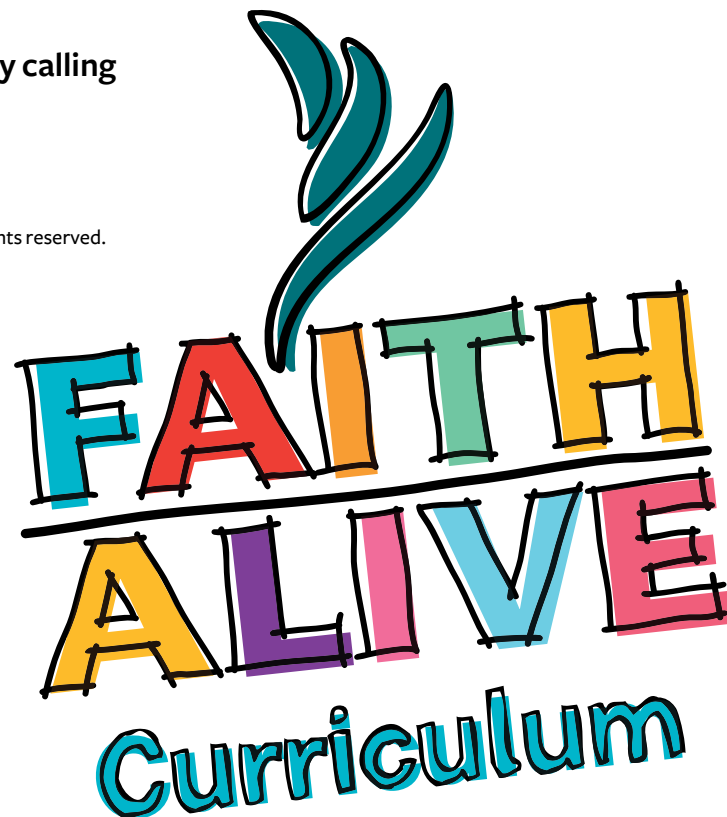


Sample

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...walk with me... Preschool

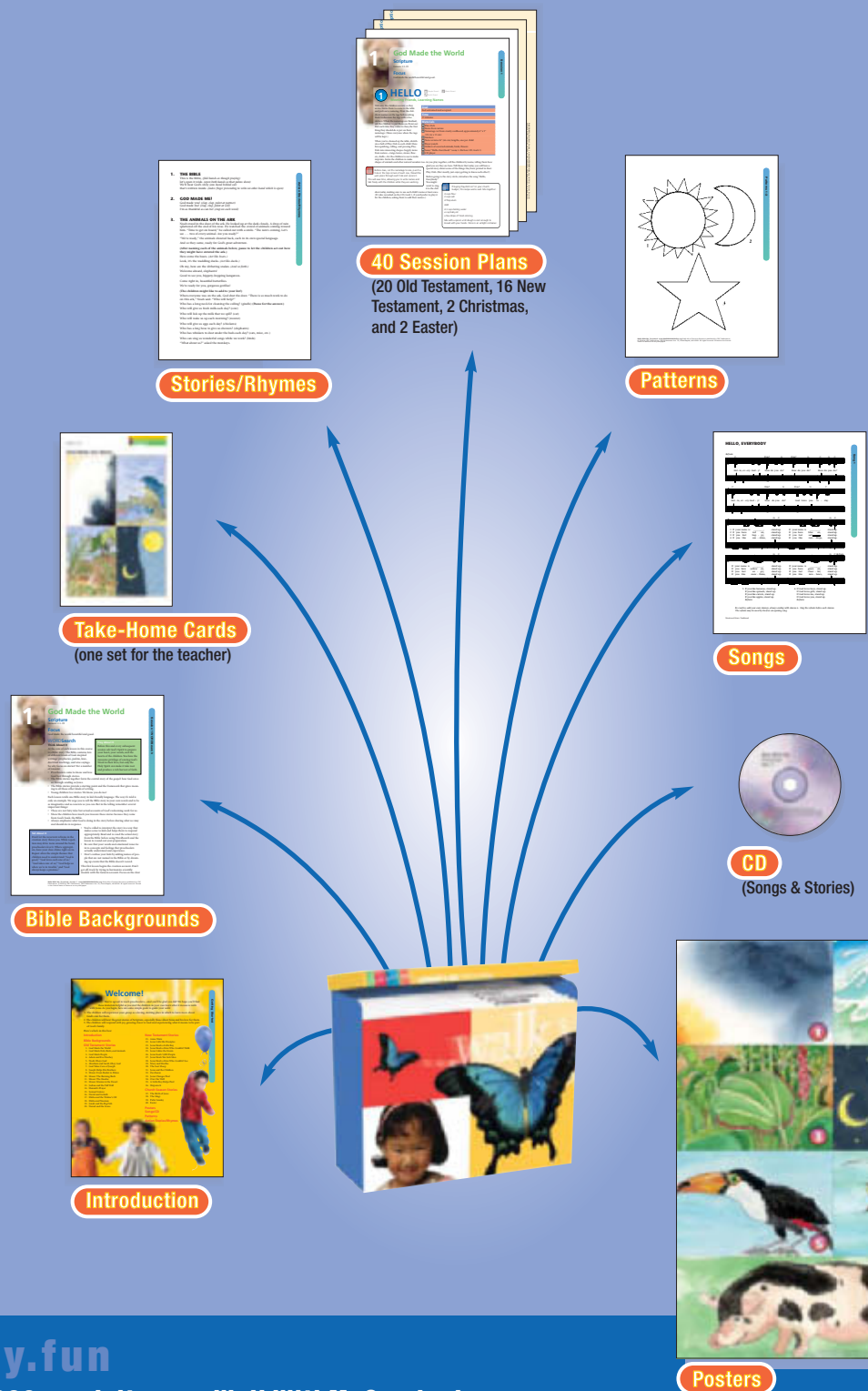
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1

God Made the World

Scripture

Genesis 1:1-19

Focus

God made the world beautiful and good.

WORDSearch

Think About It

At the core of each lesson in this course is a Bible story. The Bible contains lots of different kinds of God-inspired writings: prophecies, psalms, laws, doctrinal teachings, and wise sayings. So why focus on stories? For a number of reasons:

- Preschoolers come to know and love God best through stories.
- The Bible stories together form the central story of the gospel: how God saves us through sending us Jesus.
- The Bible stories provide a starting point and the framework that gives meaning to all those other kinds of writing.
- Young children *love* stories. We know you do too!

Each lesson retells one Bible story in kid-friendly language. The way it's told is only an example. We urge you to tell the Bible story in your own words and to be as imaginative and as concrete as you can. But in the telling remember several important things:

- These are not fairy tales but actual accounts of God's redeeming work for us.
- Show the children how much you treasure these stories because they come from God's book, the Bible.
- Always emphasize what God is doing in the story before sharing what we may and should do in response.

Pray About It

Before this and every subsequent session ask God's Spirit to prepare your heart, your words, and the hearts of the children. You have the awesome privilege of sowing God's Word in their lives, but only the Holy Spirit can make it take root and produce a rich harvest of faith.

Tell About It

Don't let the recurrent refrains in the creation story throw you. While repetition may drive teens around the bend, preschoolers *love* it. Where appropriate, have your class chime right on in. Repeat often the simple themes that children need to understand: "God is good," "God loves each one of us," "God takes care of us," "God helps us when we're in trouble," and "God always keeps a promise."

- You're called to interpret the story in a way that makes sense to kids and helps them to respond appropriately. Read and re-read the actual story from the Bible before using WordSearch and the lesson to round out your preparation.
- Be sure that your words and emotional tones tie in to concepts and feelings that preschoolers actually understand and experience.
- Don't confuse your kids by adding names of people that are not named in the Bible or by dreaming up events that the Bible doesn't record.

This first lesson begins the creation account. Don't get off-track by trying to harmonize scientific models with the Genesis account. Focus on the clear

1

God Made the World

Scripture

Genesis 1:1-19

Focus

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HELLO

Meeting Friends, Learning Names



People Smart



Earth Smart



Music Smart

Welcome the children warmly as they arrive. Invite them to come to the table and pick out a nametag. Print the children's names on the tags before asking them to decorate the tags with a few stickers. When the nametags are finished, ask the children to put them on. Point out that each time they come to class, the first thing they should do is put on their nametags. (Show everyone where the tags will be kept.)

When you've cleaned up the table, distribute a ball of Play-Doh to each child. Have fun squishing, rolling, and pressing Play-Doh into interesting shapes. Supply items from nature—twigs, leaves, stones, flowers, shells—for the children to use to make imprints. Invite the children to make shapes of animals and other natural wonders too. As you play together, call the children by name, telling them how glad you are they are here. Tell them that today you will have a special story about some of the things they have printed in their Play-Doh. (But mostly, just enjoy getting to know each other!)

Goal

Feel welcomed and accepted.

Time

15 minutes

Materials

- ☐ Play-Doh
- ☐ Items from nature
- ☐ Nametags cut from sturdy cardboard, approximately 4" x 5" (10 cm x 13 cm)
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Yarn cut into 26" (66 cm) lengths, one per child
- ☐ Paper punch
- ☐ Stickers of assorted animals, birds, flowers
- ☐ Song: "Hello, Everybody" (song 1, file box; CD, track 1)
- ☐ CD player



Before class, cut the nametags to size, punch a hole in the top corners of each one, thread the yarn piece through each hole and secure it.

This will save time, allowing you to write names and talk freely with the children while they are working.

children today, making sure to use each child's name at least once. (It's also recorded on the CD, track 1, if you'd prefer to play it for the children, asking them to add their names.)

Before going to the story circle, introduce the song "Hello, Everybody."

You might want to sing it to the children.



If buying Play-Doh isn't in your church budget, this recipe works well. Mix together:

- 4 cups flour
- 2 cups salt
- 4 Tbsp alum

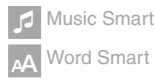
Add:

- 4 ½ cups boiling water
- ½ cup baby oil
- a few drops of food coloring

Mix with a spoon until dough is cool enough to knead with your hands. Store in an airtight container.

2

KNOW Creation Story



Introduce the action rhyme “The Bible,” teaching the words and actions. You’ll be using it to introduce the story each week for sessions 1-4. As you teach it, have your Bible on your lap.

When your group has settled into the special place you have chosen for telling the story each week, invite the children to put on their listening ears and open their watching eyes. God is going to do something pretty spectacular! Then, using the four story pictures, read or tell the story. The story text is provided on the back of each picture.

When you have finished telling the story, ask the children to think about how God felt when the world looked exactly the way God wanted it to be. Hold the mirror to the children’s faces, encouraging them to show how God felt about such a good, good world.

Introduce the song “That’s Good.” Sing the song several times, each time leaving out the word “world” and inviting the children to insert the names of some of the many good things God made.



Children love a story read well, so if you chose to read it, read it for all it’s worth. But telling a story from your heart is even more powerful. Prepare by immersing yourself in the scriptural account and meditating on it until the wonder and power of God’s mighty act of creation has captured your heart anew. Then you will be ready to look your four-year-olds in the eye and in the heart, passing on not only the story, but also the testimony of your own faith.

Goal

Name some of the things God made: land, sea, sky, sun, moon, stars, trees, flowers, and so on.

Time

10 minutes

Materials

- ☐ Hand-held mirror
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ “The Bible” (action story/rhyme 1, file box)
- ☐ Story pictures (poster 1, file box)
- ☐ Song: “That’s Good” (song 2, file box; CD, track 2)

3

GROW Story Drama



Creative drama is a full-body activity that offers a great opportunity for expression. Encourage your kids to use their entire bodies, including their faces. Invite the children to imagine *actually being* the things that God created at the very beginning: light, stars, or moon. As they think about how they might do that, make a large circle on the floor using masking tape. The circle should be large enough for your group to stand and move inside of. Invite your children to stand with you outside of the circle looking into it. Point out that there is nothing there, just like the time when God began to make the world.

In the beginning, there was no light. Who said, “let there be light”? When the children have responded that it was God, invite them into the circle to *be* light, moving their bodies as light might shine or dazzle or shimmer or flow. Then step outside the circle and continue the creative drama, each time asking, **Who said, “Let there be . . .”** water, plants, sun, moon, stars, land, flowers, and so on. After responding that it was God, invite the group back into the circle to express that item. When finished, give God a hearty “Hooray!”

Goal

Realize that God made our world and everything in it.

Time

10 minutes

Materials

- ☐ Masking tape

Sock Ball AA Word Smart

Make a sock ball by turning a sock inside out, folding it as you do. Sit in a circle. Tell the children that when the ball comes to them, they should name something that God made, then toss the ball back to you. Be sure that everyone is offered a turn.

When the game is over, ask the children to tell you once again who made the world.



The first day of church school can be a big deal—perhaps even a scary event—for young children. Some will respond with shyness or reluctance to participate in activities. Your gentle encouragement and willingness to allow a child to sit near you and watch, but not participate, will show everyone that this is a safe place. Soon, even the reluctant child will be ready to participate.

Time

10 minutes

Materials

☐ Old sock



SHOW Story Magnets

Picture Smart

Each child will make two story magnets—one of the sun and one of the night sky. Help the children assemble the magnets like this:

- Give each child two magnets. (Magnets can be cut into 1" squares before class.) Add a bit of glue to the top of each, then show the children how press a circle on top.
- On the yellow circle place dots of glue, then help the children sprinkle gold glitter on the glue to represent the sun's brilliance.
- Glue the stars on the black circle, then place dots of glue and sprinkle silver glitter to represent the sparkling stars.

While the children are working, talk about the beauty of the day and night sky. When the children are finished, set their magnets aside to dry. Then ask the children to pray with you, repeating after you the phrases of this prayer:

Thank you, God, for the warm sun and the sparkling stars. Amen.

Goal

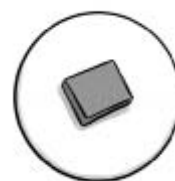
Thank God for the wonderful things in our world.

Time

10 minutes

Materials

- ☐ Fridge magnets, the kind that businesses use for advertisement, two per child
- ☐ Black felt or craft foam, cut into 4" (10 cm) circles, one per child
- ☐ Yellow or gold craft foam or felt, cut into 4" (10 cm) circles, one per child
- ☐ White glue
- ☐ Foil stars
- ☐ Gold and silver glitter



Creation Tracings/Rubbings Picture Smart

Ahead of time, make patterns 1-6 by tracing them onto stiff paper and cutting out several sets. Use masking tape to secure the patterns at various places around the table. Show the children how to hold a sheet of paper in place over a pattern and then color the paper until the shape emerges. (Or, if they prefer, the children could place the cutouts on top of the paper and trace around them.) On the bottom of each child's page print: THANK YOU, GOD, FOR [whatever the child has illustrated].

Time

10 minutes

Materials

- ☐ Drawing paper, one sheet per child
- ☐ Creation shapes (patterns 1-6, file box)
- ☐ Masking tape
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Black marker
- ☐ Construction paper for mounting the pictures (optional)
- ☐ Tape or tacks for mounting the pictures on the wall (optional)

Close with prayer, thanking God for each child by name and for any helpers who are with you, as well as those who helped behind the scenes. Have the children put away their nametags. Send the children home with a smile, their take-home cards, and their magnets.



OVERTIME

Litany and Song of Praise



Tell the children that each time you hold up your index finger, they will say: “**God, you are a great God!**” Practice doing this a few times. Then hand out the shakers, showing the children how to shake them up and down. Tell them that they will also need to *do* what you do. Practice with a few movements. Then have the children set the shakers on the floor in front of them before you begin the litany based on Psalm 95.

Time

10 minutes

Materials

- ☐ Shakers made with plastic film canisters filled 1/3 with sand or salt, two per child
- ☐ Song: "Come Praise the Lord" (song 3, file box; CD, track 3)

Leader: God, you hold the earth in your hands. (*crouch down*)

All: God, you are a great God!

Leader: The sea is yours, for you made it. (*knees bent, hands on knees*)

All: God, you are a great God!

Leader: You shaped the dry land and made the trees stand tall. (*stand, arms at sides*)

All: God, you are a great God!

Leader: The mountaintops belong to you. (*stand, hands forming a peak overhead*)

All: God, you are a great God!

All: God, you are a great God! (*shake shakers up high*)

Listen to the first verse of “Come Praise the Lord” as it’s recorded on the CD. Then sing it through together, asking the children to join you on the parts they remember. If you have time, repeat the litany. (Be sure to save the shakers to use another day.)



When you have rhymes, prayers, or litanies that you want to use several times, print the words on cardboard and place the cards where you can easily read them. That will free you from being tied to the file card.

Creation Mix-up



Enjoy this silly game with your group. Ask the children if God put the stars at the bottom of a lake. Someone will be quick to tell you that he didn't! Ask them where God *did* put them. Tell the children that if you say something silly, they should jump up, then tell you where God really did put the i

Time

10 minutes

Materials

- ☐
- None needed

Did God . . .

- put the trees on the moon?
- stack the mountains on the sun?
- put the sun in the sky?
- put the bushes on the stars?
- put the grass on the hills?
- put the moon in the rivers?
- put the flowers in the ground?
- put the oceans in the sky?

Genesis 1:1-19

God Made the World



God's Story

Day 1: In the beginning, before there was anything, there was God. Listen to what God did when he was ready to make his world.

In the beginning, there was no light. God said, "Let there be light." And there was light! And the light was day and the darkness was night. It was exactly the way God wanted it to be.

Day 2: In the beginning, there was no sky. God said, "Let there be sky." And there was sky! The sky was above and the water was below. It was exactly the way God wanted it to be.

Day 3: In the beginning, there was no land. God said, "Let the water be gathered into seas and let there be land. Let there be plants and trees and flowers to grow." And the land and trees and flowers appeared. They were exactly the way God wanted them to be.

Day 4: In the beginning, there was no sun, no moon, and no stars. God said, "Let there be sun and moon and stars." And there was a sun and a moon and stars. The sun shone in the day and the moon and stars at night. They were exactly the way God wanted them to be.

For Families

Keep learning alive this week: read this story to your child; look at the pictures and talk about God's creation; take a walk outside; make a nighttime date to gaze at the moon; and pray with your child, thanking God for his world.

Don't be alarmed if your child was uneasy about going to church school today. It's a big step from your home to class. Encourage your child. If uneasiness persists, talk with your child's leader.

..walk with me..

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