

God Made the Earth and Trees

Text: Genesis 1:1 - 2:4

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



Preparation

Read Genesis 1:1-2:4 and answer the following questions:

- How did God make the earth and plants (1:9-13)
- What did God think of the earth? (1:10, 12)
- What can we learn about our intended relationship with God's creation? (1:29-30)

Think about the power of God's word and the diversity of plants he has made. Pray for each of the children you teach, that God would help them to understand the wonder of creation.



Visual Aids

Before your lesson, gather the following visual aids:

- From the previous lesson - a large sheet of light blue paper for the sky and a green strip along the bottom to be the earth and grass.
- Cut out pictures from magazine of various trees - think about different shapes, sizes, colours, fruit etc.
- Real fruit, leaves and bark (such as cinnamon or paper).



Lesson

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

Show the children the big background of the earth and sky. Talk about what they can see in the picture. Tell them that God made the earth and grass.

- Add the pictures of different trees and ask the children who made them.
- Show the children the fruit, bark and leaves. Let them handle the items and smell them.

Get the children to point to where these different items are on the trees as you talk about them.

- Have any of the children climbed a tree before?
- Have they ever eaten fruit from a tree? What did it smell like? What did it taste like?
- Do they know of any animals who live in trees?
- Can they think of anything we can make from trees?

Talk about God making each item and the need to thank him for the earth and trees.

Activity

Choose either Activity A or Activity B from the Media section of this webpage.

Activity A - Make a tree. You could either use a cardboard toilet roll tube or make your own tubes by printing Activity A-1 onto card (one copy for every four children). Colour the whole page brown before cutting it into four and rolling into tubes. Secure each tube with glue as indicated. You can then cut the slits as marked. These form the branches of the tree.

Print Activity A-2 onto green paper (one copy for every two children. Fold this page in half before cutting out the leaves to cut two at a time. Each child will require eight leaves which you can help them to glue onto the branches. You could also supply small red pom-poms or scrunched up pieces of red/pink tissue paper to make apples or blossoms for the tree.



Activity B – Print Activity B-1 onto white paper for each child and Activity B-2 onto green paper (one copy for every two children)

Before the lesson, cut the shapes out of the Activity B-2 page. Fold along the line to cut out two sets at a time. Group the sets with a paper clip and attach to the main page.

Can the children place these shapes on the correct trees? Help them to glue them in place. You could also supply small red pom-poms or scrunched up pieces of red or pink tissue paper to make apples or blossoms for the tree.



Game Idea

Match the fruit to the tree. Draw or print pictures of some fruit trees that the children will be familiar with, e.g. banana tree, apple tree, pear tree, lemon tree. Have a few pictures or actual pieces of each fruit available. Ask the children to take a picture or fruit each and match it to the right picture of the tree.

Depending on the number of children and fruit in your selection, the children can keep playing until they've all had a few turns. If you want the game to last longer, start with one tree picture and add another after each round.

You could also make a fruit salad for the children to enjoy using the fruit from the lesson.

Note: Be aware of any food allergies.



Prayer

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

You could also encourage the children to pray. They must think of a fruit they like that comes from a tree or something we get from trees – shade, wood, paper, etc. “Thank you God for trees and for”

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 trees.

To reinforce this lesson this week:

1. Go for a walk with your child and look at the different trees. Can they see any that look the same? Do any of them still have fruit/flowers/leaves? Ask your child “Who made the earth and trees?”
2. Collect different leaves from a garden or park area. At home, draw an outline of a tree trunk and branches on a large piece of paper. Help your child to glue the leaves to the page to cover the tree with leaves. Who made the trees? Who helps them to grow?

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