romans 1:20: 'For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.'"**

Theme Introduction:

"This week we begin our photography adventure by training one simple, powerful habit: slowing down to wonder. Wonder is what happens when we pause and notice something beautiful: a spiderweb sparkling with dew, a crow tilting its head, a dandelion pushing through a crack in the pavement. Wonder is the posture of a heart that is paying attention to God.

"Photography is the perfect guide for this. A photographer doesn't rush. She sees. She frames. She asks, 'What is this telling me?' Psalm 19:1 tells us that creation has been answering that question since the beginning. 'The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.' Creation is always speaking. This Field Guide teaches us to listen with our eyes."

A word about Purity — the heart of this Field Guide:

Before we can talk about a pure heart, we have to be honest about where we start. Jeremiah 17:9 tells us plainly: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?" We are not born with pure hearts. Left to ourselves, our hearts wander, compare, hide, and chase the wrong things.



That is exactly why we need Jesus. Matthew 5:8 — "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" — is not a standard to achieve on our own. It is a promise for those whose hearts have been washed and renewed by Christ. Purity is not a personality trait. It is a gift from God, received through faith, and grown by His Spirit over a lifetime.

This means every conversation in this Field Guide about purity — about what we look at, how we see ourselves, what we treasure — must be rooted in the gospel. We talk about pure hearts not to make girls feel they must try harder, but to point them to the One who gives what none of us can earn.

As you lead, look for natural moments to say, "This is why we need Jesus. Our hearts can't do this alone."

Object Lesson: Capturing God's Glory

Hold up a beautiful photograph and a plain white piece of paper. Ask: **"What's the difference between these two things? Both are just paper, but one captures something real and beautiful. A photographer's job is to notice what's already there. That's what creation does with God's glory. It captures and displays it for anyone willing to look."**

Optional Game: Creation Scavenger Hunt

Give each girl a Creation Scavenger Hunt Card (found in downloads) to find or notice objects outside (or around the room if indoors). The first girl to find all 8 shares her favorites with the group!

Petal Pod Small Group (45 min)

Petal Activity: God's Glory Photography Scavenger Hunt & Creation Wonder Card

Setup: Print one Photography Scavenger Hunt Card per girl (found in downloads). Set out disposable or Polaroid cameras or confirm girls have camera phones. At the project table, lay out cardstock cards (one per girl), colored pencils, watercolor paints or markers, nature stickers, and leaf rubbing supplies (leaves, pencils, printer paper). Have a sample Wonder Card ready to show girls what a finished one looks like.

PART 1 — God's Glory Photography Scavenger Hunt (12 min)

Send girls out in pairs with their Photography Scavenger Hunt Card. Their mission: find AND photograph each item beautifully; not just snap it, but frame it with intention. As girls head out, say: **"Don't just find it, SEE it. Think about your angle, your light, and what makes it special. That's what a photographer does."**

When everyone is back, ask each girl to share her ONE favorite shot: *"I photographed this because... and it makes me think about God because..."*

PART 2 — Creation Wonder Card (8 min)

Now girls will reflect on what they saw by creating a keepsake Creation Wonder Card.

- 1. Front of the card:** Girls draw, paint, or decorate the subject of their favorite photo: a flower, a window with light, a pattern, a cross. Encourage detail and color. Try a leaf rubbing: place a leaf under a piece of printer paper and rub a pencil over it to reveal the texture underneath, then cut out the rubbing and glue or tape to the card.
- 2. Inside the card:** Girls write three things:
 - a. "I saw God's glory in..." (what they photographed)
 - b. The Seed Verse, Psalm 19:1
 - c. One word that describes how creation makes them feel about God
- 3. Finishing touches:** Add nature stickers, hand-lettered details, or a pressed flower.

Close with: **"Just like a photographer frames a beautiful shot to remember it, you just framed a moment of seeing God's glory. That's what Psalm 19 is all about. Creation is always speaking. Today you stopped and listened."**

Leader note: If you're meeting indoors without outdoor access, set up a small nature display on a table (pinecones, stones, flowers, leaves, a candle, a cross) and let girls photograph the display instead. The reflection is just as rich.



Seeing God's Creation

Age Adaptations:

Grades 3–4: Give them a shorter scavenger hunt list (5 items) and pair them with an older girl or leader. For the Wonder Card, let them draw rather than write. One drawing plus one sentence is perfect. Focus on the scavenger hunt and the front of the Wonder Card (drawing and decorating). Help with the written portion if needed.

Grades 5–6: Challenge them to think like a photographer. Ask them to explain why they chose their angle or framing, not just what they photographed. Encourage their inside card message to include a full sentence about what creation says to them about God's character.

Vine Time (25 min)

This Week's Nectar Verse: Psalm 19:1: "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork."

Root Truth Focus: God's creation is full of beauty that points us to Him. When we slow down and look closely, we see the work of His hands.

Vine Time Discussion Questions

Grades 3–4

1. Think of something in nature that really takes your breath away like a sunset, a spiderweb, a mountain, or a tiny flower. What is it, and what do you love about it?

- *A sunset with all those bright colors, because it looks like God painted the whole sky.*
- *A spiderweb with dew drops, because it's tiny but looks like a hundred little diamonds.*
- *A mountain or a big sky, because it makes me feel small and God feel really big.*
- *A tiny flower growing in a crack, because it's so small but God still made it beautiful.*

2. What usually gets in the way of you noticing beautiful things around you every day — like your phone, being busy, or just forgetting to look? What is one beautiful thing you usually rush right past?

- *My phone or a screen. I'm looking down instead of looking around.*
- *Being in a hurry to get somewhere. I don't slow down enough to see anything.*
- *I just forget. I'm thinking about other things and don't notice what's right there.*
- *I walk the same path every day so I don't really see the details anymore.*

3. Psalm 19:1–2 says the sky and everything God made is always "declaring" and "proclaiming" His glory. What do you think creation is trying to tell us about God? What is your favorite part of nature saying?

- *God is really powerful and really creative; look what He can do!*
- *God cares about details. He made every little thing on purpose.*
- *God is so big and so great; even the whole sky isn't big enough to contain His glory.*
- *God loves beauty. He didn't have to make things beautiful, but He did.*

Grades 5–6

1. Psalm 19:1–2 says creation "pours out speech" and "reveals knowledge" about God, day and night, constantly. Think of one part of creation that takes your breath away. What specifically is that thing declaring about who God is?

- *That God is limitlessly creative; no two sunsets, snowflakes, or spiderwebs are the same.*
- *That God is powerful far beyond anything we can measure or imagine.*
- *That God is intentional; even the tiniest things are made with precision and purpose.*
- *That God's glory overflows into everything He made.*



2. What usually pulls your attention away from God's creation in your everyday life? What does that pattern reveal about what your heart is most focused on? What is one real, specific change you could make this week?

- Screens and social media pull me in. My eyes are trained to look at a feed, not at the world.
- Busyness and rushing. I'm always moving toward the next thing instead of being present.
- I've stopped expecting to find God in ordinary places, so I don't even look anymore.
- I could put my phone away on the walk to school and pay attention to what's actually around me.

3. 2 Corinthians 4:18 says the things we can't see are eternal, but the things we can see are temporary. How does that change what feels worth paying attention to? And how could slowing down to really see, the way a photographer does, become a daily act of worship?

- It shifts my attention from what's flashy or trending to what is lasting and true.
- It makes me want to look for what creation is pointing to, not just the beautiful thing itself, but the God behind it.
- It means that slowing down to notice and thank God for a dandelion or a puddle isn't small, it's eternal work.
- Photography could become a prayer practice, framing what God made as a way of saying "I see You, and I'm grateful."

Vine Time Reflection: Close your eyes and picture the most beautiful thing in nature you've ever seen. Whisper a thank-you to God for it. Then open your eyes and write one word that describes how creation makes you feel about God.

Back to the Meadow (5–10 min)

Gather girls back together in the full group. Ask one or two to share their favorite thing they photographed or noticed today, something that showed them God's glory in a new way. Affirm every answer warmly: **"That's exactly it; you slowed down and looked. That's what a pure, attentive heart does."**

Remind girls to take their Creation Wonder Card home and put it somewhere they'll see it this week: on their mirror, their nightstand, or tucked in their Bible.

Encourage them to keep looking for God's glory between now and next week: **"Every time you notice something beautiful — a cloud, a shadow on the wall, a flower growing through a crack in the sidewalk — say a quiet thank-you to God. Creation is always talking. This week, let's keep listening."**

Remind the girls to work on their Week 1 Blooming at Home pages this week. Let girls know that completing all their Blooming at Home pages over the four core weeks earns them the Honeybee Pin. Celebrate that with excitement!

Close in prayer: **"Lord, thank You for filling this world with Your glory: for sunsets and spiderwebs and the light coming through windows and every tiny beautiful thing we almost walked right past today. Open our eyes this week. Help us slow down, look up, and see You in the ordinary places. May our hearts be pure and attentive, always looking for what You've made and always giving You the praise. We love You. Amen."**



Seeing God's Creation

Optional Story

The Girl Who Looked Up

A busy, distracted girl named Lila learns to slow down and see God's beauty all around her.

Lila was always in a hurry. She hurried to school, hurried through lunch, hurried home. Her eyes mostly stared at the sidewalk and the screen in her hand. There was always something more urgent than whatever was right in front of her.

One afternoon, her grandmother asked her to walk slowly to the garden gate, no rushing allowed. Lila huffed but obeyed. Halfway down the path, she nearly missed it: a spiderweb strung between two rosebushes, sparkling with morning dew like a hundred tiny diamonds. She froze.

"Did God really make that?" she whispered.

"Every single thread," her grandmother smiled.

Lila kept looking, and suddenly the whole garden seemed louder, brighter, more alive than she had ever noticed: the intricate veins in every leaf, the bees humming from flower to flower like they had somewhere important to be, the wide, endlessly blue sky arching over everything. It was as if creation had been singing the whole time, and she had finally stopped to listen.

That night Lila lay in bed and remembered the verse Grandma always said: "The heavens declare the glory of God." She turned it over in her mind. "Declare," like a proclamation. Like creation was standing on tiptoes, waving its arms, shouting about God, and she had just been too busy to hear.

She thought about how many mornings she had walked the same path to school with her eyes on her phone. How many spiderwebs she had missed, how many sunrises, how many tiny diamonds.

The next morning, Lila left her phone in her bag. She walked slowly on purpose. She looked up.

A crow was perched on the fence post, tilting its glossy head at her.

A puddle on the sidewalk held the whole sky inside it.

A crack in the pavement had a single yellow dandelion growing through it, stubborn and bright.

Lila laughed. She couldn't help it. God had hidden so much beauty in the most ordinary places. You just had to look.

She said, "Thank You, God," for the crow, for the puddle, for the dandelion, and for the grandmother who had made her slow down long enough to see.



Petal Connection: Lila's choice to slow down and look with pure, unhurried eyes teaches her to treasure what is lovely and to praise the God who made it which reflects the very heart of purity.

Root Truth: God's creation is full of beauty that points us to Him. When we slow down and look closely, we see the work of His hands.

Discussion Question

- What is one beautiful thing in your everyday life that you usually rush right past? Write it down and say a quick thank-you to God for it this week.

Leader Reflection

This week is about awakening wonder. Don't worry about photography quality; celebrate noticing. Watch for the girl who is quiet or distracted and gently invite her to share one thing she saw. Next week deepens the theme by contrasting worldly beauty with the beauty God treasures, so begin praying now for the girls who may struggle with comparison or feeling "not pretty enough."

