

Introduction to Creation

This was a collaborative learning experience for our Nursery, led by Sue Thomson, Children's Minister, St Columba's Church and our Nursery staff, Dionne Cran, Helen McKinnon and Paula Garden.

As the children explore their "world", outdoor areas local to their nursery, they are able to explore the Christian story of creation and belief that God made the world. Running the sessions outside allows the children to relate the story to the "real world" encouraging discussion on the story and issues relating to it e.g. looking after the world.

The broad aims of the sessions are to enable the children:

- to enjoy the story, so that they learn that it is interesting and enjoyable to learn about other faiths and their friends' beliefs and are keen to do so in the future
- to begin to understand Christian beliefs and also to begin to consider their own
- to happily discuss issues relating to the story.

Overview of the six sessions:

Session 1 Storytelling

Session 2 Exploring the story – Creating images

Session 3 Exploring the story - Looking after the world

Session 4 Exploring the story – Friendships

Session 5 Responding to the story - Harvest and saying thank you

Session 6 Reflecting on the story – What did you enjoy? What do you think?

Bible Passage: Genesis 1 – 2:4

Key points from the story:

Christians believe -

- The story of creation is in a special book called the Bible.
- God made the world.
- God made people.
- God thought everything he had made was good.
- God asks Christians to look after his world.
- They should say thank you to God for making the world and everything in it.

RME - Significant aspects of learning

Learning about religion and morality:

Investigating religious beliefs, values, issues, traditions and practices through a range of primary and secondary sources.

Learning from religion and morality:

Experiencing a sense of awe and wonder about what it means to be human, the nature of the world we live in, the interconnectedness of it all and developing a deepening sense of spiritual awareness.

Experiences and Outcomes

I am learning that Christians believe God asks them to look after the world.

RME 0-01a

I am learning that it is important to care for the world around me.

RME 0-02

I am learning that the Bible is a special book for Christians.

RME 0-03a

I am learning that people have different beliefs, I understand that doesn't prevent us being friends.

RME 0-07a

I have enjoyed hearing and exploring a Christian story. Working with my friends I can retell the story.

LIT 0-01b

I have helped to act out the story.

LIT 0-01c

I can collect the right number of objects.

MNU 0-02a/0-03a

I am able to express how I feel about something I made.

HWB 0-01a

I understand that my feelings and reactions can change depending upon what is happening within and around me. This helps me to understand my own behaviour and the way others behave.

HWB 0-04a

I am learning that listening helps me understand what other people think better.

HWB 0-05a

I am learning that everyone, including me, has the right to an opinion. I am learning discussion works best when I listen as well as talk.

HWB 0-09a

I am learning that I can make a difference in looking after the world. I am learning about practical ways I can care for the world.

SCN 0-01a

I have the freedom to discover and choose ways to create images and objects using a variety of materials.

EXA 0-02a

Session One - Storytelling in outdoor context (our nursery garden)

Resources required - Days of Creation Pictures can be bought on the following link - <http://keepinglifecreative.com/fabric-and-felt/the-creation-felt-story-set/>

We wrote the numbers 1 - 7 on the reverse and laminated them.

Learning Intentions

Our learning will take place outside, helping the nursery children to link the Christian belief of God making the world, with the world around them.

- Christians have a special book called the Bible
- The Bible has lots of stories in it.
- The first story in the Bible is the story of how God made the world.
- Christians believe God made the world.
- Christians believe God looked at the world he had made and thought “that's good”.
- Christians believe God made people.

Outline for the session

1. In the nursery garden – is there anything here you made? Wow! I love it. What about the plant etc – who made that? I wonder who made the sticks? And who made the leaves? I wonder how the world started? I'm going to tell you what Christians believe. We can find it in the Bible. The very first story.

2. The Bible says that to start with there was just darkness. Let's find out what God did first.

Have laminated pictures of the days of creation with the relevant number on the back. Have them number side up. Ask the children to find the numbers in turn. Turn them over to see what God made that day - storytelling around it. Peg them up on washing line, picture side facing the children. At the end of each “day” tell the children that God looked at it and said “it's good”. Ask them to put their thumbs up.

- Day 1: dark and light. (day and night). Shut your eyes – it's all dark. Open them – it's light!
- Day 2: God made the sky. What goes in the sky? Can we pretend to be it?
- Day 3: Land and seas, plants and trees. Act it out.
- Day 4: Sun, moon and stars.
- Day 5: Birds and fish. Act it out.
- Day 6: Animals and People. Act it out.
- Day 7: God rested.

3. We've heard about how God made the world. Now do you think we could find some things God made? First talk about boundaries and what's ok and not ok to bring back. e.g. something thin, thick, smooth, rough, really small, red,

As they bring their objects back, emphasise “Yes, Christians believe that's something God made. The Bible says God made everything”.

4. Come back together and see if together we can look at the muddled up pictures of creation and put them back in the right order. Once we've done it we can check the numbers on the back. Then ask questions about the story to recap and finish the session.

Session Two Exploring the story – Creating images in Holly Forest - our Wee Green Space in the woods

Resources required - Days of Creation Pictures can be found on the following link - <http://keepinglifecreative.com/fabric-and-felt/the-creation-felt-story-set/>
We wrote the numbers 1 - 7 on the reverse and laminated them.

Learning Intentions

We are learning about Christian stories from the Bible.

We are learning about the story of creation.

I know the story of creation comes from the Bible, which is a special book for Christians.

We are learning to work with a group to answer questions and create a picture.

I can make a picture to show one of the days of creation.

Outline for the session

1. Retell story of creation using the Days of Creation Pictures.
2. All children go and find something light and something dark that God made. Bring back and sort in to dark and light groups and display on material.
3. Talk about using the materials to make a picture to show one of the days of creation. Allocate each group one day (day 2 - 6). Each group to work with adult to collect materials and design their picture.
4. Showcase gallery - each group share what they used to make each day and we all praise their efforts. Ask if they have all worked well together, is there anything they could improve on next time?
5. What did God do on day 7? Rest! With your group find somewhere comfortable to rest and rest for a few moments. Wash hands and staff serve snack. Listen to sounds around you and enjoy your snack while you rest.
6. Reflection - Are we looking to have somewhere like Holly Forest to visit?

Session Three - Looking after God's World in an outdoor context (our nursery garden)

Resources required :

Laminated numbers 1 - 7 which have been hidden around the outdoor area - we used our 'Wee Green Space' in the woods.

Play dough and natural resources - pine cones, sticks, leaves, stones.

Pictures - Caring for our Environment

Learning Intentions

- We are remembering the Christian story of creation and that Christians believe God was pleased with the world he made.
- We are considering if we would like the things we make to be broken or messed up, and relating that to the Christian belief that God expects Christians to look after the world.
- We are thinking about if we don't believe that God made the world, should we still look after it?
- We are thinking about different ways we can look after the world.

Outline for the session

1. In pairs, hunt for the numbers 1-7. Each number has a basket/pot of natural objects next to it. Put the right number of objects into your tub e.g. If pine cones are next to number 5, put 5 pine cones into your tub.
2. Give each pair a lump of play dough. Ask them to use the play dough and the natural objects they've collected to make something. Encourage them to work together and chat about what they've made.
3. Ask 'would you like me to squish and mess up your special creation, or would you like me to look after it?' Just like we would like our things carefully look after, Christians believe God would like them to look after his world. If someone doesn't believe God made the world, do you think they should still look after it? Why?
4. How can we look after the world? Turn over pictures of people not looking after the world. Talk about them.

Session Four - Exploring the story – Friendships in Holly Forest - our Wee Green Space in the woods

Learning Intentions

We are learning about Christian stories from the Bible.

We are learning about the story of creation and how pleased God was with what He had made.

We are learning how we can help to look after the world that God made by looking after each other; being a good friend to ourselves and each other.

We are thinking about what makes a good friend and how we can be friends to people who have something the same or something different to ourselves.

I can name my friends and play with them.

I can say something we have the same (e.g age) and something we have different (e.g eye colour).

I can say why my friend is my friend and something we like to do together.

Outline for the session

1. Revise what we have learned so far and introduce friendship learning intentions. Ask children why they chose the children they did. Sit in groups and think what their similarities and differences are. Report back to group.
2. Discuss with children that while we need to look after our world, people are part of our world so we need to look after them to. Christians believe that God wanted us to be friends, how can we do that? Share ideas from the children and support where necessary.
3. Allow time for the children to go and play together, encouraging them to use good friendship skills. Supporting adults observe and encourage positive friendships skills as they see them.
4. Reflection - we are thankful for our friends, although not everyone is our closest friend we still look after everyone.

Session Five - Harvest and saying Thank-you in an outdoor context (our nursery garden)

Resources required: Parachute and 10 'harvest' items (that wouldn't normally be found in the outdoor context) hidden around the area e.g. bag of flour, vegetables, bread.

Learning Intentions

- We are remembering everything we've learnt about the Christian Story of Creation.
- We are learning that Christians believe we should say "Thank you" to God for making us a beautiful world.
- We are learning that Christians believe if God made everything, then he must have made all our food. We should say "Thank you" to God for our food.
- We are learning that Christians call talking to God "prayer".
- We are learning that the festival of Harvest is a special time for Christians to say "thank you" to God for all the good food he gives us.

Outline for the session

1. Around the parachute
 - Yes or no quiz to recap prior learning. If you think answer is yes, run under the parachute. If you think no, stay where you are. (Questions covering all learning intentions in session 1 and 2)
 - Chat about saying thank you. If someone gives us something nice, what should we say to them? Christians believe that because God made the world for us we should say thank you to him.
 - Can you look at the colour of the bit of parachute you are holding – can you think of something Christians believe God made that is that colour? Can we say thank you for it?
2. Hunt around the area to find the ten items of food that have been hidden. Gather them together. Christians believe if God made the world then he made all the food for us. They believe we should say thank you to God for the food.
3. Chat explaining Harvest. Christians say thank you to God whenever they have food. There is one special time of year, called Harvest, when they especially remember to say Thank you. Talk about what a harvest is. Mention donations to Foodbanks.
4. Parachute game - stand round the edge of the parachute. Give each child the name of a vegetable - e.g. carrot, potato, pea, broccoli). Run underneath the parachute when your vegetable is called. Everyone run if **Harvest** is said.

Session Six - What do you think about the story and what you've learned?

Resources required: - Feely bag with nine objects with questions written on them, as described below.

Learning Intentions

We can talk about everything we've learnt and offer an opinion on it. We are learning to listen to each other.

Session Outline

1. On day 7 God rested! Get comfy on our cushions. Can we all see each other and hear each other?
2. Feely and question bag – can you guess what you're feeling and then we'll read the question written on it? Answer the questions together. (apple, toy animal, stone, banana, star, bird, fish, leaf, stick). See below for questions to write on objects.
3. Active Quiz recapping story and learning points to finish – run one way for yes, and one way for no.

These were the questions written on the objects. Whoever reads the question can also establish the context when reading it out.

1. Do you think God still likes the world? Which bits? (Context: In the story God liked everything he made. If God is real do you think he still likes the world. All of it? Some of it? None of it?)
2. If God is real, what do you think he did when he rested? (Context: The story says God rested on day seven)
3. What is your favourite part of the story of God making the world?
4. What's your favourite thing about space? If God is real what would you ask him about space? (Context: Do you know what space is? The story says God made the stars, sun and moon)
5. What do you think is the yuckiest food? If God is real what question would you ask him about food? (Context: Christians believe God made food)
6. If we don't believe in God, should we still look after the world? (Context: The Bible says that Christians should look after the world.)
7. If God is real, do you think anything in the world makes him sad?
8. What is your favourite sea creature? (Context: The story says God made sea creatures)
9. Does everyone believe God made the world? (Extend to – can we still be friends if we believe different things?)