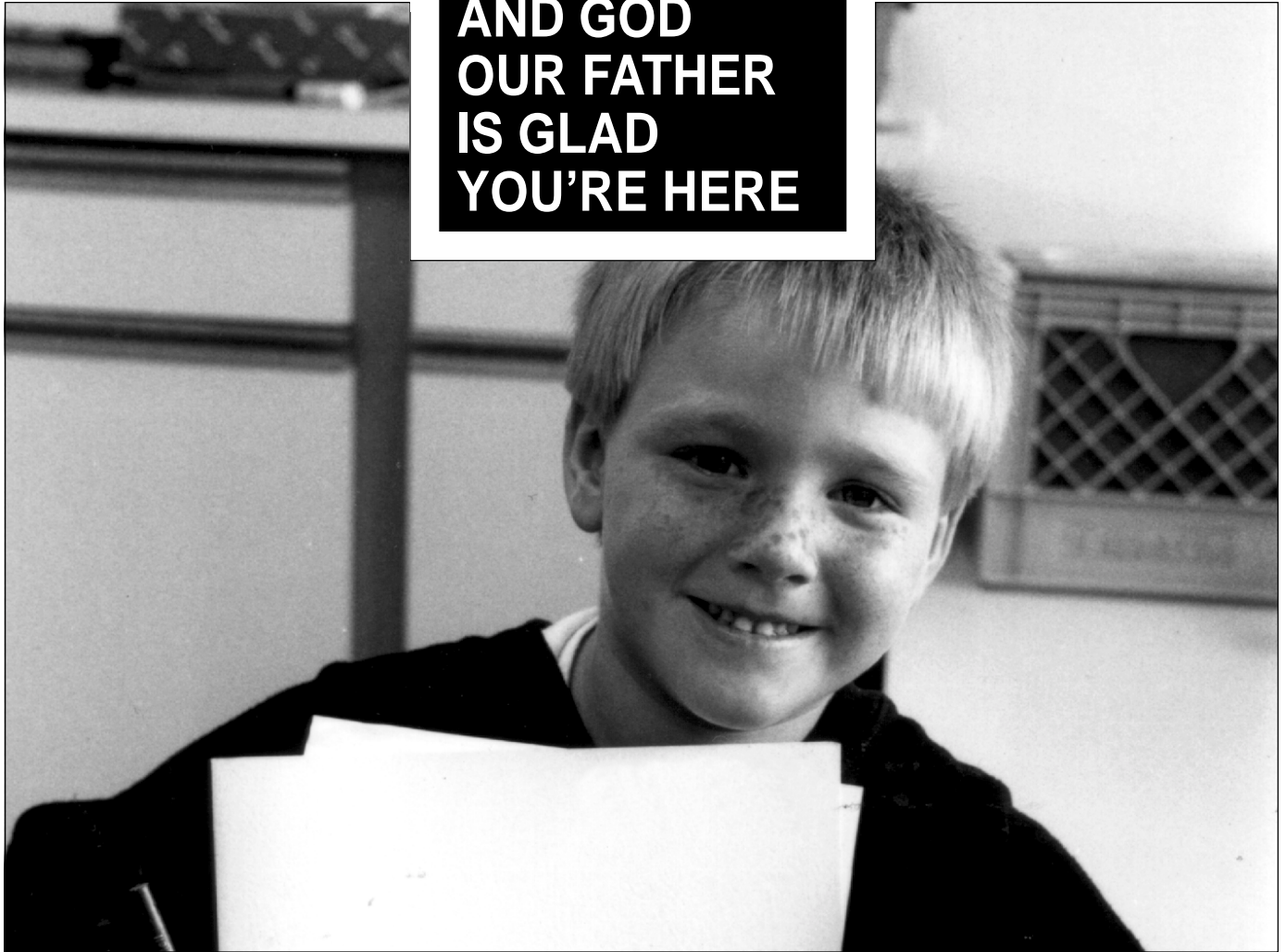


I'M GLAD
YOU'RE HERE
AND GOD
OUR FATHER
IS GLAD
YOU'RE HERE



"Why am I glad you're here? Because you are special. I knew you were coming, so I carefully prepared this classroom to be *just right* for you. I'm looking forward to getting to know you!"

As much as you the teacher express this care directly and indirectly, how much more does God our Father and Creator. He loved us most of all, and planned for the miracle of creation, our own "prepared environment." Everything we needed was there: air to breathe, food to eat, and even beautiful things to simply enjoy. Into this vast splendour God placed His special creation, people, with whom He desires fellowship. How *impressed* we are with this marvellous Creator!

Handwriting practice lines consisting of ten sets of four horizontal lines.

SCRIPTURE SONG

PSALM 119: 89 & 90

Your Word Oh God

Kim Kendrick/ Rachel Garratt-Pink

Chords: C, Am, Dm, G, F/G

Lyrics:
 Your Word Oh God will last for - e - ver
 Your faith - ful - ness ex - tends -----
 --- To ev - ery ge - ne - ra - tion
 You made the earth and it's still stand - ing,
 Your Word oh God in Psalm one nine - teen
 eigh - ty nine and nine - ty

MEMORY VERSE

Your Word, O Lord, will last for ever.

Psalm 119:89 (TEV)

Bible

The Bible is God's Word

Prayer

Communication with God our Father

Practical Application

Showing Respect

Creation

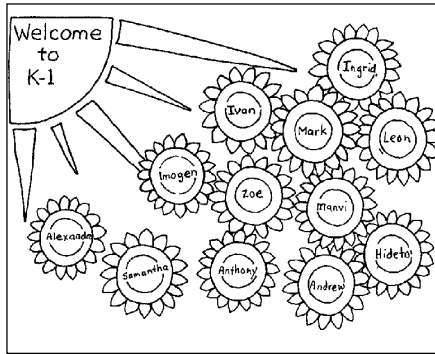
Days of Creation

I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE
AND GOD OUR FATHER IS
GLAD YOU'RE HERE

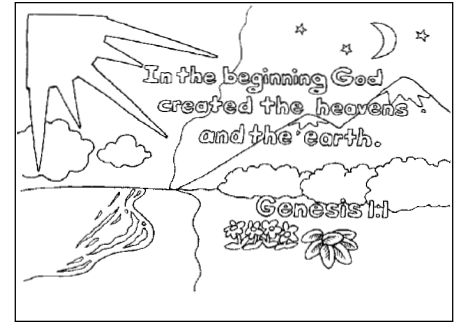
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BULLETIN BOARD IDEAS

1. Show your welcome and interest by writing each child's name on paper plate "flowers", with brightly coloured paper petals.

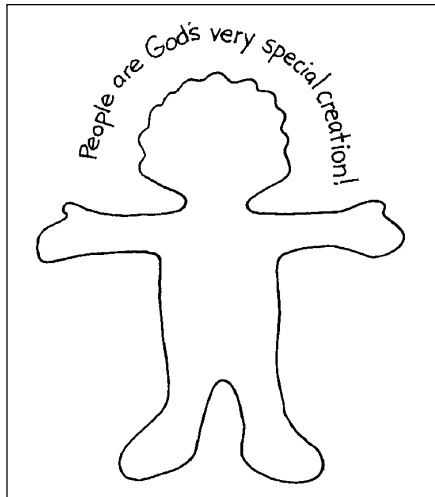


2. Illustrate a key Scripture verse for the unit. Use various colours of art paper, metallic paper landforms. Cut out letters and mount with pins for a 3-dimensional appearance.

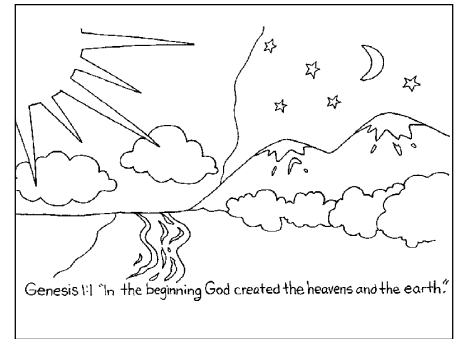


CREATION IDEAS

1. Provide shapes for facial features and clothing; children can glue onto simple boy or girl outline.



2. Children can glue magazine cut-outs of animals, birds, fish, and people onto a plain landscape.



TAKE-HOME IDEAS

Note to Parents: Go on a walk with your child to explore and talk about colours, birds, clouds, insects, etc. Take time with

him/her, enjoying the world around you together.

BIBLICAL THEME

God's Word instructs and guides us

Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Joshua 1:7,8 (NIV)

Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path.

Psalms 119:105 (TEV)

NOTE TO TEACHERS: *As you have a love for God's Word and a respect for it, you will communicate that naturally to the children. For a vivid example of enthusiasm for the Word, meditate on the whole chapter of Psalm 119!*

God's Word is life-giving

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Matthew 4:4 (NIV)

I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have renewed my life.

Psalms 119:93 (NIV)

God's Word is true

All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.

Psalms 119:160 (NIV)

The statutes you have laid down are righteous; they are fully trustworthy... Your promises have been thoroughly tested.

Psalms 119:138,140a (NIV)

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)

God's Word is precious

The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.

Psalms 19:9,10 (NIV)

The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.

Psalms 119:72 (NIV)

Prayer is talking to God about anything and everything

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs and don't forget to thank him for his answers.

Philippians 4:6 (TLB)

But if we confess our sins to him, he can be depended on to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong.

1 John 1:9 (TLB)

Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him...

James 5:14 (NIV)

God listens to and hears our prayers

I love the Lord, because he hears my prayers and answers them. Because he bends down and listens, I will pray as long as I live.

Psalms 116:1,2 (TLB)

You hear my voice in the morning; at sunrise I offer my prayer and wait for your answer.

Psalms 5:3 (TEV)

God answers prayers

Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, his wife, and his slave girls.

Genesis 20:17 (NIV)

I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him.

1 Samuel 1:27 (NIV)

We can pray to God anywhere, any time

At midnight I rise to give you thanks for your righteous laws.

Psalms 119:62 (NIV)

From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God.

Jonah 2:1 (NIV)

But he withdrew to the wilderness and prayed.

Luke 5:16 (RSV)

After a little thought he went to the home of Mary, mother of John Mark, where many were gathered for a prayer meeting.

Acts 12:12 (TLB)

On the Sabbath, we went a little way outside the city to a river bank where we understood some people met for prayer.

Acts 16:13 (TLB)

Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

Acts 16:24,25 (RSV)

We are to pray continually

In those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and all night he continued in prayer to God.

Luke 6:12 (RSV)

All the time Peter was under guard the Church prayed to God for him unremittingly.

Acts 12:5 (JB)

Pray all the time. Ask God for anything in line with the Holy Spirit's wishes. Plead with him, reminding him of your needs, and keep praying earnestly for all Christians everywhere.

Ephesians 6:18 (TLB)

God is gracious and loving toward us

See how very much our heavenly Father loves us, for he allows us to be called his children - think of it - and we really are!

1 John 3:1 (TLB)



We are to be gracious to one another

...in honor preferring one another.

Romans 12:10 (NIV)

And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:2 (RSV)

My children, love must not be a matter of words or talk; it must be genuine, and show itself in action.

1 John 3:18 (NEB)

Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.

1 Peter 3:8 (NIV)

CREATION THEME: Days of Creation

Key scriptural resource: Genesis 1, 2.

We are not an accident! God had plans for mankind even before the Creation.

Moreover, because of what Christ has done we have become gifts to God that he delights in, for as part of God's sovereign plan we were chosen from the beginning to be his.

Ephesians 1:11 (TLB)

For this is what the Lord says - he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited.

Isaiah 45:18 (NIV)

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10 (RSV)

God created the earth and heavens

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1 (NIV)

It is I who made the earth and created mankind upon it. My own hands stretched out the heavens; I marshalled their starry hosts.

Isaiah 45:12 (NIV)

Christ himself is the Creator who made everything in heaven and earth, the things we can see and the things we can't; the spirit world with its kings and kingdoms, its rulers and authorities; all were made by Christ for his own use and glory.

Colossians 1:16 (TLB)

God created living things

So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems,

according to their kinds... God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground.

Genesis 1:21,25 (NIV)

I have provided all kinds of grain and all kinds of fruit for you to eat; but for all the wild animals and for all the birds I have provided grass and leafy plants for food...

Genesis 1:29,30 (TEV)

God created people

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27 (NIV)

Ask now about the former days, long before your time, from the day God created man on the earth.

Deuteronomy 4:32 (NIV)

Your hands made me and formed me.

Psalms 119:73 (NIV)

God's evaluation of His creation

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

Genesis 1:31 (NIV)

ONE TEACHER'S COMMENT: "While going through the Scripture meditation on God our Creator, I received a whole new perspective on the grandeur and majesty of God."
Ima Atama, Fiji

FOR YOUR INVESTIGATION

- Day/ Night cycle
- Light/ dark
- Water vapour
- Land formations
- Plants & trees
- Sun, moon, stars
- Interesting properties of fish, birds, animals
- Uniqueness of humans
- Qualities of rest

The Bible is God's Word

SETTING THE STAGE...

God has given us the story of His plan and His love for us. It is written in His Word, the Bible. No other book relates as well to the whole of life, no matter what language or culture. That's God's *Living Word*. Our love for God and His Word, and the very vital place He has in our daily lives, is what we desire to communicate with children from the start. This love is caught, not taught!

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- To introduce God our Father
- To introduce the Bible, God's written Word
- To introduce a respect and appreciation for God's Word

MATERIALS

- Large picture Bible
- Bibles in different languages
- Pictures of people of various nationalities
- Examples of children's fantasy storybooks
- Variety of Bibles in different sizes and shapes
- Child-size Bibles or Bible portions for each child (optional)

LESSON 1

What is the Bible? Introduce the Bible as God's Word written down. Talk about how it has real-life stories of God's people and helps us know what God our Father is really like, and how wonderful and loving He is. Demonstrate how to treat the Bible: "Because it is *God's Word*, we take care of it and treat it gently..."

Kathy's suggestion: I like to express the distinctiveness of the Bible by having a special little table set up for children to go to in their free time. On the table I place a nice cloth, position the Bible centrally, and even put a candle there. During Bible time, I will light the candle and make it a special occasion.

LESSON 2

The Bible has two parts. Show pictures of Old Testament stories, using a Children's Picture Bible, and explain that this part tells us about God our Father and how He prepared His people for Jesus to come to earth. Using the New Testament pictures, explain that this part speaks of how God our Father

loved us so much that He sent His Son Jesus to the world to live and die for us, and tells us that Jesus is coming back.

LESSON 3

The Bible is written in many languages. If you can speak another language, read to the children from that language's Bible. Explain that God intends for His Word to go to *all people* (show Bibles in other languages). Why? His Word speaks of how God our Father loves people, and also how we all should

live our lives. Show pictures of people of various nationalities.

LESSON 4



God's Word is True. Communicate that the Bible contains good news, and is true. Read Revelation 19:9b, "These are the true words of God." Emphasize the fact that everything we read in God's Word is true, that it is something we can believe - it is not pretend or "make believe." Compare with examples of children's fantasy storybooks.

LESSON 5

God's Word is a gift to us. Explain that Bibles can be made in different sizes and shapes (illustrating with your examples), yet tells the same message in each one. Give a small Bible or Bible portion to each child, (perhaps wrapped like a gift) and share how the Bible was given to show God our Father's personal

love to *each* of us, like a gift would be. Lead children in prayer, thanking God for the Bible.

Carol's suggestion: Children enjoy starting Bible time each day with the song, "This is the Bible, God's Written Word," (Manual 1, page 217).

Prayer

I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE AND GOD OUR FATHER IS GLAD YOU'RE HERE

F-1

Communication
with God our Father

SETTING THE STAGE...

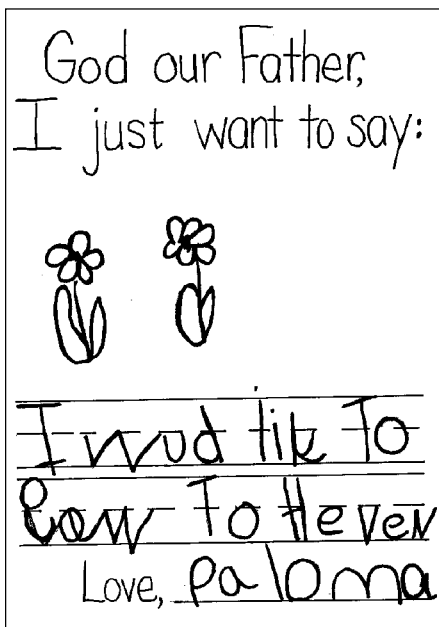
Communication. Where would we be without it? We call communication with God "prayer." That can mean talking or listening (or writing!) or just being with Him. How wonderful of Him to provide such an avenue for close fellowship. We can talk with Him anywhere about anything! How He loves to hear our prayers! And He listens carefully. He then responds in ways which reflect His wise and loving care for us.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- To introduce prayer as communication with God our Father
- To model relationship with God
- To introduce prayer as a way of life

MATERIALS

- Bible
- Picture of children praying
- Pictures or objects to illustrate your personal story



LESSON 1

Prayer is communication with God. Using the picture of children praying, explain that prayer is talking to God our Father, listening to Him, and just being with Him. Clarify that we don't have to do anything extraordinary; He simply loves to be with us. Give a personal illustration which indicates your communication with God our Father.

Carol's example: "I love to go on prayer walks with the Lord. Sometimes I hold out my hand and say, 'God our Father, will You just take my hand and walk with me today? I love You! And I like it when You speak to me.' Now, I cannot actually feel Him take my hand, but I know He loves me, and I'm satisfied when I can just be with Him."

LESSON 2

God answers my prayers. Share a personal story in which God answered a specific prayer. Use pictures or objects to illustrate. Close with prayer relating to your story.

explore and enjoy. Yet they were so expensive I couldn't justify buying them. Soon after I voiced this issue to the Lord, I came to my office and there were the exact glass animals I had wanted! God had heard my prayer and answered it. And here they are for my children to enjoy with me!"

Nancy's story: "I wanted to get a set of miniature glass animals for children to

LESSON 3

We can talk to God our Father about anything. Open the lesson with an expression of *your* joy and delight at talking and listening to God our Father. Aim towards getting children comfortable with prayer, by inviting them to talk to God our Father about what's on their minds, e.g., what they need, how they

feel, etc. They may want to sit in the teacher's lap as they do so. (Don't force or put pressure on children to pray, but give opportunity to do so if they'd like.) Lead them in simple wording if they want to pray but don't feel comfortable praying on their own.

LESSON 4

We can listen to God our Father. Explain that God speaks to us through His Word, the Bible. He is also able to speak to us "in our minds" to tell us that He loves us. Instruct the children how to quietly listen to hear God our Father speak to them. (NOTE: If more appropriate in your setting to use "in our

hearts" instead of "in our minds," please explain your term for a young child's understanding!) Then allow them a minute to practise listening to Him speak.

LESSON 5

We can pray constantly. Encourage the children that they can speak constantly to God our Father about everything. They can share their thoughts and ideas with him. (It's like getting to know a new friend - at first it's hard to know what to say, but as you get to know him, you'll want to talk with him all the time!)

(Use a Day-at-Preschool Book, if available, to suggest times when they can talk to God our Father.) Ask: What things can we talk to God our Father about? You may have children draw and dictate to the teachers what they want to say to Him (see illustration).

Showing Respect

SETTING THE STAGE...

People are God's *special* creation. Because of this, we are to treat them with respect and courtesy. Expressing love and care takes on a practical meaning in the everyday routines of life. Many daily activities of school can be demonstrated to teach children respect for others.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- To bring awareness that people are valuable
- To instruct children in ways of treating people with respect
- To allow children to practise courtesy activities

MATERIALS

- Classroom items for demonstrating and practising activities, as applicable

LESSONS 1 - 5

Demonstrating the value of people.

Select three or four exercises from the following list to practise each day. Adapt to your particular culture. Use simplicity in demonstrating, focus on the *value* of a person, and *let the children have plenty of practice*.

Showing that people are important (including you!)

- How to say "Good Morning" to others when you meet them.
- How to say "Good-bye" to others when leaving.
- How to walk around someone's mat.
- How to invite others to play with you.
- How to express to others a desire to play alone.
- How to say "Thank you."
- How to say "Please" to others before making a request.
- How to say "Excuse me" to someone before interrupting.
- How to take turns by being patient and waiting for your turn. (Suggested wording: "You take your turn, then I'll take mine.")
- How to face someone when speaking to him or her.
- How to raise your hand before speaking in group time.
- How not to interrupt when two people are talking.
- How to listen attentively during circle time.
- How to be courteous while eating:
 - a. Remember to thank the Lord after you are served.
 - b. Eat your food politely. Chew with your mouth closed.
 - c. Remember to say "excuse me" when you are finished.

(ADD YOUR OWN:)



Next time you're in Samoa...

...Make sure you always say "excuse me" when walking in front of someone, especially when he is seated on his fala. Better yet, find a way to pass behind him...!

Nu'u La'apui, Hawaii (raised in Samoa)

Creation

Days of Creation

SETTING THE STAGE...

How *great* is our Creator, who made spectacular flowers, herds of wild animals, rugged mountain ranges, fluffy cloud formations, microscopic molecules - and generations of people! An orderly, sequential, thought-out plan was put into effect as God created the world, indicating God's thorough preparation for His special creation: people.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- To introduce God our Creator
- To introduce the days of Creation
- To identify people as God's special creation

MATERIALS

- "Long, Long Ago"
- Creation posters and 3-part cards
- Photos to illustrate days of Creation (as large as possible)
- Actual items of creation you can get to illustrate days of Creation (jar of water, pet bird, etc.)

Aptly impressed...

Five-year-old Gaetano expressed his amazement at all that he saw around him. "How does God do all His stuff? Does He have an army or somethin'?" Selah Moore, Hong Kong

**I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE
AND GOD OUR FATHER IS
GLAD YOU'RE HERE**

F-1

LESSON 1

Introduction to the Creator. Using the creation posters, read "Long, Long Ago" (Part I). Emphasize to children that they can *know* God our Creator, and they can begin to know what He's like through the wonderful things He has created in our world.



LESSON 2

Creation Day One. Emphasize the first day of Creation, when God created light. First show a bag that's dark and empty to illustrate what it was like. Then use a lamp, flashlight (torch), or candle to show what happens to darkness when light shines. Tell children that God's light is much brighter.

Ruth's example: I used two cardboard tubes: cover one end of the first with black paper; place a light at one end of the second tube. Children can look into the viewer end on each to differentiate between dark and light.

LESSON 3

Creation Days Two and Three. Emphasize the second and third days of Creation, using pictures of water/sky and land/plant life. Associated with these discussions could be weather, rain, clouds, seeds, kinds of plants, etc.

Amy's example: I painted a simple picture in front of the children as I talked about how God separated the water and sky, and created landforms filled with plant life.

LESSON 4

Creation Days Four and Five. Emphasize the fourth and fifth days of Creation, using pictures of sun, moon, stars, seasons and various types of fish and birds. Perhaps bring a pet bird or fish.

Johanne's example: I put together a big blank book, which became our class Creation Book. Each Creation day was illustrated with appropriate illustrations (black/ white paper, metallic paper for water, cotton wool for clouds, green tissue for plants, sticky stars, and magazine cut-outs of animals and people.) The children helped glue items on some of the pages.

LESSON 5

Creation Days Six and Seven. Emphasize the sixth and seventh day of Creation, using pictures (or real examples) of animals, insects, etc, and then pictures of people, God's special creation. Possibly play a game of charades, allowing children to act out something in creation. Consider then

God's evaluation and example: "And God was very pleased and rested on the seventh day."