

# Bubbles

## Blue Compendium



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# Bubbles

## Blue Compendium Contents

Introduction 6

How to use this book 7



### Sessions for your Bubbles group

Session 1 The first people 8  
Bible passage: Genesis 2:5–25

Session 2 Noah and the boat 17  
Bible passage: Genesis 6:9–22

Session 3 Noah and the flood 24  
Bible passage: Genesis 7:1 – 8:12

Session 4 Noah and the rainbow 31  
Bible passage: Genesis 8:13 – 9:17



Session 5 God speaks to Jacob 38  
Bible passage: Genesis 28:10–22

Session 6 Jacob's family 47  
Bible passage: Genesis 29

Session 7 Jacob goes home 56  
Bible passage: Genesis 32,33

Session 8 God blesses Jacob 63  
Bible passage: Genesis 35:1–15

Session 9 Joseph helps his family 69  
Bible passage: Genesis 42:1–13; 45:1–13



Session 10 Joshua leads the way 75  
Bible passage: Joshua 1:1–9

Session 11 Joshua makes plans 84  
Bible passage: Joshua 2

Session 12 Over the river 90  
Bible passage: Joshua 3:1 – 4:9

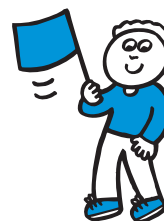
Session 13 The walls of Jericho 97  
Bible passage: Joshua 6





## More Sessions for your Bubbles group

<b>Session 14</b>	David becomes king <b>Bible passage:</b> 2 Samuel 5:4–12; 6:1–19	104
<b>Session 15</b>	God's promise to David <b>Bible passage:</b> 2 Samuel 7	111
<b>Session 16</b>	David is kind <b>Bible passage:</b> 2 Samuel 9	118
<b>Session 17</b>	David's big mistake <b>Bible passage:</b> 2 Samuel 11:1 – 12:15	126
<b>Session 18</b>	Solomon builds for God <b>Bible passage:</b> 1 Kings 5:1 – 6:1	132
<b>Session 19</b>	Solomon praises God <b>Bible passage:</b> 1 Kings 8:1–13,54–66	140
<b>Session 20</b>	Nehemiah builds <b>Bible passage:</b> Nehemiah 1,2	146
<b>Session 21</b>	Follow Nehemiah <b>Bible passage:</b> Nehemiah 12:27–43; Psalm 126	153
<b>Session 22</b>	Ezra <b>Bible passage:</b> Ezra 7; Nehemiah 8:1–10	160
<b>Session 23</b>	The potter's house <b>Bible passage:</b> Jeremiah 18:1–12	167
<b>Session 24</b>	Jeremiah buys a field <b>Bible passage:</b> Jeremiah 31:1–6; 32:1–15	176
<b>Session 25</b>	Jeremiah's scroll <b>Bible passage:</b> Jeremiah 36	183
<b>Session 26</b>	Jeremiah in the well <b>Bible passage:</b> Jeremiah 38:1–13	189
<b>Session 27</b>	A man at work <b>Bible passage:</b> Matthew 9:9–13	196
<b>Session 28</b>	A woman in need <b>Bible passage:</b> Matthew 15:21–28	205
<b>Session 29</b>	A rich young man <b>Bible passage:</b> Mark 10:17–27	212
<b>Session 30</b>	Jesus at Nazareth <b>Bible passage:</b> Isaiah 61:1,2; Luke 4:16–21	219
<b>Session 31</b>	Jesus heals a man <b>Bible passage:</b> Luke 5:17–26	226
<b>Session 32</b>	A woman with a gift <b>Bible passage:</b> Luke 7:36–50	233
<b>Session 33</b>	Martha and Mary <b>Bible passage:</b> Luke 10:38–42	239





## Yet more Sessions for your **Bubbles** group

<b>Session 34</b>	Jesus heals a woman <b>Bible passage:</b> Luke 13:10–17	245
<b>Session 35</b>	Jesus heals ten men <b>Bible passage:</b> Luke 17:11–19	253
<b>Session 36</b>	Stephen <b>Bible passage:</b> Acts 6:1–7	260
<b>Session 37</b>	Paul <b>Bible passage:</b> Acts 9:1–19a	268
<b>Session 38</b>	Barnabas <b>Bible passage:</b> Acts 4:36,37; 9:19b–31; 11:19–30	276
<b>Session 39</b>	Friends of God <b>Bible passage:</b> Acts 13:1–3; 15:1–35	284
<b>Session 40</b>	Jesus prays for us <b>Bible passage:</b> Mark 10:13–16	290
<b>Session 41</b>	God is kind <b>Bible passage:</b> Revelation 1:1–5	297
<b>Session 42</b>	With God, for always <b>Bible passage:</b> Luke 14:15–24	303

## Christmas



<b>Session 43</b>	Good news for Joseph <b>Bible passage:</b> Matthew 1:18–25	309
<b>Session 44</b>	Good news for the wise men <b>Bible passage:</b> Matthew 2:1–15	317
<b>Session 45</b>	Good news for ever <b>Bible passage:</b> Revelation 22:12–21	323
<b>Session 46</b>	Mary <b>Bible passage:</b> Luke 1:26–56	328
<b>Session 47</b>	Joseph <b>Bible passage:</b> Luke 2:1–7	336
<b>Session 48</b>	The shepherds <b>Bible passage:</b> Luke 2:8–21	344
<b>Session 49</b>	The wise men <b>Bible passage:</b> Matthew 2:1–12	351



## Easter

<b>Session 50</b>	Easter is coming! <b>Bible passage:</b> Luke 19:28–40; 22:7–23	358
<b>Session 51</b>	Easter is here! <b>Bible passage:</b> Luke 24:1–35	368
<b>Session 52</b>	Easter evening <b>Bible passage:</b> Luke 24:36–49	374

**How to plan your session**

**Index of Bible passages**



**382**

**384**

# Introduction

Welcome to the *Bubbles Blue Compendium*! We're so pleased you've chosen this book to help you in your work with children aged 5 and under.

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 *Bubbles* 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 *Bubbles Blue 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 *Bubbles* group of children aged 5 and under. Choose sessions from this *Blue Compendium* in any order to suit you and your group. You will find that some sessions have additional online resources which you can download for free in a zip folder from the Scripture Union website, via the resource centre.

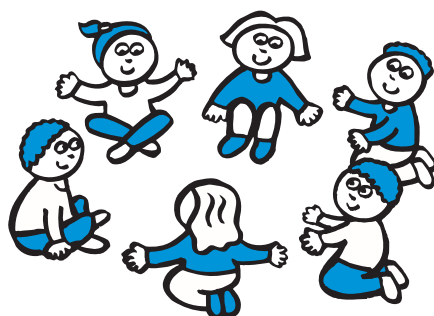
Leading up to Christmas time, you may wish to choose from the Christmas-themed sessions (numbers 43 to 49). Around Easter time, you will find there are Easter-themed sessions (numbers 50 to 52) to choose from. These 'seasonal' sessions are grouped together at the back of this book.

If you would like to work through a number of sessions on a similar theme with your *Bubbles* 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 382, 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 *Bubbles* 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 *Bubbles* group sessions.

Each session in this *Bubbles Blue Compendium* is based on a Bible passage. You will find an *Index of Bible passages* on page 384 in the order in which they appear in the Bible.

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



Download the zip folder to find answers to frequently asked questions about the *Light Compendiums*, and help to choose your session order.

Christmas

Sessions 43 to 49

Easter

Sessions 50 to 52



# Session 1

## The first people

As our 5s and under find out about God making the first humans, they will also be discovering that 'we' are humans and so 'we' are made by God. And God does not only create us: he loves us and he is eager to have a relationship with each one of us.

**To plan your session...** Choose a selection of *Play and learn*, *Bible time* and *God and me* activities to make your session fun and memorable.

## Play and learn activity options...

### Play and learn activity

#### Mix-and-match game

**Activity time:** 5 minutes

**Aim:** to think about how God was right to make lots of different people

**You will need:** puzzle cards from page 13

- 1 Before the session, photocopy the puzzle cards from page 13, and cut up each person into three sections along the lines. Stick or print these onto card to make them stronger.
- 2 Give each child or small group a set of nine 'body pieces' to play with and arrange (and rearrange) however they wish.
- 3 If you are feeling ambitious, make a large or life-size version to play with as a game for the whole group.
- 4 While you play, chat about the number and variety of people you are able to make. God started by making just one person, then he made another and now there are hundreds and thousands and millions of people in God's world – but he made each one of us different. He loves us just as he did those very first people! How do the children react to that idea?

### Play and learn activity

#### Play-dough people

**Activity time:** 10 minutes

**Aim:** to think about how God is good to make lots of different people

**You will need:** play dough (recipe on page 15), rolling pins, people cutters, straws, modelling tools, an old garlic press

- 1 Make enough play dough for each child to have a generous quantity of dough. (See page 15 for a recipe.)
- 2 Encourage the children to model freely with their hands, or to roll out and use cutters to make people shapes. As well as making dough people themselves, they will be using the qualities of imagination and creativity that God has given us.
- 3 Invite the children to experiment with straws and modelling tools to make features and hair (try the garlic press!).
- 4 Admire and praise what the children are making. They all look great and they are all different. Are they enjoying making their play-dough people? How do you think God feels when he makes each different, special person?

### Play and learn activity

#### Garden collage

**Activity time:** 10 minutes

**Aim:** to discover more about the good garden and people that God made

**You will need:** a large sheet of card or paper, pictures of flowers and people

- 1 In the story God made the first people. Encourage the children to cut out or draw pictures of a man and a woman.
- 2 God made a wonderful garden for them to live in. Help the children to cut out the pictures of flowers and stick them on the large sheet of card. Alternatively, they could draw flowers, cut them out and stick them on.
- 3 God put the people in his beautiful garden. (Add the pictures of people to the picture.) The people loved the beautiful garden and they loved each other.
- 4 Sometimes God spent time with the people in the garden. Encourage the children to draw their picture of God or write the word 'God' on some paper and stick that in the garden too. What a wonderful place it must have been, full of beauty and love!

### Aim

To discover that God does what is right and to explore our response to him

### Bible passage

Genesis 2:5–25

**Tip for Leaders:** Play is *the* way in which young children learn. *Play and learn* activities are all focused on the Bible story and the aim of the session. Play at any time within a *Bubbles* session.



# Ready to use options...

## Bible time activity

### Using Bubbles

**Activity time:** 5–10 minutes

**Aim:** to discover that God made a good world, which includes people

**You will need:** Bubbles Sheet 1 from page 12, *The Big Bible Storybook* (SPCK) or *Bonus Sheet A* from page 16, or the audio story from the website

- 1 Give out copies of the *Bubbles Sheets*. Encourage the children to enjoy looking at the animal scene for a few moments. Read 'In God's garden' from *The Big Bible Storybook* or *Bonus Sheet A*, or listen to the audio story. You may also like to read 'The first people' on page 18 of *The Big Bible Storybook*. Encourage the children to find and point to the relevant items in the picture as you tell the story. When you say, 'God made a man' and 'God made a woman', invite them to point to Adam and Eve. Talk about the plants and beautiful flowers, and see how many the children can find. Read about the birds and animals, and see if the children can point these out. What a wonderful world God made! It was very good!
- 2 Give out some crayons. While they colour in the scene on the *Bubbles Sheets*, chat with the children about the animals they can see. Can they name them? What other animals did God make? Could you name them all? God gave the man a special job to do – he chose names for all the animals! God also asked the man and woman to look after his beautiful world. How can we look after the world and its animals and plants?
- 3 But the best thing about the garden was not the amazing plants and trees. It was not that there were lots of animals. It was not even that the man had the woman to be his friend and helper. It was that

the man and woman were close to God, and could spend time with him in the garden each day.

## God and me activity

### Rhyming prayer

**Activity time:** 3 minutes

**Aim:** to respond to God, who made everything good, including me

- 1 This rhyme shows how God makes everything, including 'me'. Worship God together, using the rhyme as a quiet prayer, a praise shout or a basis for a mime (or all three). Lead each line strongly and clearly, with everyone joining in the repeated response line.

You made the day, you made the night,

**Father God, you made me.**

You made the sun, the stars, the light,

**Father God...**

You made the land, you made the seas,

**Father God...**

You made the flowers, you made the trees,

**Father God...**

You made the animals, big and small,

**Father God...**

You made the people best of all,

**Father God...**

You made each person special, like you,

**Father God...**

You love us, Father God. Help us love you too.

**Father God...**

## Play and learn activity

### Drawing people

**Activity time:** 5 minutes

**Aim:** to thank God for making all people in just the right way

**You will need:** paper, felt-tip pens or crayons

- 1 Give out plain sheets of paper and felt-tip pens or crayons. Ask the children to write their names on the sheets. Comment that each one of us has our own name – and that each one of us is made by God.
- 2 Suggest the children draw some of the many people made by God. Encourage them to draw themselves, their families and friends.
- 3 Remind them that God made all these people – and all the other people in the world, including each one of us!
- 4 Invite the children to name the people they have drawn. God knows all about these different people and knows all their names. If they wish, you could write the names and the children's comments about these people on their drawings.
- 5 Thank God, using this prayer: 'I want to say a great big "thank you" to you, God, for my friends and family.'

# Options for children aged 3 to 5 years...

## Bible time activity

### Bible story with pictures

**Activity time:** 10 minutes

**Aim:** to thank God for doing the right thing in making people, including us

**You will need:** photographs from page 14 or PowerPoint from the website, photos of children in your group, if available

- 1 Each section of this activity compares an animal that God has made with the way he has made humans. Use photos of a dolphin, a finch, a chimp, a tiger and people to illustrate what you are saying (these could be printouts, or shown on a laptop or tablet). After each section, encourage the children to experiment with the things that people are able to do. Say:

God made the dolphin with a mouth that curves up, like a smile. But God made people different from dolphins. God made people with mouths that can curve up or curve down or stretch wide or squeeze up. God made people who can use their mouths to smile when they are happy and smile when they see something funny and smile when they meet someone they know – and to smile because they love God.

*(Smile for God.)*

God made a finch, a little bird that sings, *tweetering twittering twee-tweet-tweet*. But God made people different from finches. God made people who can sing with their voices, *tra la la la la la*, and hum and whistle, and make music with drums and trumpets, with guitars and pianos. God made people who

can learn to sing songs and to sing tunes and to play music – and to sing because they love God.

*(Sing for and to God.)*

God made the chimpanzee, who can use a stick to wiggle into little holes in trees and find insects to eat! But God made people different from chimpanzees. God made people who can make toy houses out of building blocks and real houses out of real bricks. God made people who can make things and draw things and plan things and count things and think about things and learn things and try things and discover things – and who can think and learn and discover about God.

*(Think or talk about God.)*

God made the tiger who can roar and growl and purr. But God made people different from tigers. God made people who can shout and talk and whisper. God made people who can use their voices to talk to one another, to tell stories, to talk on the telephone, to say, 'Please be my friend' and 'Thank you!' and 'I'm sorry' to each other. And to say, 'Thank you!' and 'I'm sorry' and 'I love you!' to God.

- 2 Encourage the children to talk to God. He made them and he loves them. What do they want to say to him?

## God and me activity

### Action rhyme

**Activity time:** 5 minutes

**Aim:** to thank God for making our bodies

- 1 Mime along with this action rhyme, enjoying the amazing way in which God has made us.

I have a head and a mouth and a nose, *(Point to each.)*

Ears and eyes – two each of those. *(Touch each.)*

I have arms with elbow bends, *(Stretch and bend arms.)*

And hands with fingers at the ends. *(Wiggle fingers.)*

Here is my tummy that holds all I eat. *(Hands on tummy.)*

Here are my legs and my knees and my feet! *(Touch each.)*

This is my body – God made me.

I can jump and run and hear and see. *(Do all of these!)*

Thank you, God!

- 2 Say 'thank you' to God for making us just the way we are! Say as a rhyme or prayer, with the children echoing each phrase:

'Two eyes, two ears; one mouth, one nose; ten wiggly fingers, ten wiggly toes; two arms, two legs, one back, one tum; that makes me the only one! Thank you, God!'

## 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** Noah and the boat, Genesis 6:9-22
- **Session 3** Noah and the flood, Genesis 7:1 – 8:12
- **Session 4** Noah and the rainbow, Genesis 8:13 – 9:17

# Options for children aged under 3 years...

## Bible time activity

### Bible story

**Activity time:** 5 minutes

**Aim:** to discover that God made a good world, including people

**You will need:** instrumental music and sound system (optional)

- 1 Tell the children that you are going to act out today's Bible story. The boys will be the man, Adam, in the story and the girls will be the woman, Eve. You will play the part of God. Invite the children to start by sitting as tucked up and still as possible. You could play the instrumental music to create a reflective mood.
- 2 Say: In the beginning God made a man. (*Point towards the boys, encouraging them to stand up, as if they have just come to life.*) God made a beautiful garden for the man to live in. (*Lead the boys over to one side of the room.*) The man needed a friend and helper, so God made a woman. (*Point to the girls and encourage them to stand up.*) The woman joined the man in the garden. (*Lead the girls over to join the boys.*) It was a beautiful garden with flowers to smell and fruit to eat. There were streams to splash in and animals to stroke. (*Pretend to do all these things.*) The man gave all the animals names and looked after them. (*Pretend to feed the animals.*) The man and woman were very happy living in the beautiful garden that God had made for them.
- 3 Tell the children that this is how God made the first man and the first woman. Has God made any other people? Who? You and all the people you know, and all the people you do not know, were made by God! God is so good! Let's thank and praise him!

## God and me activity

### Thank-you prayer

**Activity time:** 5 minutes

**Aim:** to thank God for making all the different people in just the right way

- 1 Sit with the children in a circle and invite them to look at each other. Each child was made by God. They are all different and special. God made them just as he wanted them to be and loves them just the way they are.
- 2 Suggest you all thank God for each other. Encourage the children to think of reasons to thank God for each person. Then pray with the children. You might pray, for example, 'Thank you, God, for *Becky* because she is always smiling' or 'Thank you, God, for *Jack* because he is fun to play with.' Include each child and remember to thank God for the helpers too. The children could join in saying, 'Thank you, God, for *name*' each time.
- 3 End by saying, 'Thank you, God, for all the different, wonderful people you have made.'

## Play and learn activity

### Small-world play

**Activity time:** 5–10 minutes

**Aim:** to think about how God made a good garden for the first people

**You will need:** a large bowl, compost, trowels, stones, twigs, flowers, aluminium foil, small animals and play people

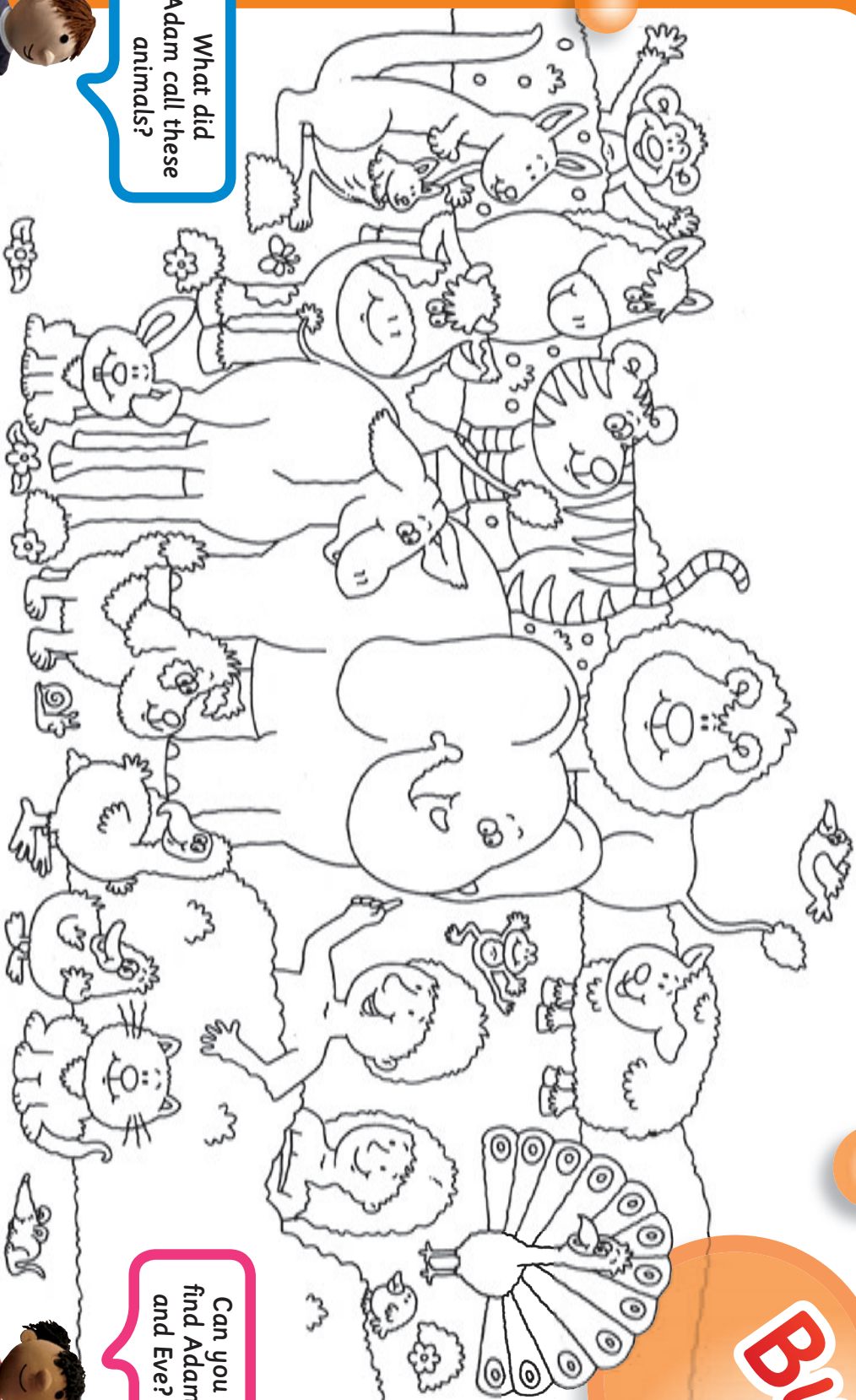
- 1 God made an amazing garden for the first people to live in and you are going to make one too.
- 2 Let the children help you fill the bowl with compost using the trowels. Make a garden using stones, twigs, flowers and foil to represent rivers. (You could go and collect some of these outside with the children, if this is practical.) Add the animals and the play people.
- 3 Invite the children to play freely with the garden. Ask questions, such as, 'Why do you think God made a beautiful garden for the people to live in?' 'What would you put in a garden?' 'What sort of a place would you like to live in?' 'Is this a good garden?' 'What do you like best about the garden?' 'How would you feel if God made you a beautiful garden to live in?'





# Bubbles!

## Adam names the animals



Can you find Adam and Eve?

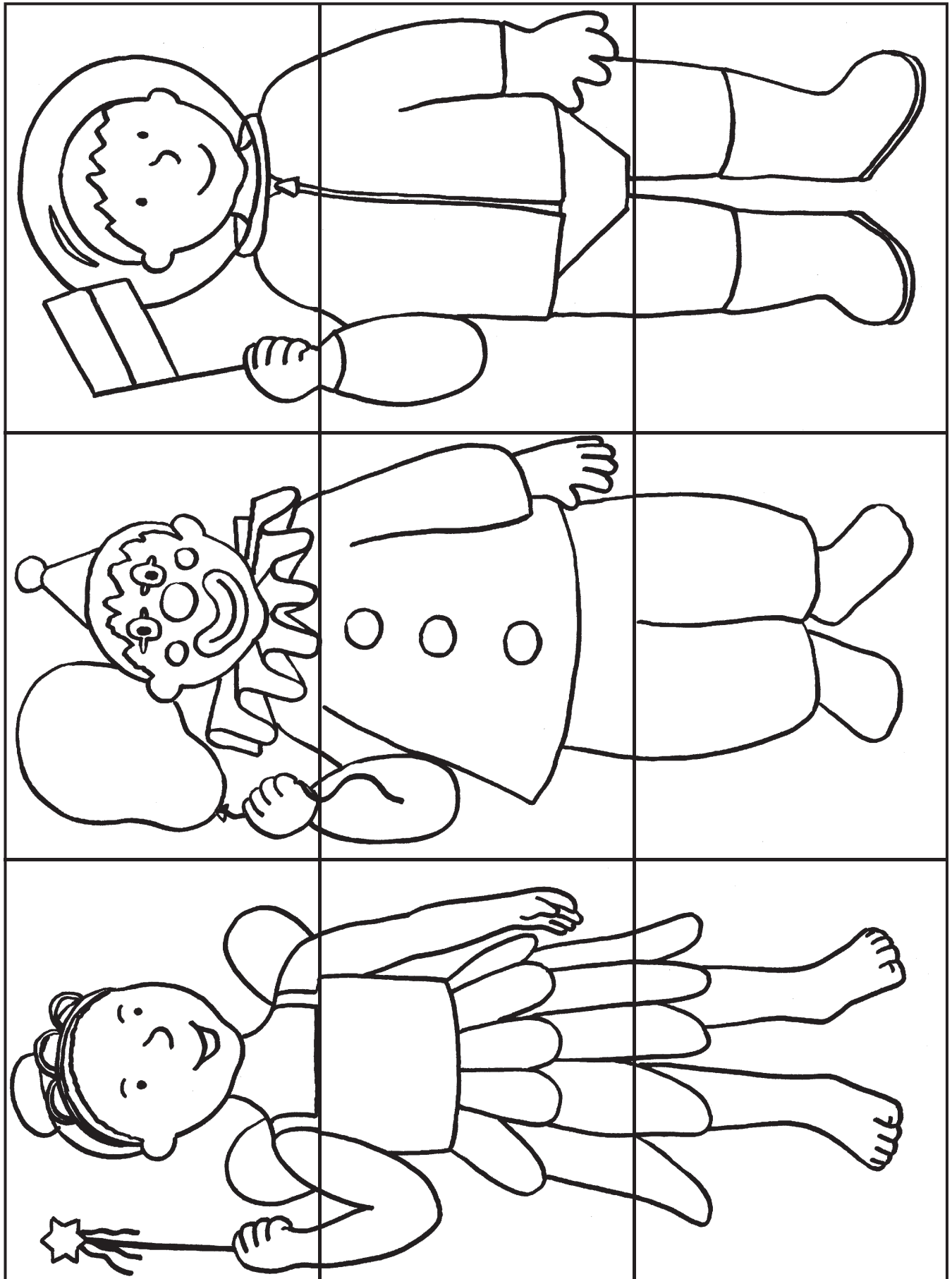
Today's aim is to discover that God does what is right and to explore our response to him.  
**Genesis 2:5-25**

**Look at the picture and help your child to identify all the animals.**

Then look for the people. Look out for animals at home, when you are out and about, when you are watching television or looking at books. How many animals – and people – do you meet?

As your child finds out about God making the first humans, they will also be discovering that "we" are humans and so "we" are made by God. And God does not only create us; he loves us and he is eager to have a relationship with each one of us – children, young people, adults – each and every one of us.

Find this Bible story on **Bonus Sheet A**.







## Play dough recipes

### Quick dough

This is not a precise dough recipe but the variation in the dough can be fun in itself. The type of flour used and even the weather can make dough vary greatly. The advantage of this recipe is that children can join in safely and do their own preparation, which is as much fun as 'real' cooking.

**You will need:** 1.5 kg flour, 500 g salt, 400 ml water, a large mixing bowl

- 1 Mix all the ingredients together in the bowl.
- 2 If the mixture comes out sticky, provide children with plenty of extra flour when playing with it. If it comes out dry, splash on a little water at a time as they play with the dough.

### Play dough

Children love to play with generous quantities of dough. This recipe makes enough for four children to enjoy.

**You will need:** 1 kg plain flour, 500 g salt, 50 g cream of tartar, 75 ml cooking oil, 1.5 l water, food colouring, a large strong saucepan (not your best!)

- 1 Put the dry ingredients and oil in the saucepan.
- 2 Add a few drops of food colouring to the water.
- 3 Pour the coloured water slowly into the saucepan, stirring all the time. Mix well to try to get rid of lumps.
- 4 Put the pan on a medium/low heat and cook. Keep stirring all the time, until the mixture starts to pull away from the sides of the saucepan.
- 5 Remove the pan from the heat and tip the dough out on to a heat-resistant surface. Use a wooden spoon if it is clinging to the saucepan. Put the pan to soak immediately.
- 6 If you have a sturdy food mixer or processor with a dough-making attachment, use this to knead the dough. The warmer the dough is as it is kneaded, the better the final product. If you are kneading by hand ensure that it has cooled down well: it retains heat in the centre. Keep kneading until the dough is smooth and elastic.

### Salt or baking dough

This dough can be used as ordinary play dough, but can also be cooked to make a hard, long-lasting model. Please note: make sure hands are not cut or grazed before using this type of dough as the saltiness may sting.

**You will need:** 300 g plain flour, 300 g salt, 15 ml cooking oil, 200 ml water (multiply quantities up for a larger group of children), a large mixing bowl

- 1 Mix everything in the bowl. Add a little more water if the dough seems too dry. Tip out on to a floured surface. Knead well (or use a mixer). Keep going until the dough is smooth and springy.
- 2 Give the dough to the children to play with and shape.
- 3 To cook finished items: put them on a greased baking tray in the centre of the oven. Salt dough cannot be cooked in a microwave oven. Small items need to be cooked for 10–20 minutes at gas mark 4/350°F/180°C.
- 5 Large items need to be cooked overnight at gas mark ½ /250°F/130°C. The larger and thicker the item, the longer and slower it needs to be cooked.
- 6 When the items are cooked and cooled, allow children to decorate or play with them. Baked items will last a long time as the salt acts as a preservative.



# Bubbles

Bonus A

## God is good

**Maggie says,  
"Sharing a Bible  
story with children  
does not have to be  
a passive activity  
– and their listening  
does not need to be  
passive either."**

Involve them as you tell the story; ask questions about the pictures; discuss what might happen next. Chat afterwards about what happened and encourage your child to tell the Bible story back to you. Use plenty of expression as you read and make voices for the different characters. Children can get very involved with the people and events in stories. A well-told story can help children face big issues through even very simple text."

**Use these stories  
with Bubbles Sheets  
1–4.**

### 1 The first people

When God first made the world, there were no people living there. There was sky, sea, and land. There was a sun, a moon and lots of twinkly stars, but no people.

Then God made a man. The man began to breathe. He opened his eyes, stretched his legs and arms, and started to walk around.

God made a beautiful garden where the man could live. God made trees and plants, flowers and fruit.

"Please look after my world," God said to the man.

Then God thought, "Maybe the man will be lonely living on his own in the garden." So, God made a woman to help the man and be his friend. "Be happy living here," God told them, "and please look after my world."

Genesis 2:5–25



### 2 Noah builds a boat

God said to Noah, "I want you to build a boat."

Noah loved talking with God. He always wanted to do what God said, but he was surprised. "Build a boat?" Noah asked.

"Yes," said God. "I'm going to send lots of rain. The world will be covered in water. You and your family must get into the boat and be safe."

Noah built a big, big boat from wood. He used a saw and a hammer and nails. He made the boat very long and tall and wide. He built a roof and lots of different rooms – just the way God said.

"Now go into the boat," said God, "and take two of every kind of animal with you."

Noah found two of every creature: big and small ones; stripy and spotted ones; roaring, squawking, sporting, mewling and barking ones; softly cheeping, brightly coloured and plain ones. And when everyone was safe inside, God shut the door. Noah and his family were safe.

Genesis 6:9–22



### 3 Noah and the big flood

Pitter-patter, splash-splash! Noah and his family listened to the rain falling. Pitter-patter, it fell on the boat that Noah had built. Splish-splash, it fell on the water all around them. The rain poured down every day and there was no more dry land. But God made sure that everyone on the boat and all the animals were safe.

Then the rain stopped. It was quiet and, for days and weeks and months, Noah and his family floated along in the boat. All they could see was water. Then God made a wind blow to dry up the water. It took months and months and months.



### 4 Noah and the rainbow

Noah was in the boat, with his family and all the animals, for a very long time. At first it rained every day. When Noah looked out he saw more and more water covering the earth. Then it stopped raining but they still had to stay on the boat until all the water had dried up.

One day, at long last, Noah was able to get off the boat with all his family and all his animals. They were so glad to be on dry land again!

But Noah was worried. Would it rain so hard again? Would there be another big flood? He looked up at the sky. He wondered if it would soon be full of dark clouds bringing rain again. But instead he saw something wonderful!

A rainbow arching across the sky! "I'll never flood the earth like that again," God told Noah. "When you see the rainbow in the sky, remember my promise to you."

Genesis 8:13 – 9:17



Bubbles  
Blue Compendium