

Mosaic

God's power

SAMPLE



CREATION

Be astonished by the creativity and love of God

BIBLE BACKGROUND FOR YOU

This series celebrates God as Creator. When we think of creation our attention naturally turns to Genesis 1 and 2, and these chapters feature strongly. But the theme of God as Creator runs through the Bible.

Psalms 104 is an inspiring and moving reflection on all that God has made. It also reminds us that God is still active in his creation. He didn't just wind it up, set it running and then walk on. Many other psalms celebrate God as Creator, as does Isaiah 40.

Move into the New Testament and we find passages like John 1:1-4 and Hebrews 1:2. The Bible does not tell us exactly how God made the universe, which leaves room for Christians to adopt different views, but there

can be no doubt that the Bible tells us that God made it and is still actively involved in it.

The children in our groups, especially the younger ones, will naturally marvel at the things they find around them and we will want to capitalise on that during this series. We will want to help them see the variety and respond in worship and praise. We will want to encourage their natural desire to explore and to ask questions.

Many of us as adults have lost the ability to wonder. We have focused too much on debate about creation rather than being amazed by it and responding to the Creator. What would happen if you made time to listen to children and to learn from them? How might you enter into their enjoyment of the world and experience God in fresh ways?

For your small group with a wide age range

Explore the 'Wow!' factor as you think about the power and majesty of God and his creation!

For the youngest, the wonders of creation are still new. Encourage older ones, who might take things for granted, to get alongside the younger ones and rediscover their sense of wonder. This is a great opportunity to have fun together. Help everyone respond and praise God for the marvels around us.

Opportunities for creativity are included in each session. Help everyone treat these as expressions of worship, not merely chances to show off skill or achievement. Show your appreciation for every child's contribution – from the least to the most able.

Resources for ministry

Scripture Union Bible Timeline
How well do you know your Bible history? What's the big story all about? Scripture Union's *Bible Timeline* will help you answer all these questions at a glance. The 16 panels each illustrate a key person or event in Bible history – from the creation of the world in Genesis to the promise of Jesus' return in Revelation. Underneath each picture, key dates and characters are highlighted. Bible references will help you locate

the stories in the Bible quickly and easily. Using the *Bible Timeline* is often suggested in the *Mosaic* programme.
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Highlights from LightLive

Go to the 'Search LightLive' tab at www.lightlive.org and enter this session's Bible reference to find:

- 'Bible story picture': a regular activity for 2-7s
- 'Audio Bible story': a regular mp3 download for 3-7s
- 'Learn and remember': a PowerPoint of a Bible verse to learn, for 5-11s (see also page 15)
- 'Presentation': an activity with animation for 11-14s



SERIES 1 CREATION
SESSION 1



God makes light, day and night

Bible:

Genesis 1:1-8

Aim: To discover more about our Creator God and explore our response to him

CORE PROGRAMME

For 3-14s

Bible story with shout

15 - 20 minutes

Why: to discover more about our Creator God and to explore our response to him

With: SU Bible Timeline, creation shout from page 10

1 Bible Timeline

Look together at the picture of creation on the *Bible Timeline* or in an illustrated children's Bible. Encourage the children to imagine they are going back in time. Invite them to close their eyes and imagine different parts of the creation picture removed in turn. Say: 'The first thing to take out of the picture is the story of Noah: remove the rainbow, ark, animals and Noah, leaving just the sea. Now take away wars and arguments. The snake that tempted Eve to disobey God is no longer there. As we go back in time take out all the people and all the animals. Then take out

the stars, the moon and the sun and leave the sky totally empty. Next remove all the trees and plants and leave the land completely bare.

If we go further back in time then even the land must disappear. Just one bright light shines through that water and the power of God is moving over the roaring, raging ocean. Take the light away and think about a universe that's empty except for God. Try to imagine the scene - there is NOTHING BUT GOD!' Ask the children if they found it hard to imagine 'nothing but God'.

2 Check out the Bible

Ask the children if they know where to find Genesis in the Bible. Say that 'Genesis' means 'Beginnings'. That's a clue! Invite two confident readers to read Genesis 1:1-5. Encourage the rest of the group to follow the story in their Bibles. Ask the children to describe in their own words what happened on the first day, but edit out anything that didn't happen! If you have a large group, do this in twos or threes. Read verses 6-8 and encourage them to describe what the world might have been like at the end of the second day.

3 Describe God

What sort of God could do this? Invite the group to think of different words to describe this amazing God of ours.

4 Creation shout

Divide the children into two groups. Practise a 'backing track' with one group first, repeating 'In the beginning God' over and over again. Then practise the shout with the other group, pausing when the words 'and that was the first/second day' are heard. Put the two parts together.

**God made the heavens,
and God made the earth.**

**Dark and lifeless and
covered by water and over
the water blew the wind
of God.**

**God said, 'Light!' and light
appeared.**

That was the first day.

**And God was pleased
with what he saw.**

**God made a dome to cover
the earth. He called it sky.**

That was the second day.

**And God was pleased
with what he saw.**

If there is time, swap the two groups over. (There are more verses of the creation shout on page 10. Why not perform the shout to the whole church?)

Creation shout

God made the heavens,
and God made the earth.
Dark and lifeless and
covered by water
and over the water blew
the wind of God.
God said, 'Light!' and
light appeared.

**That was the first day.
And God was pleased
with what he saw.**

God made a dome to
cover the earth.
He called it sky.

**That was the second day.
And God was pleased
with what he saw.**

God made the land,
he called it earth.
And on the earth the
plants all grew.

**That was the third day.
And God was pleased
with what he saw.**

God made lights appear
in the sky.
The sun and moon marked
day and night.

**That was the fourth day.
And God was pleased
with what he saw.**

God put fish into the sea.
And God put birds into
the sky.

**That was the fifth day.
And God was pleased
with what he saw.**

God made the animals
to live on the land.
And then he made people
to rule the earth.

**That was the sixth day.
And God was pleased
with what he saw.**

CORE PROGRAMME CONTINUED

Move and praise**10** - **15** minutes**Why:** to remember that God made the universe and to praise him**With:** percussion instruments

- 1 Play some percussion instruments that make high- and low-pitched sounds, such as bells and drums. Listen to the sounds together and discuss how they portray God creating light and darkness.
- 2 Ask the children to make movements or shapes with their bodies to portray light and darkness being created. If some are reluctant, suggest they play the instruments or make actions just with their hands.
- 3 Divide your group into two. As the instruments play, ask group 1 to make movements while group 2 reads the Learn and remember verse aloud slowly. (You can find a poster of the verse on page 15.) As they finish reading, encourage group 2 to begin to move while group 1 reads the verse.
- 4 Practise the routine several times. Try to find another group of people to watch and praise God with you.

Sensing God's world**5** - **10** minutes**Why:** to appreciate what God has created**With:** items to smell and touch, a blindfold (optional)

- 1 Pass the objects round, one at a time. Invite the children to describe how they look, feel and smell. If appropriate, blindfold them and invite them to guess what one of the items is by touch and smell.
- 2 Discuss how each item was made. What raw materials were needed? Say that people can create things when they use raw materials that God has provided.

- 3 Praise God for the different materials he has created. Invite everyone to think of something to praise him for. Make a list then pray about them.

Junk modelling**10** - **20** minutes**Why:** to remember and thank God for making the universe out of nothing**With:** junk and collage materials

- 1 Pile all the materials on a table and admit they look a mess – just 'nothingness'. Remind the children that God started with nothing and created something beautiful. They are going to create something to remind them of that.
- 2 Invite the children to make whatever they like. Assure them it doesn't need to be anything in particular – the idea is that they have fun.
- 3 Put all the creations in the centre and admire everyone's efforts. Remind the children of what God did and say together, 'Thank you, God, for creating the universe out of nothing.'
- 4 Encourage the children to take their models home to remind them to praise our creative God.



EXTENSION IDEAS

Activities for younger children

Make a book

⑤ - ⑩ minutes

Why: to think about how God made the light and the sky

With: copies of page 13, scissors, sticky tape or stapler; paper and glue (optional)

- 1 Give out copies of the four scenes from page 13 for each child.
- 2 Help the children to cut the paper into four pictures. Order the pictures from 1 to 4 and attach them together to make a book using the sticky tape or stapler. Alternatively, you could fold a long strip of paper into a zigzag. (Fold it in the middle and then fold back the edges to make an M shape.) Glue the pictures on in order to make a different style of book.
- 3 Let the children use their books to tell each other the story of how God made the light and the sky.

Bible story picture

⑤ - ⑩ minutes

Why: to discover that God made light and the sky

With: a copy of the picture on page 14 for each child or enlarged copies for group use, art and craft materials

- 1 You can use the picture as an introduction to the Bible story or to help you review the story together. Show the children the picture and encourage them to describe what they can see. Read the heading aloud: 'God makes light and sky', pointing to the words as you do so. Can the children find the 'light' in the picture? And the 'sky'?
- 2 Give each child a picture to decorate. They could colour, paint or use collage materials to fill the picture with bright and shiny effects.
- 3 As a group activity, enlarge the picture and complete it together.
- 4 Display all the finished pictures together, to make a mural. (Add more pictures to the mural from other sessions in this series about 'God makes the world'.)
- 5 Look at, and admire, the pictures you have made. They are good! Tell the children that God looked at what he had made and said, 'That is good.' Thank God for making such a wonderful world!

For older children

The big debate

⑤ - ⑩ minutes

Why: to understand what the creation story teaches us about God

- 1 Ask the children to imagine the creation story being told in the ancient world. It would probably be told around the campfire, passed down from generation to generation.
- 2 Invite the children to sit in a circle on the floor and ask them to imagine they are huddled around a campfire in ancient times, about to tell the creation story. What do the group think were the key points in the story? (The world was no accident. God created it. God made everything out of nothing. Everything God made was good.)
- 3 Ask the children what they could say to people who don't believe the creation story in the Bible.

SAMPLE

THE LEARN AND REMEMBER VERSE

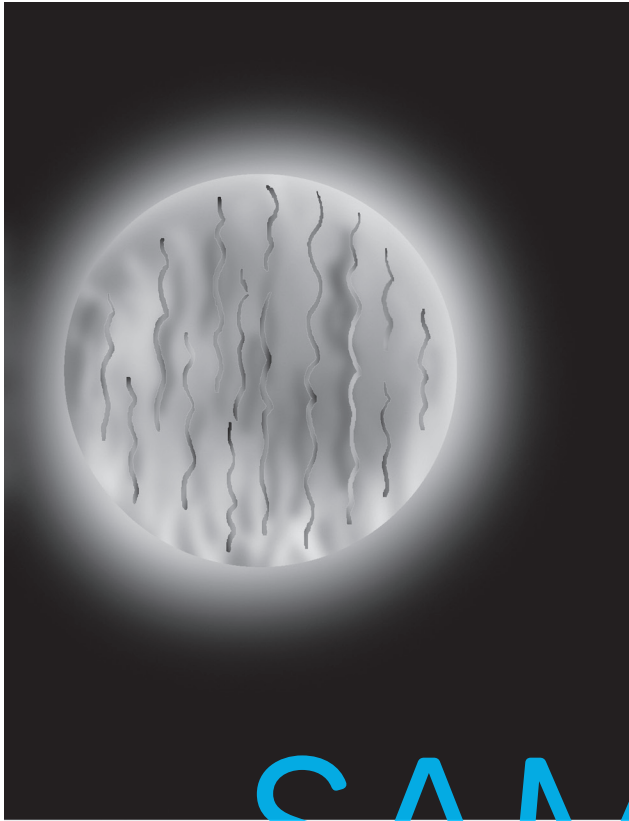
'O Lord, our Lord, your greatness is seen in all the world! Your praise reaches up to the heavens.'

Psalms 8:1

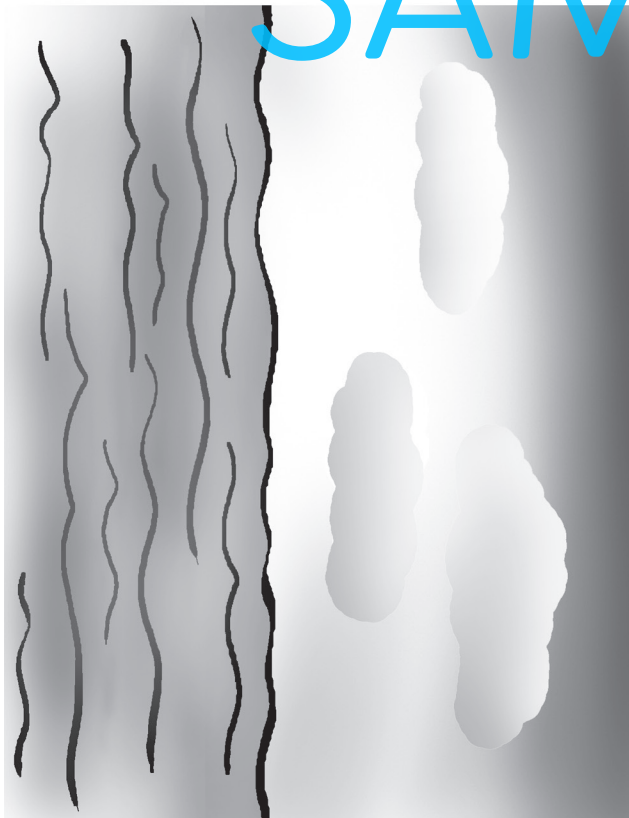
Display the words of the verse for everyone to see. Invite the children to stand in a circle and each say a word, starting again each time they finish. Keep this going several times. Remove the words on display and challenge the children to say the verse from memory.

Find a poster for the Learn and remember verse on page 15. The song 'Your greatness' is available on the *Bitesize Bible Songs 2* CD.

Scenes for **Make a book** Light and sky



SAMPLE



God makes light and sky
Genesis 1:1-8

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O Lord, our Lord,
your greatness
is seen in all the
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Psalm 8:1