



Growing as followers of Jesus

Leaders Guide

Introduction:

This week we are starting to think about God, beginning with the creation story (Genesis 1). This is an important story as it brings up themes of nature, the environment and the part we, as humans, play in conserving and protecting this wonderful earth we have been given. In this session, the children can think deeply about the Earth and the existence of life on it. They will be encouraged to engage with the story, pray and do some practical activities around the idea of God the creator.

Ideas for families:

- **Help with the creative activities of moulding or drawing God/creation.**
- **Encourage them to go outside and think about God.**
- **Using things from nature create a map of the world.**

Ideas for Congregations:

Gathering Idea – God is Creator

- **If possible, for this session gather outside/in a garden space. As the children sit together invite them into a meditative moment of breathing in and out and setting aside this time together.**
- **Acknowledge country, speak of how sacred land/created beings are especially integrated in Indigenous culture and how the Creator Spirit is mentioned in dreamtime stories.**
- **Alternatively, if it is a rainy day or there is limited outdoor space, you can do this in a quiet meeting room. Perhaps sit in a circle and begin with a familiar activity of introducing yourself and inviting the children to do the same or use a well-known icebreaker.**
- **There is a great Godly play story on creation.**
- **Together talk about your favourite part of nature and why.**





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Heart of the Story (Everyone Chat):

Invite them to think about the word 'God'. Have post it notes available in different colours and have them write their first thought. Hold it to share after which they can post it on to a space allocated for this on a whiteboard where you are gathered indoors/outdoors.

As they sit in the space draw them into a conversation about what they can see, (noticing what they notice) Depending on the weather, the warmth of the sunshine on their skin, the smell of grass, (drawing them into a sensory experience), the trees around or the gardens with flowers of season and native plants.

With the indoor activity you may invite them to hear/watch an audio/video of creative moments – Perhaps the murmuration of starlings or native Australian images of created beings, human and animals, Indigenous dreamtime stories.

Affirm the children in their responses and invite them to see God through the revelation in creation, seeds that grow, plants bearing fruit, animals feeding their young, and humans interacting with children.

The children may want to talk about their pets at home or if they live on a farm, their many animals.

Invite them to see the nurturing, caring, compassionate image of God which is in each one of us having been created in God's own image.

Activity Ideas

Moulding/drawing Creation

Mould something from the story

Outside of Church - You could get the children to use clay, plasticine, playdough or your own creative method of moulding something from the story. If there is clay available, perhaps they can sit and mould something they could display around the house.

At Church - There could be 2 or 3 stations of creative activity.

- 1. Clay and paint/draw: moulding or drawing an image of God.**
- 2. Walk around the garden looking for where God is and gather a rock/leaf (not flowers) unless they are lying on the ground, as evidence of your work and a reminder of how God is present.**





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Who is God?

Creator

Name of
the Book

Chapter

Verse

Genesis 1 1-3

In the beginning when God created[a] the heavens and the earth, 2 the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God[b] swept over the face of the waters. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

Getting Ready!

Over the next couple of sessions, we are learning about God. Draw or write down what God looks like to you.

Today we are thinking about what God is like.

Many people have lots of different ideas, we go to the Bible to get our ideas of what God is like. The first thing the Bible says is that God created everything, and that God thinks it is GOOD!! And that includes you!

If we are trying to love God, we need to love and appreciate the world God has given us to live in. Sometimes we are not so great at that. As you walk around God's world this week maybe you could pay attention to how beautiful it is and what are your favourite parts.

Can you see out a window now? What can you see that reminds you of how amazing God is at creating things?

Look at your hand, think about all the parts of the skin, the muscles the bones, the blood. Move your fingers, take a moment to give thanks to God for how amazing your body is!

PRAISING GOD!

Creator God, we give you thanks for showing us the many ways in which you have created the vast universe and our world, for all of creation, plants, animals, humans, and everything we can see and experience. We think of the trees that give out fruit in season and bear leaves of many colours (you may name the trees in your area, native and seasons, for e.g., Jacaranda bearing the purple blossoms in Dec) in your most loving name we pray, Amen.

SORRY GOD,

Kind God, we are remembering that there are times we have not been kind to the environment and all your creation. If we have been unkind in our thoughts and actions, please remind us of how much it hurts you. Teach us of your ways of love and healing, kindness, and strength so we can join in caring for creation with you. In your loving name we pray. Amen





FIND – A – WORD

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

Can you find 6 differences in the images above?

BEGINNING
EARTH
CREATED
GENESIS
LIGHT
GOD
HEAVEN



TELLING OTHERS!

Jesus cared for us and spoke about caring for The Earth and one another.

CONNECT WITH OTHERS:

Work on a community church garden together. Challenge family to eat healthier options and less meat. Encourage others in their recycling.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Some people like to pray outside. Why not try a prayer while walking in the garden/outdoors? God hear us every day.

BLESSING

Think about your favourite animal what do you love about it? How does it bless you? Write a song and sing it for someone else. You could share it with your church.

