

Lesson 8

-God Made the World-

God Made the World

2-5 Years:

Opening Prayer to welcome the start of the session. For example:

"Dear God. We thank you for the chance to meet once again in your presence. Help us to learn more about your work and to understand how we can follow in your footsteps. Amen"

Bible Story: Tell the story of the Creation in basic language that this age group can understand. If you can't find an illustrated copy of this in the library for use in your class, use the bible but translate the bible story into a simple language that the little ones can understand.



Art: Using pieces of appropriately coloured paper that has already been cut to shape have the children make a picture of the creation. Make the picture more interesting by using different textures if you have access to these kinds of supplies. You will need to make a decision whether to

make night pictures with moon and stars, or day pictures with sunshine in order to keep it simple for this age group.

Give each child a piece of construction paper that will act as their base, then read out the days of the Creation in turn and have the children find the right shape (the younger ones will need guidance) to stick onto their base sheet. Each child should take home a picture which that symbolises the Creation.

Discussion: God made the world. Now we need to respect that. Discuss with the children in your class things that even they, as young as they are, can do to help make the world a better place - things such as picking up litter, using both sides of the paper for drawing on etc.

Use their toys as an example. If they loaned a toy to a friend, who gave it back all dirty and broken, how would they feel? God has given us the world; shouldn't we respect what he has made?

Song: (To the tune of - London Bridge)

God created heaven and earth,
Heaven and earth,
Heaven and earth,
God created heaven and earth,
God made me



Alternatively, if the class is familiar with the hymn "All Things Bright and Beautiful" this could be sung.

Closing Prayer thanking God for the beautiful world he created, and asking his guidance in how we can protect it. For example:

"Dear God, thank for this beautiful world you created for us to live in. Help us to respect it, and guide us so that we make choices that protect your work. Amen."

6-8 Years:

Opening prayer to welcome the start of the class. For example:

"Dear God. We thank you for the chance to meet once again in your presence. Help us to learn more about your work and to understand how we can follow in your footsteps. Amen"

Bible Story:

Tell the story of the Creation to the children in the class.

A picture book version isn't necessary but a simplified version of the story will put it into the understand level of the age group. If you have a children's bible that you use with your class, then this ought to be appropriate.

Discussion:

Talk about the world that God made. Discuss nature, the seasons, the differences between day and night - what do these mean to us? How do these things help us?

If you can find a picture that shows the earth from space, in particular one that has a clear image of land and water, use this to show what our planet looks like from above.

Activity 1:

Write a word for each letter of the alphabet that shows something that God created - can you complete all 26?:

A	N
B	O
C	P
D	Q
E	R
F	S
G	T
H	U
I	V
J	W
K	X
L	Y
M	Z

Discussion:

Think about the world we live in. What can we do to make it the kind of place God intended us to live in? How can we protect our earth? How do they help to protect/damage the environment in which they live.

Activity 2:

Copy the following word search puzzle for every member of your class.

Use the following list; find words created with the bible reading on the Creation that you heard today. Words can be written forwards (cat), or backwards (dog), and up or down.

Word Search: The Creation

Use the following list; find words created with the bible reading on the Creation that you heard today. Words can be written forwards (cat), or backwards (dog), and up or down.

S	E	A	S	O	N	S	W	O	D
B	I	R	D	S	Q	T	V	C	N
R	E	D	H	S	U	A	R	M	A
E	V	E	S	E	A	R	T	H	L
T	H	G	I	N	F	S	C	N	I
A	R	L	F	K	J	F	D	O	G
W	S	E	E	R	T	S	A	O	H
A	U	p	M	A	Y	K	D	M	T
S	N	I	S	D	A	Y	A	D	W
H	E	A	V	E	N	S	Z	E	K

Adam
Darkness
Day
Earth
Eve
Fish
God
Heavens
Land

Light
Moon
Night
Sky
Seasons
Stars
Sun
Trees
Water

Closing Prayer thanking God for the world in which we live, and asking for his help in protecting our environment. For example:

"Dear God, thank for this beautiful world you created for us to live in. Help us to respect it, and guide us so that we make choices that protect your work. Amen."

9-11 Years:

Opening prayer to open the session. For example:

"Dear God. We thank you for the chance to meet once again in your presence. Help us to learn more about your work and to understand how we can follow in your footsteps. Amen"

Bible Story:

The Creation: read the following passage from the bible. As it's quite lengthy, have the students each read a verse each.



Genesis 1: 1-31

Genesis 2: 1-2

Discussion:

Talk about the sequence of events. Have the children discuss the meaning of time - that a "day" is not a day as they know it, but rather some other period of time that was called a "day" - remember God created day and night and so when he started there was neither.

Activity:

Give each student a piece of paper and some art/craft supplies and have them illustrate what happened on one day of the week of Creation. Either let them choose which day - or you give one day to each student. Below their picture they should write the day - ie Day 1 - and the words "And the Lord saw that it was good."

Discussion 2:

Show them a picture of the earth from space. Do they think this is how God saw his work? What is happening to the world that God created today? What examples can they give of man harming our earth? You are looking for examples of pollution, litter, extinction, limited resources, etc.

Do the students think that God is happy with what we are doing to the world he created for us?

Now ask the students what they can do to help re-educate people about the world that God made, and how to protect it.

Activity 2: Quick Quiz

See who was listening earlier (and who just gets lucky!). Give each child 7 pieces of paper - each one with a different number on it from the 1-7 range. As you ask the following questions, have them hold up the day of the week they think answers your question.

1. What did God create on day 1?
2. On which day did birds take to the skies?
3. Was vegetation planted on day 3?
4. On which day did animals walk the earth?
5. God put stars in the sky on which day?
6. Which day did God bless?

Closing Prayer thanking God for the world in which we live and acknowledging that we are not looking after it as we should. Ask for his guidance in making the right kind of choices that will protect the work he put into creating our world. For example:

"Dear God, thank you for the world in which we live. We're sorry that it's not being taken care of as it should. Guide us into making the right kind of choices so that we not only stop adding to the problem, but that we start to help protect what your hands made. Amen."

12-14 Years:

Opening prayer to start session. For example:

"Dear God, thank you for the chance to come together with others in fellowship to learn more about your love. Give us the wisdom to learn from your words, and to put what we learn to work as we go about our lives in the week to come."

Bible Reading:

The Creation: read the following passage from the bible. As it's quite lengthy, have the students each read a verse each.



Genesis 1: 1-31

Genesis 2: 1-2

Discussion 1:

What do they think about this passage? It's one they ought to be familiar with. Discuss the idea of a day being a different measurement than it is today. Why is the Creation story important - it shows that all things come from God? What do the students think it would be like to live in the world as it was first created? Why?

Discussion 2:

Switch the discussion into one about the world as it is now. What problems do we face on our planet that harms what God created? (Pollution, litter, extinction, limited resources) What is the cause of most of these problems? (Man and his inventions/greed). What can we do to try and prevent more damage being done to our world? What agencies are trying to do something about it? What can we do - recycle, follow environmental guidelines, fundraise for agencies who are trying to stop those who are destroying our planet - such as the rainforests, animals being hunted into extinction etc.

Activity: Protectors of the Planet

Find some magazine cuttings of age appropriate articles that show what man is doing to the environment. Put these, with some completely un-related magazine cuttings on the table along with a large piece of paper, glue and scissors. Across the top of the paper write in big letters - WE CARE FOR GOD'S WORLD. Then get the students to clip out of the magazine cuttings anything that is related to the things that are harming the planet, and the people who are working to protect it. Pin

this to the wall of your classroom as a reminder that we are all responsible for taking care of our world.

Closing Prayer thanking God for beautiful world in which we live, and for guidance in making the right choices so that we start to become part of the solution of protecting our world, and not one of those destroying it. For example:

"Dear God, thank you for creating our world. Thank you for taking such care to provide us all that we should need. Help to guide our choices so that we become aware of all that we can do to help protect what you created, and have the wisdom and courage to do what we know we should - even when it's not the easiest option. Amen"