

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 Primary One teacher, Sophie Rogers.

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.

Primary 1 Sessions

1. Storytelling
2. Remembering the Story
3. Responding to the story - Harvest and saying thank you
4. Exploring the story – God made people

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.



Session One - Storytelling in outdoor context

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 with 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. Look around outside, consider what we saw on the way here. What did you like? What did you not like? How did all these things get here? Have you ever made anything with sticks? Or leaves? But 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”. Use a talking stick to help the children share their thoughts.



4. We'll split into 4 groups each doing two activities. (Have two sets of each activity)

1. Order the story. Put the laminated pictures back onto the floor, picture side up. Can they (without looking at the numbers on the back) peg them in the right order? Check the numbers on the back to see if they got it right. Ask questions/set challenges to extend the activity. (see attached sheet)

2. Story stones. Use the story stones to answer the questions on the sheet, might need an adult to read the questions.

5. If it's dry, take Bibles for the children to look up the story for themselves.

6. Come back together to finish off and share what we've learnt and our favourite parts of the story.

Session Two - Remembering the story - in an outdoor context

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. These should be pegged around the outdoor area being used before children come out.

Sheets with the numbers 1 - 7 for children to stamp during the treasure hunt. Rubber stamps (or pencils to make a tick).

Optional - torn up old sheets to give each group a blank canvas for the natural art work.

Learning Intentions

- We are learning about Christian stories from the Bible. We are remembering what we've learned about the story of creation.
- We are learning to work with a group to answer questions and create a picture.

Session outline

1. Treasure hunt to remind us of the story of creation. Hunt for the pictures of creation (one for each day). At each picture is a stamp to stamp your sheet. (stamp next to the corresponding number)

2. Recap together, what happened on day 1. God created light and dark. 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. Split into 5 groups, allocate each group one of the days of creation (day 2-6). Each group to collect materials and make a picture showing what God made on that day. (We tore up old sheets to give each group a blank canvas).

4. Share our art gallery, complement each other. Discuss how well they worked as a group.



5. What did God do on day 7? Rest! With your group find somewhere comfortable to rest and rest for a few moments.

6. Do you like the Forest? Did you like your pictures? Can you remember what God thought about the world when he made it?

Session Three - Harvest and saying Thank-you in an outdoor context

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.

Parachute and 10 'harvest' items e.g. vegetables in a bag.

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.

Session outline

1. Recap - use the Days of Creation Pictures to ask questions and retell.
2. Find and describe - Explore our area and choose one thing you can see that God made. Find your favourite thing. What makes it so special to you? Why do you like it so much? You can only choose one thing. You might not be able to bring it, or even touch it. Pointing to it is ok. Come back ready to share what it is. Think of a word to describe what you chose. What does it look like, feel like, taste like etc? Share our words with each other.
3. Christians believe the Bible says we should say "thank you" to God for making the world. Let's write a prayer together. What's a prayer? Say "thank you" to God in turn for the object we chose. Include our describing words.
4. Feely bags - Pass round the feely bags. Filled with vegetables. Have a guess and then take it out to see if you're right. What do they all have in common? All food. Christians believe God makes all the food for us and we should say thank you to him. Harvest is a time of year when Christians especially remember to say thank you to God for our food.
5. Parachute game. All kids are given the name of a vegetable. Run underneath when yours is called. If we call Harvest. Everyone runs.

Session Four - God made people

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. Feely bag with nine objects with questions written on them, as described below.

Clay

Small mirrors

Caring for our Environment Cards,

Learning Intentions

- We remember the Bible says that God made people.
- Christians believe God made people to be his friend. That he was pleased with how he had made them, he likes them.
- Christians believe God gives people the special job of looking after his world.

Session Outline

1. Can anyone remember what God made on day 6? People!
2. Make a clay face (sticking your clay onto a tree)

3. Talk about the Bible saying God made people. And it says he likes people and wants them to be his friends. He likes to talk to them, just like we talk to our friends. He gave people jobs to do.



4. Four activities to move round in groups:

- A. Feely and Question Bag - Get comfy on our cushions. Can you guess what you're feeling and then we'll read the question written on it? Answer the questions together. (objects in bag: apple, toy animal, stone, banana, star, bird, fish, leaf, stick). See below for questions to write on objects.
- B. Our job is to look after the world. Use the Pictures, Caring for our Environment card. Spread the pictures out, face down. The Bible says our job is to look after the world. Take it in turns to choose a picture. Discuss what is happening in the picture. Is the world being looked after?

What could we do differently to look after it? If we don't believe in the Bible, if we don't believe in God, should we still look after the world?

- C. God likes you! Look at a friend and tell them two things you like about them. Look at yourself in the mirror. What do you think God likes about you.
 - D. In pairs, use the Days of Creation Pictures to order the story of creation, and retell it to each other. What's your favourite day? Do you think God had a favourite day? Which day do you think is the most important? Act it out - can you act out something God made? Can your friends guess what it is? Which day of creation are you from?
5. Active quiz to finish if time. Recapping story and learning points to finish – run one way for yes, and one way for no.
6. Does everyone believe God made the world? (Extend to – can we still be friends if we believe different things?)

Feely Bag Questions

These were the questions written on the objects in the feely bag. 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)