

Welcome to Families on Faith Adventures @ Home!

This resource has been put together for you by the United Reformed Church Children's and Youth Work team and the synod CYDOs and their equivalents.

We hope you will enjoy sharing a time of faith and fellowship together as a family through these stories, games, activities and prayers. They are designed as a 'pick and mix' of ways to experience God's message through the Bible, exploring what it means to you and express that in words and action. They are not linked to the lectionary but can be used in any order as we explore all the different parts of the Bible.

The Walking the Way challenges are one way of continuing our walk with Jesus throughout the week.

These ideas are designed to be intergenerational - maybe even to be shared with members of the family you can't see now except via the internet.

The resources are based on our non-uniformed children's groups, Friends on Faith Adventures and Pilots, but have been modified to make them suitable for all families at home.

*These activities are planned to be used together as a family and under adult supervision. Please be aware of your family's ages and abilities as some activities may need more adult support than others. **Stay safe and have fun!***

This week's Bible story is:

Creation - A Bumper Summer Issue

Genesis 1 to 2: 3



Illustration by Sue Bentley / FreeBibleimages.org



With many varieties of activities and things to do to help explore the theme. Look out for this 'hands on' symbol.

Get to know your Bible

The Bible is like a library made up of 66 books written by many different people over many years.

The Old Testament books were written before Jesus was born. They are the holy stories he would have grown up hearing and reading. There are 39 of these.

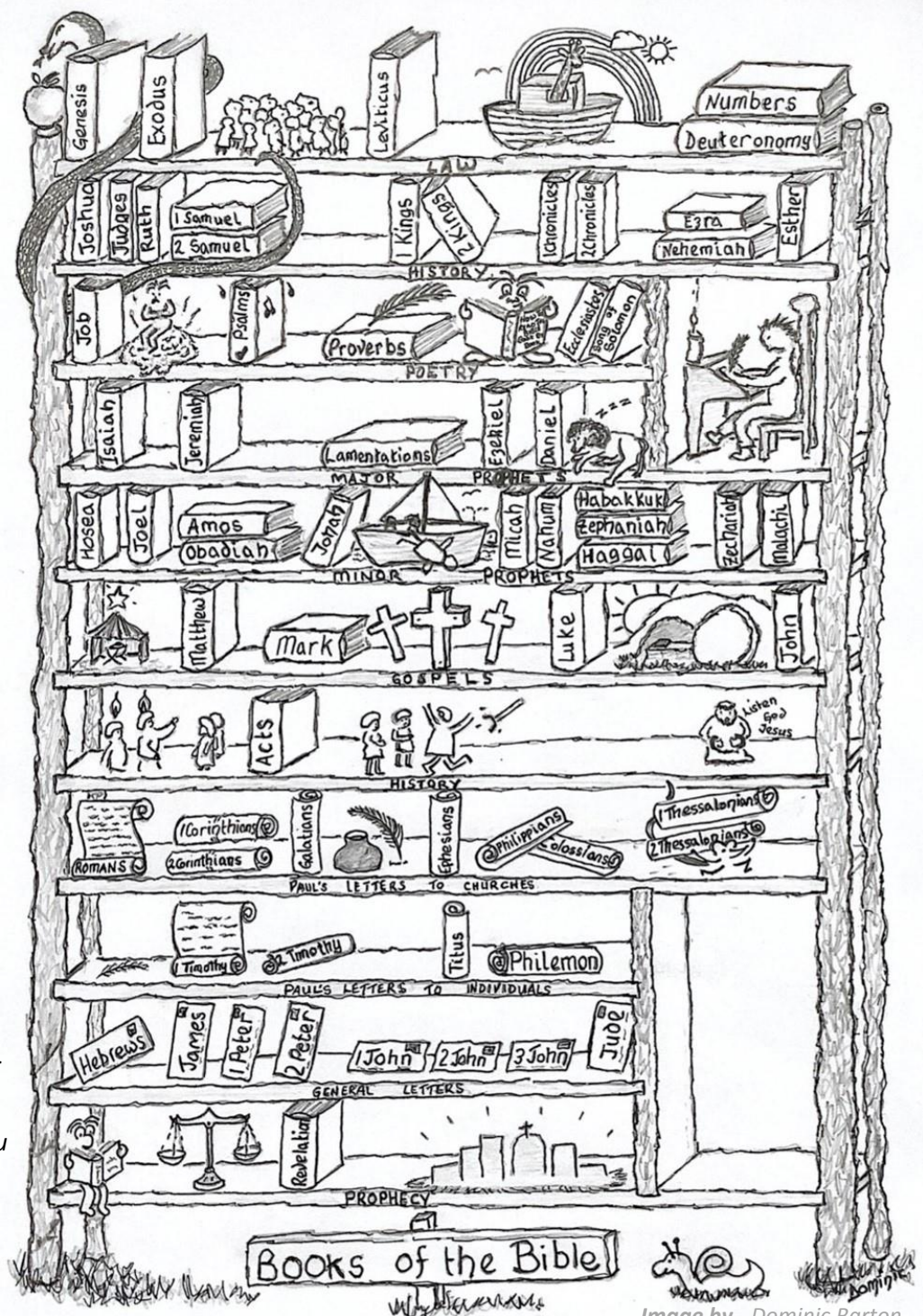
The New Testament tells us the stories of Jesus and his followers. There are 27 books in the New Testament.

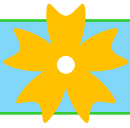


Can you find and colour the book on the bookshelf that this week's story is from?

If you have a Bible, see if you can find the story in there.

You could print this out once and colour each new book on the bookshelf as you read stories from it.





Summer - Creation

Introduction to summer exploring the Creation Story

Bible context

The book of Genesis is thought to have been written by Moses around 1430 BC. It is the first book in the Bible and covers over 2,000 years of history. These are the stories that would have been passed down through generations, sitting around fires, retelling the story of how the world was made.

In this Summer Bumper edition, we will explore each of the seven days of creation in turn. The story tells us that God was there right at the beginning and spoke the world into being. We believe that God is still speaking and, when God speaks, things happen. I wonder what God will say to you and your families as you explore together this summer.

All Scriptures quoted are from the International Children's Bible®, copyright ©1986,1988, 1999, 2015 by Tommy Nelson. Used by permission.



Creation on a plate

You might want to begin by creating something which shows the whole story. Here is one idea:

You will need two paper plates or two cardboard circles.

Using a ruler, mark each plate into eight equal sections. Then cut away one of the sections on the upper plate.

Create a picture in each section of the lower plate to represent each of the seven days of creation. Include a title in the eighth section. Then simply fix the top plate over the picture plate using a split pin in the middle.

Your plate is now ready to use as you travel through summer and explore the creation story together.



You could also make large individual versions. These were made using felt on a cake board.



Online versions of the story

Watch and listen

Jesus storybook Bible – The beginning - a Perfect Home read by David Suchet

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LN-pV4yYlek>

Dance and sing

Creation song for Toddlers by Sing and learn the Bible

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOITGi3uHOQ>

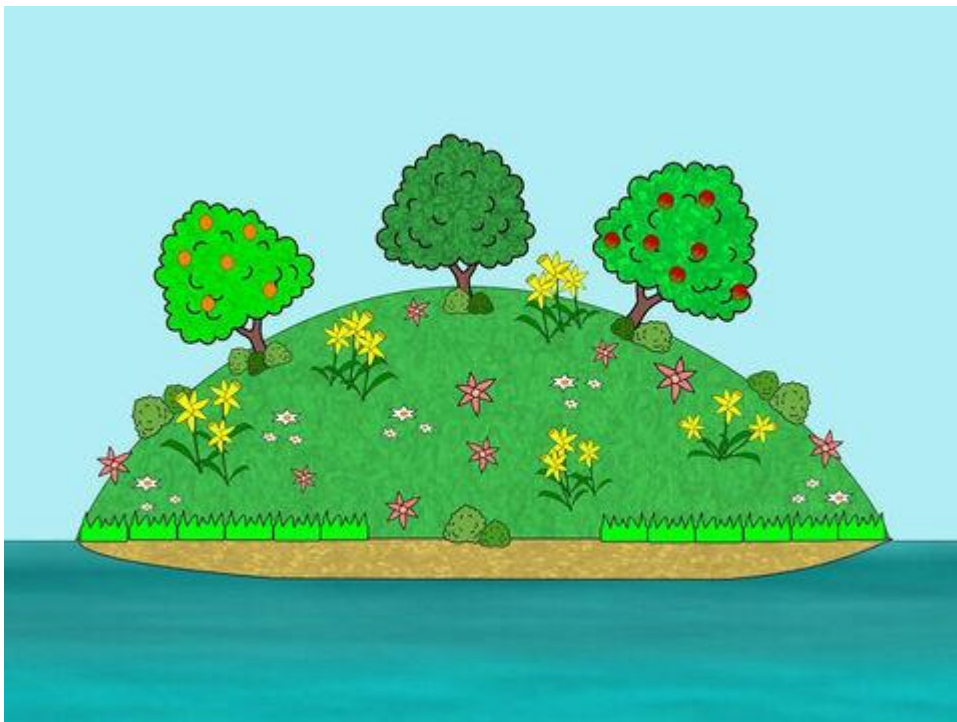
Modern Parables

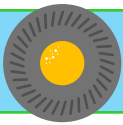
When God made the world by Matthew Paul Turner

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m1a6e5si3fk>

Table Top Discussion

What's your favourite part of God's creation story and why?





Day One – Dark and Light

The Story – Genesis 1 v 1 - 5 (The International Children's Bible)

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.



Explore the story – God was in the dark and the light

In the beginning, there was darkness, and God was in it. God was also in the light that was created.

Have a treasure hunt to find God. Each write God's name on a small piece of paper (each person could use a different coloured pen) then hide them around your house, making sure that you leave them in the light places and the dark places (under the bed, at the back of cupboards etc). Then everyone goes on a hunt. Can you find them all? A torch might help with the dark spaces.

Online versions of the story

Watch and listen

The creation Story (Godly Play Style) by Joelee Chamberlain

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CRNkfi9PE_c

Dance and sing

God is light by Nursery Praise <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7fJ9vkwlpq4>

Modern Parables

The Dark by Lemony Snicket (Not suitable for VERY young children)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mml2KFQyyKw>

Table Top Discussions

Can you think of a bright, happy time and a dark, sad time where you have known God was with you?

Where do you feel God's presence more, in the good times or the difficult times?

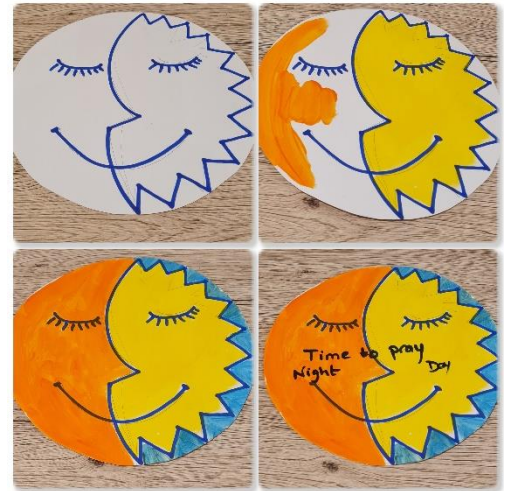
Pray Together – Day 1

Morning and night

In the morning tell God about your day, what you are looking forward to and things you might be worried about. Talk about the things you are going to do, places that you will go to. Ask God to be with you through the day.

When you go to bed at night, you can say goodnight by talking to God before you go to sleep. Pray for the things that have happened during the day, talk about your family and friends and the people you have met.

Make a reminder for you wall. Cut a circle out of card and draw a line down the middle, as in the picture, making a moon and sun face. Paint or colour the two halves



A prayer

*In the early morning light or in the dark with stars shining bright
help me to set aside some quiet time and find a quiet place
to meet with you today. Amen*



TO DO TOGETHER...

Sun bleaching

You will need:

- Some objects
- A piece of dark coloured paper

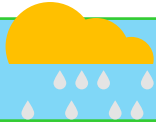
What you do:

Choose a sunny place.

Arrange your objects on some dark coloured paper. Place the objects on the paper on a windowsill and leave it for a few hours on a sunny day, longer if you can, and try not to move the objects. Once you are happy the sun has faded the paper, remove your objects and see their silhouettes. You could use this paper to cover a notebook or wrap a gift.

God created the light and the dark. Light helps us to see clearly.





Day Two – Heavens and water

The Story – Genesis 1 v 6 - 8 (The International Children's Bible)

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.



Explore – Water, water, everywhere.

71% of the earth is covered in water, and 95% of it is salty, found in the oceans. Freshwater is found in lakes, rivers, in the air and in the ground. Even we are half water; we are all around 50% water.

Water is rarely still, it keeps moving. Water is life. Without water, nothing grows. Water is a precious resource and we should do all we can to not waste it.

Use this easy tool to see how much water you are using <https://bit.ly/value-water> What can we do to save water and use it wisely?

Online versions of the story

Watch and listen

Creation animation by Elite Master https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GUu_YW9iK6E

Dance and sing

Deep cries out by Bethel Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qFwpOjF-5o>

Modern Parables

The water Princess by Susan Verde <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O1xITADVj5E>

All the water in the world by Gorge Elle Lyon and Katherine Tillotson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uU1XNA1oZs>

Table Top Discussions

Jesus said that he was the water of life, what do you think he meant by this?

Pray Together – Day 2

Water prayers

Fill a jug with water and place a glass in the middle of the table. Take it in turns to pour a small amount of water from the jug into the glass. As you pour the water, think about the people that only have dirty water to drink and sometimes do not have any water at all.

Think about the places in the world where there is not enough water to grow the food in the fields.

Think about the people who have to carry water over long distances, sometimes balancing the water on their heads.

Dear God, help us to be thankful for the water that we have. Amen



TO DO TOGETHER...

Water roulette

You will need:

- Water balloons
- Water
- A space to play



What you do:

Stand in a circle with your friends or family. Throw a water balloon into the air as high as you can. Stay in the circle as long as you dare, without getting hit by the water balloon as it descends. Whoever stays in the circle the longest is the winner.





Day Three – Water, Land and Plants

The Story – Genesis 1 v 9 - 13 (The International Children’s Bible)

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.

Explore – making a home

On this day, we see God making the dry land and the seas, plants and trees and vegetation. It seems God is preparing the ground (literally) for people and creatures to be able to live in the world he is creating. We breath out carbon dioxide that the tress soak up, they in turn release oxygen for us to breath in. We need God’s creation to survive and begin to grow.

Have a go at identifying trees and plants, perhaps plant a new one somewhere. You could do some tree rubbing, exploring all the different barks, or just try a little tree hugging. Not only do trees provide oxygen but they are good for our mental health too. Hugging a tree increases levels of a hormone called oxytocin. This hormone is responsible for feeling calm and emotional bonding.

Online versions of the story

Watch and listen.

Lego animation of Creation by AnonymousLegoFiend

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IV6qlev278k>

Dance and sing

Creator God by Nick and Becky Drake https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zGtvBsl_Qi0

Modern Parables

The three trees by Angela Elwell Hunt

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5qRzTOpOnk>

Table Top Discussions

In John 15 v 1 Jesus says that he is the true vine and God is the gardener. We are reminded to be rooted in him, what do you think this means?

Pray Together – Day 3

Earth, Plants and trees

You will need:

- *A paper cup or very small flowerpot*
- *Paper*
- *Glue*
- *A small stone*
- *A heart*

Take a small stone and glue the heart to it. The stone reminds us of God's strength and the heart reminds us of God's love.

Cut out some petal shapes that are slightly taller than your pot. Stick them around the pot to form a flower. Place the stone with the heart in the flower cup. Use this to help you pray for God's love and strength.





TO DO TOGETHER...

Water filtering

You will need:

- 2 old plastic bottles without caps
- A small amount of mud or soil
- An old disposable face mask
- Water

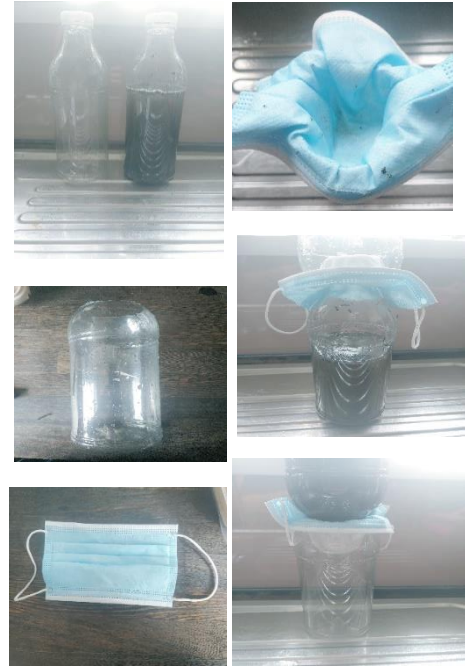
What you do:

Put some mud and water into one of the bottles. Cut the neck off the other bottle and place the disposable mask onto it, pushing it down slightly so it sits inside with no spaces at the sides.

Turn the empty bottle with the mask upside down and push it carefully over the neck of the bottle with muddy water as far as it will go, keeping the mask in place. Shake the bottle of water and mud if the mud has settled.

Turn the bottles over and let the mask filter the muddy water. This will take some time, so be patient. Eventually the bottom bottle should fill with clean water once more. (You probably should not drink it, though!)

God separated the water from the land on the third day.





Day Four – Sun, moon, and stars

The Story – Genesis 1 v 14 - 19 (The International Children’s Bible)

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.

Explore

By placing the sun, moon and stars in the sky, God created seasons, tides, time, and a pattern to nature. The lights ruled the day and the night. We can’t comprehend how vast the universe and the cosmos are.

Why not try some star gazing? You may need to go to a place where there is less light pollution, but it will be worth it. Do some research before you go so that you can try to identify some of the stars. Lie back and wonder at the vastness of God’s creation.

Online versions of the story

Watch and listen.

Creation story told in Sand Art by Joe Castillo

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mz8li9Q00_8

Dance and sing

Lord of all creation by Chris Tomlin <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LOL3plqadKo>

Modern Parables –

Sophia’s dream by Land Wilson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=koij-cLWNCA>

Table Top Discussions

Jesus said he was the light of the world, what do you think he meant by this?

Pray Together – Day 4

Sun, moon and stars

The sun and moon and stars mark changes in the day and the seasons and the tides in the sea are controlled by the moon. Sometimes the sun and moon can even affect our mood. Around the world, each person will see the same sun, moon and stars but from a slightly different angle (Remember never to look directly at the sun!), and it's amazing to remember that people in the past will have seen them too. Without light, there is no colour.

Find somewhere really dark – maybe hide together under a blanket or a duvet – and then light a battery candle or a torch or a small lamp or some fairy lights. Even the smallest light makes a difference. Jesus said that he was the light of the world. Spend some time thanking God that your life is brightened by God's love which goes all round the world and from the beginning to the end of time.



TO DO TOGETHER...

Shadow puppets

You will need:

- Dark card
- Skewers

What you do:

Draw images on the dark card and cut them out.

Stick them onto the skewers using tape.

Use the puppets to tell a story in shadows.

Alternatively, why not try making shadow shapes using your hands. Here is how

<https://youtu.be/Kz8wP2RYy64>

God made the sun and the moon to lighten the days and night, creating shadows by them.



Day Five – Birds and Fish

The Story - Genesis 1 v 20 - 23 (The International Children's Bible)

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.



Explore

Now we see God's creativity in bringing the seas and skies to life, with swimming and flying creatures. There is so much diversity here.

If you have a beach nearby, you could go crabbing or rock pooling, see what creatures you can spot. Alternatively, you could create your own huge collage showing the birds of the sky and the creatures of the sea.

I wonder why God made these creatures first, and made the animals the next day?

Online versions of the story

Watch and listen.

Creation animation by Saddleback Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=teu7BCZTqDs>

Dance and sing

God made all the fishes for Toddlers by 3littlewords
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hv4oZHJw41A>

Modern Parables

Commotion in the ocean by Giles Andreae <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9pRhgZ8Jffs>

Table Top Discussions

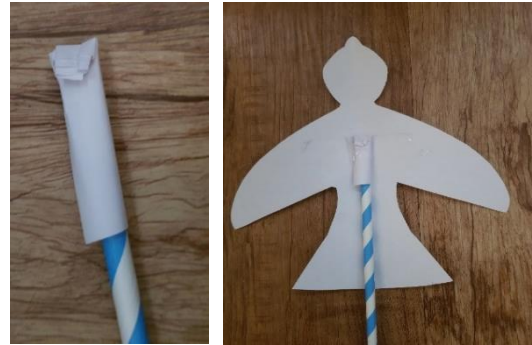
What's your favourite fish/bird? What does it mean that God is the Lord of the sea and sky?

Pray Together – Day 5

Flying Bird prayers

You will need:

- Sellotape
- A paper bird shape
- A small rectangle of paper and a straw



What you do:

Wrap the paper rectangle around the straw (not too tight) and then fold the top of the paper over to make a 'pocket' for the end of the straw. Make sure that there is a little gap between the fold of the pocket and the end of the straw.

Write or draw prayers for people or places on the front of the bird shape.

Turn the bird over and sellotape the paper pocket to it.

Now you can make your prayers fly. Turn the bird the right way round and blow through the straw. Watch your bird fly as a symbol of giving the prayers to God!



TO DO TOGETHER...

Flappy birds

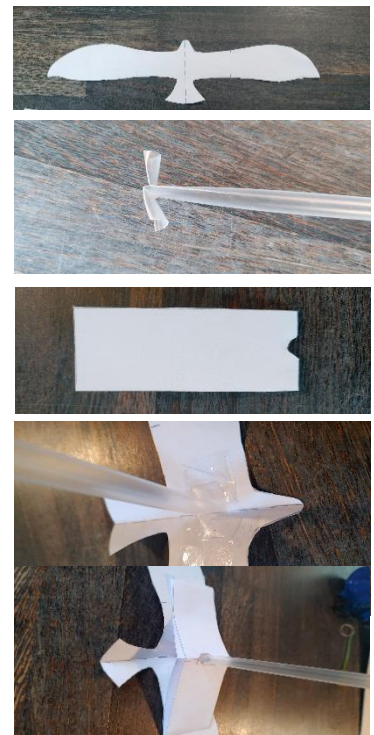
You will need:

- Paper
- A strip of card 4cm x 15cm
- A straw
- Tape

What you do:

Use the bird shape template and cut it out. The dotted lines are the folding lines.

Press the top of the straw flat and make a cut down each of the two sides, folding them out to make two flaps. Place this end of the straw on the fold in the centre of the bird with the flaps sticking out on each side of the fold along the wings and tape the flaps in place.



Cut a hole in the centre of the strip of card, about the right size for your straw to fit through. You can find the centre by folding the card in half and making a crease, then cutting half a circle out of the middle of the creased side, like in the photograph.

Open up the card and slide it onto the straw, taping the two ends onto the bird's wings where the marks are on the template.

To make the bird flap, hold the v shaped card and push the straw up and down.

On Day 5 God filled the sky with birds. Can you make your bird flap like the birds of the sky?

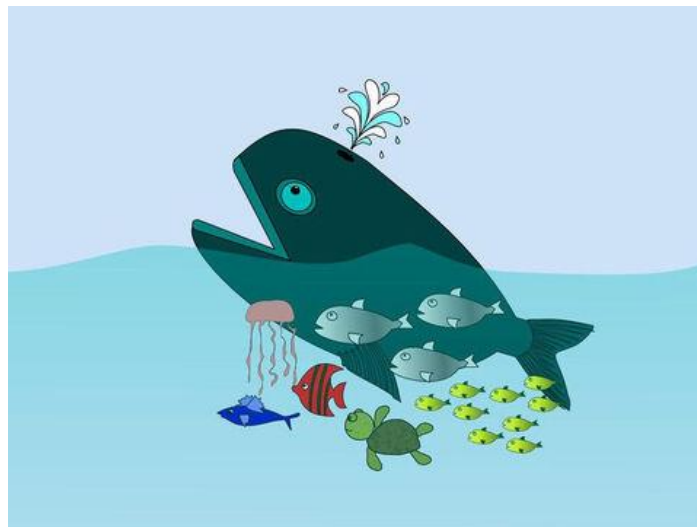


Illustration by Sue Bentley via [freebibleimages.com](https://www.freebibleimages.com)



Day Six – Animals and People

The Story – Genesis 1 v 24 - 31 (The International Children’s Bible)

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.

Explore

Do you have any pets? How many people live in your house? Do you have a best friend?

Now is the time to celebrate them for everything they are. The things that make them unique.

Perhaps create a piece of artwork that celebrates them. Gift it to them as a way of telling them how glad you are that God made them or keep it somewhere to remind you to pray for them.

Online versions of the story

Watch and listen.

God made people by Crossroads Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZPfcWV81pE>

Dance and sing

He made them all (Lovely Jubbly) by Doug Horley
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1yu1L6LZCo>

Modern Parables

When God made you by Matthew Paul Turner
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Rlu_v7zoSA

Table Top Discussions

Why do you think God made people last? What is our relationship with our creator God?

Pray Together – Day 6

Pipe cleaner Intercessions

You will need: Pipe cleaners to shape

What you do: Make your pipe cleaner into the initial of the name of someone or something. Pray for that thing/person.

Screw your pipe cleaner up and pray for people who are confused and upset.

Link your pipe cleaner to someone else's and pray for people who are lonely.

Make your pipe cleaner into a person and ask God to help and guide you.





TO DO TOGETHER...

Gingerbread people

You will need:

- 175g dark soft brown sugar
- 85g golden syrup
- 100g unsalted butter
- 2-3 tsp ground ginger
- 350g plain flour
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- White icing, to decorate
- People shaped cutters

What you do:

Heat the sugar, golden syrup and butter in a pan until melted.

Mix the ginger and flour in a large bowl and make a well in the centre. Add the bicarbonate of soda to the melted mixture and stir – it will fizz a little – then pour into the flour mixture, together with the beaten egg. Stir to combine. The mix will be soft but will firm up as it cools.

Scoop the mixture into a bag or a plastic tub and chill for at least 1 hr until firm enough to roll out. (The dough can be kept in the fridge for up to a week or frozen for three months.)

Heat the oven to 190C/170C fan/gas 5.

Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface.

Briefly knead it, then roll it out on the lightly floured surface to 2mm thick. Using the people cutters, cut out the shapes and arrange on the baking tray, making sure you spread them out as they may spread slightly.

Bake for 5-6 mins or until they darken slightly.

Leave to cool and harden up completely before moving them. Then decorate them with icing.

On the sixth day, God made animals and humans to live on the earth. Why not make some gingerbread animals too?





Day Seven – Rest

The Story – Genesis 2 v 1 - 3 (The International Children's Bible)

So the sky, the earth and all that filled them were finished. By the seventh day God finished the work he had been doing. So on the seventh day he rested from all his work. God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day. He made it holy because on that day he rested. He rested from all the work he had done in creating the world.



Explore – Rest and enjoy

Take some time as a family to have some time off together and enjoy God's creation. Take a blanket and a picnic and spend find a quiet green space to be together. Is there opportunity to spend a few moments regularly, resting with each other?

Online versions of the story

Watch and listen.

God's Creation according to Genesis – The Message version

https://youtu.be/ean_aMNkAqM

Dance and sing

Creation lullaby for toddlers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dVqiGWGOyaQ>

Modern Parables

Peace at last by Jill Murphy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9U9y35kWBvM>

Table Top Discussions

Why did God include a day to rest? Was God tired?

Where do you see evidence that all of God's creation takes time to rest?

Pray Together – Day 7

Breath prayers

Find a quiet place to sit and be quiet listen to your breathing in and out. When you feel calm and settled. Ask God to be with you and to help you with your breathing prayer.

Breathe out your worries, breathe in God's peace

Breathe out anger, breathe in God's peace

Breathe out broken friendship, breathe in God's peace

Breathe out unkind thoughts, breathe in God's peace

Breathe out fear, breathe in God's peace

Breathe out hurt, breathe in God's peace...

Add your own things that you want to breathe out and replace with God's peace.

Use this prayer to help you be still and rest with God just as God rested on the seventh day



TO DO TOGETHER...

Pillowcase

You will need:

- A pillowcase
- Fabric pens or permanent markers
- Felt stickers (optional)

What you do: Lay out your pillowcase, and place a piece of paper inside, to prevent the pen leaking through. Draw your design and then place your pillowcase on your pillow and have a rest.

On the seventh day God said this is very good, and had a rest.



What's in the box?



Why not create a Creation Basket, full of natural things for your child to explore – twigs and tree bark, grasses, flowers, feathers, shells, pebbles etc. You could take them out and about and gather things.

Maybe, too, take your child to a pet shop like Pets at Home or to a zoo or city farm where they can see fish and reptiles and animals.

Give your child an opportunity to play with different materials – water, mud, sand – and remind them that God made each of these. They may have toy animals and other creatures to hide in the sand and explore.

I wonder which is
your favourite part
of this story?

I wonder what you can do
to help take care of
creation?

I wonder what part
of creation amazes
you most?

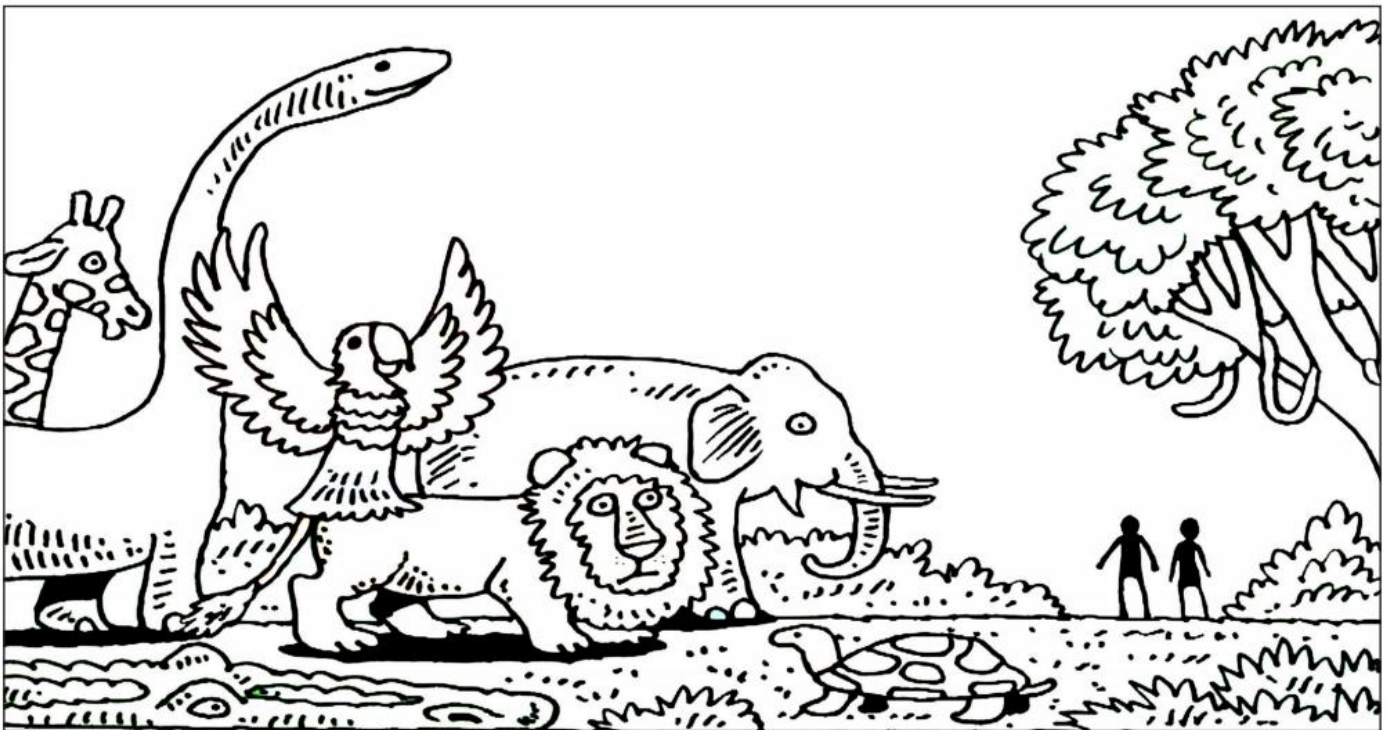


Illustration by lambsongs.co.nz via www.freebibleimages.com

I wonder if God still looks at
creation and says it is
good?

I wonder how this story
balances with what you
know of creation?



The
United
Reformed
Church

**families
on faith adventures**

at home

Adventurers Go!

You've shared together, now share with us!

Why not send photos of your crafts, your treasure boxes, your Walking the Way challenges!

Email your photos to: lorraine.webb@urc.org.uk
with parental permission for them to be used in publicity and online URC social media.

Alternatively, share them on our Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/URCchildren.and.youth/>

Remember you can find more resources on our website:
<https://urc.org.uk/resources-for-children-and-youth>

And if you've enjoyed these activities, why not see whether your local church runs Pilots or Friends on Faith Adventures (FOFA) when things get back to normal again.

Created for you by Nicola Grieves (Eastern Synod), Judy Harris (National Synod of Wales), Triin Kubar (CYW team), Hannah Middleton (Northern Synod), Philip Ray (Wessex Synod, North), Lorraine Webb (Programme Officer for CYW), and Ruth White (Wessex Synod, South) on behalf of the CYDO+ and Children's and Youth Work team and Pilots.





**families
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