

God Made the Earth and Flowers

Text: Genesis 1:1 - 2:4 and Matthew 6:28-30

Aim: To teach that God made the earth and flowers.



Preparation

Read Genesis 1:1 - 2:4 and Matthew 6:28-30. Answer the following questions:

1. How did God make the earth (Genesis 1:9-13)
2. What did God think of the earth? (Genesis 1:10, 12)
3. How do the flowers grow? Who makes them the way they are? (Matthew 6:28-30)

Think about the care that God takes over his creation and the beauty and variety of what he has made by his powerful word.

Pray for each of the children you teach, asking God to help you demonstrate the wonder of his creation.



Visual Aids

Before your lesson, gather the following visual aids:

- A large sheet of light blue paper for the sky and a green strip along the bottom to be the earth and grass. You can also use this for the next lesson.
- A collection of pictures of hills, rocks, trees, bushes, flowers etc. You could use real leaves and flowers.



Lesson

Briefly review the aspects of creation covered in the previous two lessons.

Show the children the background of the earth and sky. Talk to the children about what they can see (the grass). Ask if they have grass at home. Tell them that God made the grass.

Add hills and rocks to the picture. Ask "Who made the hills and mountains and rocks?"

What do we find growing in the ground? Trees, bushes, flowers etc. Use Blu-Tack to stick each item onto the page as you talk about them, each time asking “Who made the...”

You could also get the children to take turns placing the various pictures on the background.

Get the children to point to the different items and talk about them:

- Have any of the children smelled a flower before?
- How many different colour flowers have they seen? Which is their favourite colour flower?

Talk about God making all the different smelling flowers with all their lovely bright colours and how we must thank God for the earth and flowers.

Activity

Choose either Activity A or Activity B.

Activity A - Give each child a lollipop stick with ‘God made flowers - Genesis 1’ written along it. The children each decorate a white cupcake case to look like a flower. Help them paste their flower head onto the stick.

If you have time, they could make a number of these to be a bunch of flowers! Tie the bunch together with ribbon or place them in a brightly coloured paper cup. Alternatively, instead of cupcake cases print Activity A from the Media section of this webpage onto paper or card for the children to decorate. Fold along the line provided to save time by cutting out two flowers at a time!



Activity B – Plant a flower. Print the cup sleeve (Activity B) from the Media section of this webpage (one copy for every two children). Each child will also need a paper (or similar) disposable cup.

Provide the children with stickers, crayons and paint with which to decorate the sleeve. Help the children to fit the sleeve around the cup – a piece of sticky tape across the seam is adequate.

Help them to half fill the cup with potting soil. Give them each a seed (sunflowers work well), to push a little way down into the soil. Sprinkle the seeds with more soil and give them a little water. Remind the children that God made the flowers and he makes them grow.



Game Idea

Don't fall into the sea! Place a series of small mats from one end of the room to the other. The mats are the land and the floor is the sea.

Ask “Who made the sea? Who made the land?”

Children have to get from one end of the room to the other without falling into the sea.

Smell the flowers. Have three paper cups. In the first one place some strongly scented flowers, in the second some sand and in the third some torn bits of paper.

Cover the cups with small pieces of cloth or handkerchiefs and secure these with elastic bands under the rim of the cup.

The children take turns to shake each cup and smell through the cloth. Which cup has the flowers?

You could have more than three cups and leave these around the room. Who can find the cup with flowers by only using their noses? Once it's found get the children to close their eyes, move the cups around and repeat the game.



Prayer

Thank you, God, for making the earth and flowers. Amen.

You could also encourage the children to pray. They must think of one colour of flower they like and can simply pray, “Thank you God for [red] flowers”

Reinforcement

Print the Reinforcement Slip page from the Media section of this webpage and give one slip to each child to take home. This will encourage parents to reinforce today's lesson. Alternatively, you could copy the text below and edit as appropriate for your context. This can then be printed or emailed to parents.

Today your child learned that God made the earth and flowers.

To reinforce this lesson this week:

1. Place a plastic container of soil on a newspaper on the table. Empty some of the soil onto the newspaper. Feel it in your fingers and move it around. What do you find? Encourage your child to do the same, asking "Who made the earth? What grows in the soil?" Show your child some seeds and bulbs. Use the soil to make a 'hill' and then a 'mountain.' Ask "Who made the hills?" etc.
2. Plant seeds or bulbs with your child in pots (sunflower seeds work well indoors if you don't have a garden). Watch as they grow over a period of time. Ask "Who made the earth? Who made the flowers and helps them grow?"

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