

LOVE IS CREATIVE

THE CREATION STORY



Bible reading



Genesis chapter 1

<http://bit.ly/3KppBi9>

In the beginning God created the sky and the earth. The earth was empty and had no form. Darkness covered the ocean, and God's Spirit was moving over the water.

Then God said, "Let there be light!" And there was light. God saw that the light was good. So he divided the light from the darkness. God named the light "day" and the darkness "night." Evening passed, and morning came. This was the first day.

Then God said, "Let there be something to divide the water in two!" So God made the air to divide the water in two. Some of the water was above the air, and some of the water was below it. God named the air "sky." Evening passed, and morning came. This was the second day.

Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered together so the dry land will appear." And it happened. God named the dry land "earth." He named the water that was gathered together "seas." God saw that this was good.

Then God said, "Let the earth produce plants. Some plants will make grain for seeds. Others will make fruit with seeds in it. Every seed will produce more of its own kind of plant." And it happened. The earth produced plants. Some plants had grain for seeds. The trees made fruit with seeds in it. Each seed grew its own kind of plant. God saw that all this was good. Evening passed, and morning came. This was the third day.

Then God said, "Let there be lights in the sky to separate day from night. These lights will be used for signs, seasons, days and years. They will be in the sky to give light to the earth." And it happened.

So God made the two large lights. He made the brighter light to rule the day. He made the smaller light to rule the night. He also made the stars. God put all these in the sky to shine on the earth. They are to rule over the day and over the night. He put them there to separate the light from the darkness. God saw that all these things were good. Evening passed, and morning came. This was the fourth day.

Then God said, "Let the water be filled with living things. And let birds fly in the air above the earth."

So God created the large sea animals. He created every living thing that moves in the sea. The sea is filled with these living things. Each one produces more of its own kind. God also made every bird that flies. And each bird produces more of its own kind. God saw that this was good. God blessed them and said, "Have many young ones and grow in number. Fill the water of the seas, and let the birds grow in number on the earth." Evening passed, and morning came. This was the fifth day.

Then God said, "Let the earth be filled with animals. And let each produce more of its own kind. Let there be tame animals and small crawling animals and wild animals. And let each produce more of its kind." And it happened.

So God made the wild animals, the tame animals and all the small crawling animals to produce more of their own kind. God saw that this was good.

Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image and likeness. And let them rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the

sky. Let them rule over the tame animals, over all the earth and over all the small crawling animals on the earth.”

So God created human beings in his image. In the image of God he created them. He created them male and female. God blessed them and said, “Have many children and grow in number. Fill the earth and be its master. Rule over the fish in the sea and over the birds in the sky. Rule over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

God said, “Look, I have given you all the plants that have grain for seeds. And I have given you all the trees whose fruits have seeds in them. They will be food for you. I have given all the green plants to all the animals to eat. They will be food for every wild animal, every bird of the air and every small crawling animal.” And it happened. God looked at everything he had made, and it was very good. Evening passed, and morning came. This was the sixth day.

Bible video

A very precious thing

https://youtu.be/dBAHBy_C60M

The Creation Story – Bible Project for Kids

<https://youtu.be/cstDniigA-w>

Arrival activity

As it is the first day, you can begin by creating the group photo album that will be added to each morning.

Let’s begin to bond as a group and develop our creative group identity by creating a team name, team colours, and a team banner to use as we join the main group each day. You might even create team chants with actions.

Big Questions: (To use as you create together)

- ♥ What are you looking forward to this week?
- ♥ What is your favourite part of creation and why?

Drama

Stepping out of the album (Adam or Eve)

Anyone for an apple? I’ve gone off them a bit, to be honest. Let me introduce myself – I’m just one part of God’s amazing creation. That may sound a bit boastful, but actually you’re part of God’s amazing creation too, we all are. And just take a look around. Every single person here is different, just like everything God’s created. You’re all amazing! God never seems to run out of ideas, such creativity.

Did you know, there are about 400,000 different species of plant alone? And as for insects – I hope you’re not afraid of creepy crawlies because there are 925,000 known species of insects and there could well be millions we don’t know about yet. That’s a lot of bugs!

And what about snowflakes? Did you know every single snowflake is different too, just like every person’s fingerprint is different? And there are even 2,500 different types of apple grown in the UK, would you believe it? And the most amazing thing is that God didn’t only create all these things, but God looks at it all and loves every single bit of it.

God said it’s all good. Best of all, there’s a tiny bit of God in each one of us, so we get to be creative too – art, craft, music, inventions, building, designing, writing stories and poems and making jokes. What did Adam say on the 24th of December? It’s Christmas, Eve!



Story

What's this? What's this?
A bright and starry sky!
What's this?
The moon is in my eye.
What's this?
The sky is changing, bright and blue,
There's just so much to see and do!
What's this?

What's this? What's this?
An ocean, deep and blue.
What's this?
A dolphin admiring the view.
What's this?
A clown fish telling jokes galore,
A sea horse race and so much more!
What's this?

What's this? What's this?
A bear with pure white hair!
Oh my,
He wears it with such flair!
What's this?
A lion with his giant paws,
Look at those massive claws!
Look, there's more!

What's this? What's this?
A horse with all his stripes,
Look there!
A funny little snipe.
What joy, what fun,
A lizard bathing in the sun,
The birds are singing, bees are humming.
What's this?

What's this? What's this?
People enjoying rain showers?
What's this?
Meadows growing pretty flowers
What's this?
So many sights, so many wonders,
All for me to sit and ponder.
I can't contain, I must proclaim!
Exploring creation is my aim.

Wondering questions

- ♥ I wonder what you have created that you're really pleased with?
- ♥ I wonder what different ways there are to be creative?
- ♥ I wonder if God created anything that God doesn't love?

Small group prayer



You need windmills, battery operated candles, bowls of water, and something to eat.

As the group lights the candles, remember the light that God give to us all.

As they blow the windmills, think of the Holy Spirit who blows a creative breath over the whole of creation.

As they dip their hands in the bowl of water, think of the water which is vital to life for the whole of creation.

As they eat the food, think of the earth which grows food to keep the whole of creation nourished.

Thank God for the wonders of creation and pray that we might always value it and take care of it.

Activity/craft

Creation bauble

You will need:

- Something round to use as a template
- White paper or card
- Colouring pencils
- Ribbon for hanging



What to do:

1. Place your paper on a flat surface and draw seven circles around your template lightly with a pencil.
2. Draw your creation images into the circles, keep them simple.
3. Cut out each circle and fold in half, with the side you want to be seen on the inside. Arrange them in order.
4. Take the first folded circle and glue one side, then stick a second folded circle to it, making sure the straight edges line up neatly.
5. Repeat with your other circles, until you get to your last circle. And before you glue them into a globe shape, insert a piece of ribbon.
6. Complete your globe by gluing the first and the last circles together.



STEM activity

Growing bubbles

What you need:

- Small paper cups
- Small trays
- Bicarbonate of soda
- Teaspoons
- Food colouring
- Pipettes (optional)
- Vinegar



What to do:

1. Give each child two cups.
2. Spoon a heaped teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda into the bottom of each cup.
3. Use the pipettes to drop some food colouring into the cup, using a different colour per cup.
4. This is a messy activity, so consider placing the two cups into a small tray before the next step.
5. Pour a little vinegar into each of the cups.
6. Watch what happens when the vinegar and coloured bicarbonate of soda meet; see what they create.
7. As the bubbling slows down, you could try stirring up the residue at the bottom of the cup to prompt more bubbles.



Recipe

Creation trifle

What you need:

- Ready-made jelly – preferably green or blue (though the jelly in the pictures is red!)
- Sponge cake (*Free From*)
- Squirty cream (vegan friendly)
- Gummy animal sweets – land and sea (gluten free variety)
- Jelly babies (gluten free version)
- Paper cups
- Optional: star sprinkles



What to do:

Build up layers to create sea, land and sky, with animals and people. The following is a suggestion as to how you might do this:

1. Place a spoonful of jelly at the bottom of the cup.
2. Stir in a couple of sea animal sweets.
3. Layer it with a piece of sponge cake
4. Place two jelly babies and an animal sweet on top of the cake to one side
5. On the other side of the cake squirt some squirty cream
6. Sprinkle some stars on top of the cream.
7. Enjoy!



Games

Draw it!

Divide the group into teams of approximately eight players and give each team a pack of felt tip pens. At the far end of the room have a large piece of paper for each team. A leader should shout out a colour and the first member of the team has to find that colour pen and run with it to their team's piece of paper. The team is aiming to draw a picture of God's world.

As the team member reaches the paper, they start to draw something which is appropriate to draw in that colour (e.g. if they have brown, they might start drawing a tree trunk; if they have blue they might start colouring the sky).

They only have 15 seconds to run to the paper and draw (adjust this timing to match the children playing and the distance they have to run!) and after 15 seconds the leader shouts out "Change to..." And calls out a different colour.

They run back and tag the next member of the team, who runs to the paper with the new colour and starts to draw.

When you've played for long enough (e.g. 5 minutes), stop and look at the pictures and vote on which one the children like best.

Fashion Parade

Split your group into teams of five or six and give each team a newspaper and some Sellotape. The aim is to create an outfit for one of your team by folding, tearing and sticking sheets of newspaper.

Give a set amount of time for groups to work on their design, dressing one of the team. Then get the team members who are wearing the design to do a catwalk, showing off their outfit, including sitting down on a chair and standing up again. Hold a vote to decide on the winning design.

Large group prayer



Creation prayer

Use some larger images of light and dark; sea and sky; sun and moon; land and plants; fish and birds, people and animals, and God resting. These could be from magazines or old calendars or, if necessary, print some out. Position the images around the table upside down.

Invite individual children to come out and turn one picture over and call out what it's a picture of. The group can then make the shape or do an action – e.g. they could cover their eyes for night or pretend to be an elephant for animals. While they do this, the volunteer can say a one sentence prayer (thank you, sorry or please)

e.g. Sun and moon – Thank you God for giving us the day and night.

Land and plants – God who loves creation, please help us love it too.

After each short prayer, everyone can call out the phrase, “God loves being creative” together as a response.

End with, “*God made an amazing world. Help us to love and care for it. Amen*”

