

# Splash!

**Red Compendium**



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# Splash!

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# Introduction

Welcome to the *Splash! Red Compendium*! We're so pleased you've chosen this book to help you in your work with children aged 5 to 8.

It is our prayer that the materials contained within these pages will equip and inspire you while engaging and empowering the children you work with.

The material in this book has been compiled from the wealth of *Splash!* content that Scripture Union has produced over the years – and with 52 sessions included, there should be plenty to choose from over the course of a year.

The *Splash! Red Compendium* is part of the *Light* range, which is designed to enable children, young people and adults to develop a personal relationship with Jesus, to understand the Bible and the Christian faith, and to live for God as light in a dark world.

- ▶ *Light* is about... discovering who God is, what he is like, what he does and how we can get involved in that. The Bible is 'light to live by', so it is the centre of every session for every age group in the *Light* range of resources. Everyone will be able to follow the story of salvation that runs through the Bible, with its focus clearly on Jesus.
- ▶ *Light* recognises that children and young people can know and respond to God and does not expect too little or too much from them.
- ▶ *Light* celebrates every step taken towards and with God, letting the Bible shape our thinking about human nature and relationships with children and young people, and the way in which we minister with and to them.
- ▶ *Light* values exploration and discovery, fun, feelings and creativity and uses these approaches to inspire children, young people and adults to meet God through the Bible.

We hope you enjoy this resource, and we pray that God will bless you and those you work with as you use it,

*The Scripture Union Mission Innovation Team*



# How to use this book...

This book provides 52 sessions of activities, and extra photocopiable resources, designed for your *Splash!* group of children aged 5 to 8. Choose sessions from this *Red Compendium* in any order to suit you and your group. You will also find that some sessions have further additional online resources that you can download for free from the Scripture Union website, via the resource centre.

Leading up to Christmas time, you may wish to choose from the Christmas-themed sessions (numbers 41 to 45). Around Easter time, you will find there are Easter-themed sessions (numbers 46 to 52), to choose from. These 'seasonal' sessions are grouped together at the back of this book.

If you would like to work through a number of sessions on a similar theme with your *Splash!* group, look out for the **More on this theme** boxes as you consider your session choice. Here you will find a list of other sessions on a related theme to the session you are looking at.

On page 371, you will find a helpful guide that explains **How to plan your session...** This section will help you to choose activities from within the sessions, including a selection of *Splash!* activities to suit you and your group, enabling you to achieve the *Learning aim* for the session. Here you will also find a **Basic kit** list of essential items to keep handy for all your *Splash!* group sessions.

Each session in this *Splash! Red Compendium* is based on a Bible passage. You will find an **Index of Bible passages** on page 373 listed in the order they appear in the Bible.

The most important thing about this book is to enjoy using it to help you and your *Splash!* group engage with the Bible and meet with Jesus, through a mixture of play, creativity, music, quiet reflection, noisy exuberance and friendship!

**Christmas**

Sessions 41 to 45

**Easter**

Sessions 46 to 52



# Session 1

## God makes light, day and night

To start with completely empty hands and end up with a fantastic working model takes someone really amazing – God! Help our 5 to 8s think about this wonderful creative act of God, and to praise him because of his greatness.

**To plan your session...** Choose a selection of *Opening, Into the Bible* and *Living the life* activities to make your session fun and memorable.

### Options to open your session...

#### Look and think

**Activity time:** 5–10 minutes

**Aim:** to think about God making something out of nothing

**You will need:** black and white photograph negatives, a light box (optional)

- 1 Show the children the photograph negatives and explain what they are! Lay the negatives on the light box or a sheet of white paper (or show the PowerPoint from *Web resources*). Challenge the children to try to work out what the pictures are. At first the images can be hard to see, but soon they will be able to recognise objects and maybe even people.
- 2 Explain that today they are going to start thinking about how God created the universe out of nothing.

*A PowerPoint of photograph negatives is available in the zip folder.*

#### Worship

**Activity time:** 10–15 minutes

**Aim:** to thank God for making the universe out of nothing

**You will need:** large sheets of dark and white paper, a praise CD such as *Light for Everyone* and means to play it (optional)

- 1 Give a large sheet of white paper to each child and invite them to make a poster by drawing one of their favourite things on it.
- 2 Then ask them to look at the poster in silence.
- 3 Look together at the dark paper and say this could be how it was before the world began – nothing there at all. But God wanted to create a beautiful universe.
- 4 Encourage the children to shout praises to God. You could sing a praise song such as ‘So amazing God’ from the *Light for Everyone* CD.

#### Aim

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

#### Bible passage

Genesis 1:1–8

#### Ready to use activity

#### Demonstrate

**Activity time:** 5 minutes

**Aim:** to think about God making the earth from nothing

- 1 Tell the children you are going to make a cake. Make out that you are about to begin, and then stop as if you realise something is wrong. Ask the children to tell you why you can't make your cake. (*You have no ingredients or equipment!*)
- 2 Alternatively, ask the children to build a castle, make a kite or paint a picture, without giving them any equipment. Discuss whether it is possible to make something if you have nothing to start with.
- 3 Challenge the children to spot in today's story how God made the world.

**Tip for Leaders:** Timings for each activity are approximate – the time it actually takes will depend on the size of your group and the individual children involved.



# Into the Bible - options to explore the Bible passage...

Ready to use  
activity

## Bible story with actions

**Activity time:** 15–20 minutes

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

**You will need:** copies of the *Splash!* sheets from pages 13 and 14

### 1 Prepare

Make copies of pages 13 and 14 so that they are back to back on one sheet of paper; you will need one copy per child. It may also be helpful to turn the sheets into booklets in advance. Cut each sheet in half along the green line. Fold each sheet along the dotted lines to form a mini-book with the *Splash!* logo on the front.

### 2 Bible Timeline

Encourage the children to look at the SU *Bible Timeline* and to work out what they think is the first story in the Bible. Challenge them to think about what happened before that story. Who was there? Point to the space before the first picture and say that this is where you are starting today: when there was nothing! But that is not exactly true, because God was there, and God wanted to make something wonderful and beautiful to share. Today they are going to hear how he started that.

### 3 Listen carefully

Ask the children to listen carefully. Explain that you are going to read some verses from the Bible and you want them to listen out for any 'picture words' – words that give them a picture in their minds. Read from a child-friendly Bible such as the Good News Bible or the Contemporary English Version. Show them where Genesis 1:1–8 comes in the Bible, right at the beginning. Read a few verses at a time and encourage the children to call out their 'picture words'. Write them down as they say them.

### 4 Making actions

Go through the 'picture words' one at a time and challenge the children to make up actions to illustrate them. Use as many words as you think your group can cope with. Too many different ones could be confusing. Practise the actions a few times.

### 5 Doing actions

Read the passage through again slowly. Ask the children to think about what a wonderful and amazing thing God did, and to make the actions as they hear the picture words in the text.

### 6 *Splash!*

Give each child a copy of the photocopied *Splash!* sheet. If you have not prepared the mini-books in advance, help them cut the sheets in half and fold them into mini-books with the *Splash!* logo on the front. Make one yourself to show them how it works. Ask the children to look at pages 4 and 5 in their mini-books and to tick anything they can spot in the room where you meet. Encourage them to fill in at least one of the prayers on these pages. Invite them to take their mini-books home and to complete them during the week, spotting as many things as they can on pages 4 and 5 and doing the activities on the other pages, too.

**You will find another  
Into the Bible option  
on the next page...**

# Into the Bible - options (continued)...

## Bible story with lights

**Activity time:** 15–20 minutes

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

**You will need:** light sources or pictures from page 12, black paper, a blanket, a blindfold, a parachute or large sheet, nightlights or a large candle in a safe container

### 1 Prepare

Cover the pictures on the SU *Bible Timeline* with black paper, leaving just the titles visible. Lay the blanket on the floor, covering a collection of torches and (unlit) candles or the pictures from page 12.

### 2 Guessing game

Talk about how the blanket looks lumpy, bumpy and a mess! But there is something important underneath. God started with nothing, and we are going to see what he created. Invite the children to take it in turns to be blindfolded (or to close their eyes), to feel under the blanket, bring out one of the objects or pictures and guess what the object is by touch. If it is a picture, ask another child to give clues until the blindfolded child guesses.

### 3 Discussion

Ask the children what links all the objects or pictures. Talk about why we need light. Look together at the pictures on the *Bible Timeline*, or discuss familiar stories from the Bible, and chat about what the events would have been like without light. Remove the black paper and encourage the children to chat about what they can see. Invite them to guess which picture shows when God first made light.

### 4 Parachute story

Stand together around the parachute, holding the edges, and practise these movements: hold the parachute very high; bring it down low; sit underneath facing inwards, then outwards; flap it strongly and gently. Make sure the children are comfortable with these actions before you begin.

Read Genesis 1:1–8 slowly from a child-friendly Bible such as the Good News Bible or the Contemporary English Version.

Read the passage three times: the first time telling the children the instructions for the movements as you go along, the second time telling them only a few instructions and the third time challenging them to remember the movements. Start with the children sitting underneath the parachute, facing outwards, holding the edges.

**Verses 1,2:** The children start to move the parachute around in a random way while they are sitting down.

**Verses 3,4:** The children come out from under the parachute when they hear 'Let there be light', while gently moving the parachute up and down.

**Verse 5:** At the mention of 'night' the children sit underneath the parachute, this time facing inwards.

**Verses 6–8:** During these verses, the children very slowly stand up and lift the parachute high over their heads.

### 5 Think and pray

Put the parachute away and ask the children to stay sitting in the circle. Say that for a few minutes they are going to sit quietly with their eyes closed and think about why God wanted to create something from 'nothingness'. While their eyes are closed, ask the other leaders to light the candles and place them safely in the centre of the circle. Ask the children to open their eyes and look at the light. Invite them to suggest ways to describe the light, how it makes us feel and why God made it. Give them time to talk to God silently about his gift of light. After a few minutes, encourage the children to turn to their neighbour in the circle and tell them what they think about the beginning of God's creation. Finish with the following prayer, or invite the children to pray aloud in their own words: 'Thank you, God, for creating the universe from nothing. You created it by your power. You created it in your love. You created light because everything needs it to live. Thank you. Amen.'

## More on this theme .....

If you want to do a short series with your group, other sessions that work well with this one are:

**Session 2** God makes land, plants and sea, Genesis 1:9–13

**Session 3** God makes sun, moon and stars, Genesis 1:14–19

**Session 4** God makes animals and people, Genesis 1:20 – 2:25

# Living the life - options to help live God's way...

## Junk modelling

**Activity time:** 10–20 minutes

**Aim:** to remember and thank God for making the universe out of nothing

**You will need:** clean and safe 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.

## Move and praise

**Activity time:** 10–15 minutes

**Aim:** to remember that God made the universe and to praise him

**You will need:** 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 Encourage 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 aloud slowly: 'O Lord, our Lord, your greatness is seen in all the world!' 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.

Ready <sup>to use</sup> activity

## Game and praise

**Activity time:** 5–10 minutes

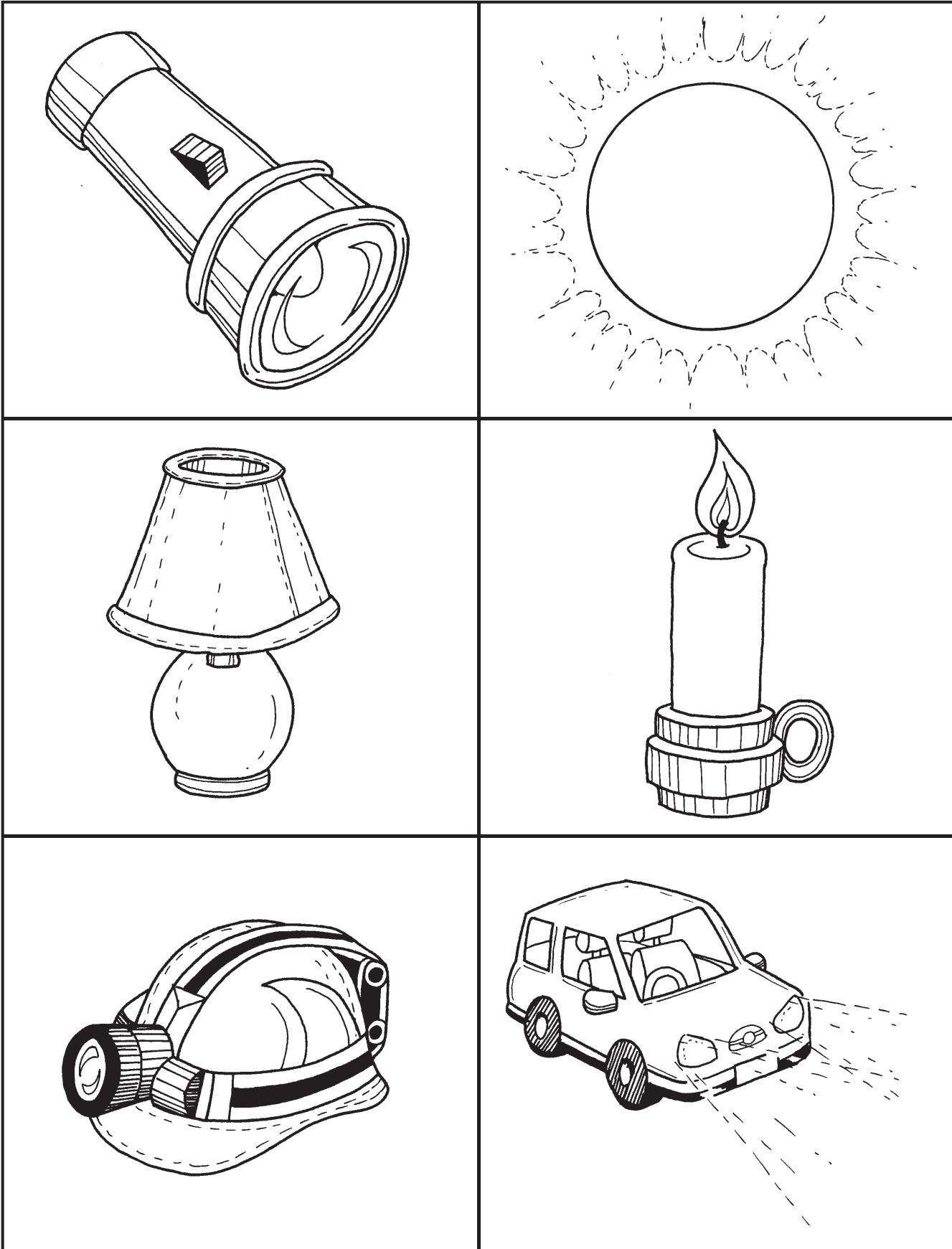
**Aim:** to praise God for making the world

- 1 Invite the children to think of their three favourite things that God made. These could be directly from the passage today, or things such as butterflies or apples.
- 2 Encourage them to take it in turns to say, 'I praise you, God, because you made [one of their three choices].' The next child should say the same sentence, include the last child's choice and add one of their own.
- 3 Continue until it's impossible to remember everything. Point out that you could play this for a very long time before you've praised God for everything he has made!

## Extra ideas for the session, and beyond...

Make black and white mobiles or light and dark wax-resist pictures to remember that God created light and dark from nothing.

Play a game of musical statues. Agree poses for 'nothing', 'darkness' and 'light'. When the music stops, call out one of the words – anyone who makes the wrong pose is out.



## Light challenge

Take two plants.  
(You could use  
lettuce or alfalfa.)

Put one by  
a window and one  
inside a cupboard.  
Make sure you water  
both of them!

Check on them  
each day and see if  
there is any difference  
after one week.

You could take  
photos to record how  
they grow.



Cut the *Splash!* sheet in half along  
the thick green line to make A5  
landscape sheets. Then fold the  
paper into a mini-book with the  
*Splash!* logo on page 1.

8

# Splash!

## I spy what God has made

1

We need light for  
lots of things. Try doing  
these things in the dark or  
with your eyes shut:

Write your  
name on this  
line.

.....



6

### sky



Draw a circle around the picture  
of your favourite  
weather and tell  
God why you like it:

.....

Dear God, I like the  
best because .....

.....

Draw the  
symbol here.

3

# God made the



The weather makes the sky look very different.

Draw a line from each weather symbol to the right sky picture.

2



Pour water from a jug into a cup without spilling it.



Count the number of lights in your home and write it here:



.....



7

# God made light



Lamp post



Energy-saving light bulb



Candle



Strip light



Tick the box when you spot these lights.

4

Draw your favourite light here.

Fill in the gap with your own words:

Thank you, God, for making light because .....

.....

.....

.....



5