

God's Creation

Child's Bible Study

Ages 4-6



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A ROCHA
Christians in Conservation

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A Rocha Background

Founded in 1983, A Rocha is an international family of Christian conservation organizations committed to caring for all of God's creation. We do this through scientific research, community-based conservation initiatives, and educational programs. A Rocha is active in 19 countries on six continents. Our initiatives have been supported by churches, international conservation organizations, the United Nations, inter-governmental agencies, and individuals worldwide. A Rocha is the only Christian organization member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)—an umbrella organization with 1,000+ organizational members. The name 'A Rocha' is Portuguese meaning 'The Rock'—named after our first Center in Portugal.

A Rocha has five core values:

- **Christian:** We worship, love and serve the God of the Bible, who made the world, loves it and entrusts it to the care of human society.
- **Conservation:** We conserve and restore the natural environment for the benefit of human and non-human species.
- **Community:** We ground our efforts in local communities—working with local people on issues of local importance.
- **Cross-cultural:** We draw on the insights and skills of people from diverse cultures, both locally and around the world.
- **Cooperation:** We partner with a wide variety of organizations and individuals who share our concerns for a sustainable world.

In the USA, A Rocha is building a nationwide network of community-based educational programs, and hands-on conservation projects with which to mobilize Christians (and all who will work with us), to steward the Earth.

Lesson Contents

Each lesson includes the following:

1. Introduction
2. Summary of the lesson for the day
3. Fun Facts
4. Questions or a short paragraph to start things off
5. Bible Verse Back-up
6. Conclusion of the lesson
7. Prayer to end the lesson
8. Extras (activity, craft and snack ideas)

DAY 1: God Created Light

Introduction

Do you like darkness? What would you do if there were no light anywhere on Earth? Where does the light come from (sun, moon)? Who created light?

Use a large dark cardboard box with holes and a flashlight as an object lesson. Let look into the dark box. What can you see? (Nothing, air, cold...discuss all answers.) Dark emptiness was all that existed before God created the world. What did God create first? (Light.) Point the flashlight into the box. Turn it on. Observe how light shines through the tiny holes and lights up a dark place. The first thing God created was light!

Summary

Today we will learn how God created everything. God loves us so much that He created everything for us to enjoy. Do you know what God created on the first day of creation? After God created heaven and earth he created light. Light is one of the most important elements of life, isn't it? God is so powerful that on the first day he said, "Let there be light" and there was light. Today we are going to learn some interesting facts about light.

Let's read Genesis 1:3-5 "And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day."

Fun Facts

- Light travels very, very fast. The speed of light in a vacuum is around 186,000 miles per second
- Sunlight can reach a depth of around 262 feet in the ocean.

Start Things Off

Do you know what God created on the first day of creation? The bible said: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth and then he created the light and he saw that the light was good. Can you imagine living without light? We wouldn't be able to see anything because it would be completely dark.

Bible Back-up

Did you know that before God created light, He created space and time (time did not even exist before God created it)? He also created the earth and gave it form. At first, the earth was covered by water and God's Spirit was there. It was very dark at the beginning that God decided to brighten up the place before

creating everything else, so He said, "Let there be light!" and there was light and God separated the light from the darkness. His powerful word was all that was needed to create light on the earth. Isn't God a powerful God? Did you know that Earth Day is April 22 and it is celebrated in more than 175 countries every year? Let us remember the creator of the earth in this special day and thank him for creating the earth and the light for us to enjoy!

Psalm 29:4- *"The voice of the Lord is powerful".*

Did you know that light is made of many different kinds of light: visible light, x-rays, ultraviolet light, and more? God also made the earth rotate so we can measure time and can differentiate between day and night. That shows the great power of God! Do you know the difference between the words "made" and "created"? Many people said God made the world but it is better to say that God created the world! That means that God created something with nothing! He didn't assemble something from parts and decided to make the world. He just called the earth into being from nothing! Only he can speak things into existence. If you said let there be light, nothing would happen. What a great powerful God we have. His voice is so powerful. What was there before God created the heavens and Earth? Absolutely nothing. His power is beyond our comprehension.

Psalm 33:6 & 9- *"By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth". "For he spoke it was done; he commanded and it stood fast".*

How do you describe God after reading these verses? He is a powerful God.

John 8:12- *"...I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

Who is the light in this verse? Jesus.

God sent Jesus to earth to bring His light to people so they could know God. Aren't you glad God has shined His light into our hearts and helped us know Him? Let's thank God for the light that shines in our world and for Jesus who shines in our hearts.

What does walking in "darkness" mean? (To live life without knowing God.)

When you walk into a room with no windows and the lights are turned off can you see anything? No, because it is dark! But when we turn the light switch on, we can see clearly because the darkness will go away in the presence of light. Do you know that some animals cannot see the same way as we see because of the light? Visible light is the light that humans can see. Other animals can see different types of light; dogs see fewer colors than humans do.

Conclusion

We learned today that God is a powerful God! On the first day of creation, He created light and separated it from darkness. Only He can speak things into existence and he saw that the light was good. He is so powerful and strong! We should thank God for light because without it, life would not exist.

Prayer

Let the children thank God for light.

Extras

- **Flashlight Find Game:** Turn off the lights. Hide an object and let children find it using a flashlight.
- **Craft activity:** Children will make their own light switch cover for their bedroom at home. Use cardboard cut outs, glitter, markers, felt, etc.
- **Shadow Play:** Behind a screen, gather objects recognizable by their shapes. Shine a bright light toward the wall behind the screen so the children can see the shadow of objects and let them guess the objects.

DAY 2: God Created Water

Introduction

Have you ever looked up to the sky and watched the clouds on a rainy day? Clouds are made when air is cooled to a temperature where water in the air becomes visible. This temperature is called the dew point. Precipitation in the form of rain or snow occurs when particles of water or ice are large enough to reach the ground. Wow! Did you know that God created the sky on the second day of creation? And he separated waters from waters?

Summary

We have already talked about what God did on the first day of creation. Do you remember what is it? God created the light. Today we are going to learn what God created on the second day of creation. Do you know what is it? God said, "Let there be a huge space between the waters. Let it separate water from water". We are going to learn the importance of water. Can we live without water? No. What are the uses of water? (Washing, farming, cooking....). What happens if the water is polluted? Diseases that lead to sickness, death and poverty.

Fun Facts

- Water covers approximately 70% of the earth's surface.
- Up to 60% of the human body is made out of water.
- A five-minute shower uses about 1/3 of the water of taking a bath, saving up to a little over 105 gallons of water per week! Cutting one minute off your shower time can save 8,321 gallons of water per month!

Start Things Off

Game: Paper Plunge

This demonstration will let children realize the importance of air and water and experiment with how air can hold up water.

Fill a bowl with water, crush a piece of paper and push it into the bottom of a glass so it cannot fall out. Turn the glass upside down and place it straight down into the bowl of water. What happens to the paper? The paper stayed inside the glass and it is dry. That's the power of air. It held up this paper just like it holds up water in the sky. What is water in the sky? Water vapor in the clouds. The air inside the glass takes up space and makes a pressure inside the glass.

Bible Back-up

Genesis 1:6-8- *And God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water." So God made the vault and separated the water*

under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. God called the vault "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

What is a vault? A huge space. God created a huge space between the waters. It seems that the Earth was filled with water from top to bottom and nothing but water and God by the word of his mouth made a space between waters. The water below the space is the oceans, the seas... Who can name an ocean or sea? What is the water above the space? (Allow for responses). The clouds, rain and snow are all water that come from the sky. God made water vapor above the earth, what we call atmosphere, which protects the surface of the earth.

Did you know that rainbows are caused by sunlight passing through very small water drops?

Exodus 17:1-7- Moses and water from the rock

- What happens in this story?
- How would you feel if you saw this happening in person?
- Are there people in the world today who may feel like the people in this story?

Water is important to all human, plant and animal life. We cannot live without water. What do we use water for? (Allow responses: our health, body, homes, washing, cooking...) God made everything dependent on water for life: plants, trees and all living creatures. Did you know that dragonflies are part of life in water and air because they start their lives in the water and as adult they leave the water and fly in the air?

We should not forget that while we live in a world with fairly easy access to clean water, over 1 billion people on earth are suffering from diseases and poverty because they don't have access to a safe and reliable water supply. In some places around the world, women have to walk over 6 miles to reach a water source. What can you do to help these people have access to water?

Water is an important resource that God gave us. What is our responsibility to care for this resource? (Allow responses: picking up trash, being mindful of what we put on the ground, turning off water while we brush our teeth, etc.) We have a responsibility to take care of the world God created.

John 4:14- *"But whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."*

Only Jesus can quench our spiritual thirst. Our spirits yearn for His presence in our lives, as our bodies yearn for water. He is the Living Water.

Conclusion

Waste and pollution are against God's Law. Our use of water has increased 70% per person for over the last forty years. Because we take water for granted, it is too easy to waste it. Remember that we do not have the right to misuse a resource so precious, so sacred, given by God for us. Let us use it wisely and be good stewards of this valuable source of life.

Prayer

Thank you Lord for the gift of water, rain, snow, fog, dew, lakes and the seas. Help us use water wisely and take good care of the resources you give us. Please help us protect our environment and keep it clean in a land where many quench their thirst with dirty water. Bless those in need of abundant clean water.

Extras

- **Walking For Water:** Divide the class into two groups. Each member will take a turn carrying a bucket to a water source; filling it with water and taking it back to fill a large a container. The bucket has hole so children have to fill the bucket quickly, pour it in the container. The goal is to see which group has more water in the container.
- **Water Game:** Divide the group into teams of two. Have teammates stand six feet from one another, one holding a small cup with a Ping-Pong ball in it and the other a water-filled spray bottle. On "go," players with bottles try to be the first to squirt enough water into their teammate's cup to float out the ball. If teammates get closer than six feet, they must dump out the water in the cup and start over.

DAY 3: God Created Plants

Introduction

Cut an apple in half and ask children what can they see inside the apple? Seeds. Have you ever planted a seed? A seed is the beginning of a new plant. Seeds have different shapes, sizes and colors. Seeds can grow into a tiny flower or into a huge tree. It can become a pumpkin or a sunflower. Seeds grow into many different kinds of plants. How do we know what a seed will become? A seed becomes the kind of plant it came from. The seeds you find in a watermelon grow into watermelon plants. The seeds inside an apple only grow into apple trees. Apple seeds can never grow into orange trees. What do seeds need to grow? (Allow responses from children). Seeds need water, soil, sunlight and good temperature in order to grow.

Summary

We have already talked what God created on the first day of creation and it was "The light". Do you remember what God created on the second day of creation? He separated water from water. Today we are going to learn what God created on the third day of creation. Do you know what it is? Plants and trees. Today we are going to talk about the plants, vegetation and some fun important facts about plants.

Fun Facts

- There are more than 260,000 species of plants on Earth.
- The largest flower is the Rafflesia or "corpse flower". It is generally 3 feet in diameter.
- When you breathe, you take in oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide. When a tree "breathes," it takes in carbon dioxide and releases oxygen. Isn't it cool how God created trees and other plants to use the air we breathe out? Then they produce the air we need to breathe in too!

Start Things Off

Let's read together from **Genesis 1:11-13**

"Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day"

God did address two main things on the third day:

1. Dry land: God caused dry land to appear.

2. Plants: This is the first living thing on the earth that God created. God had been preparing the earth for living things and he also made sure that each plant had its own seed. Why do you think plants need seeds? (Allow for responses...) God needed the plants to be able to make more plants, so he gave them seeds.

God knew that in order to live, humans would need a food supply so, he provided us with trees that produce fruit and plants that produce fruit and vegetables. What else do we use plants in our everyday life?

1. We eat plants for breakfast, lunch and dinner.
2. We use plants to make our clothing.
3. We use plants to make medicines.
4. We use plants to build furniture and buildings.
5. Plants are necessary in cleaning the air we breathe.

Bible Back-up

It's amazing to see how God did so much more than just make things work; He also made them look good. Have you ever seen a tree's leaves during fall? Watching the leaves turn colors in the fall is a great example of the wonderful beauty that God created here on earth for us.

Psalm 1:1&3- *“Blessed isThat person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers”*

As the leaves and the fruit are the evidence of the tree's health; so it is with our lives in Christ. The more we seek and follow Him, the deeper we are rooted in Christ.

The seed that is cultivated with care will grow up into a healthy tree, extending its roots, increasing its woody fibers, producing buds, blossoms, leaves and growing fruit in the proper season.

God wants us to be like a tree walking with Him, trusting Him and growing healthy with Him every day. How can we grow in faith? (Allow for responses...) We can grow in faith by reading the Bible, loving our families, friends, etc. and praying to know God's purpose for our life. In this way we become like a healthy growing tree.

Green is the usually the symbol of a plants health and growth pattern. Do you know why the leaves turn into orange and red during fall?

When autumn comes, you noticed that it doesn't stay light outside nearly as long as it did when it was summer. The leaves don't get as much light as they used to and the amount of chlorophyll starts to decrease. Chlorophyll is what gives a leaf its green color, so if there is less chlorophyll, the leaves start to lose their green color. When green starts to fade, the other colors start to become visible. Some of the colors that might hide in leaves until fall are browns, yellows and oranges. That is why you might see so many different colors on the trees in your yard, or even on a single tree. God is an amazing and creative God. He created trees and plants with all their kinds because He knew we needed them for our survival and he created them to reflect His glory.

Matthew 6:28- *“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?”*

Have you ever see a lily? (Have a picture or a real lily) Isn't it beautiful? Why it is beautiful? Did you know that God takes care of all plants and animal, not only humans?

Conclusion

God created all things, the heavens and the earth with all its plants and trees. It is our responsibility as God's children care for the earth He entrusted us with, that includes everything on it.

Prayer

We thank you, Lord, for the gift of seeds and all kind of plants. Through this amazing gift , you feed our hunger, give us clothing and shelter and the ability to live, grow and serve you. Help us to care for the creation you created to use it wisely. In Christ's name, Amen.

Extras

- **Planting Seeds:** Give each child their own Styrofoam cup and let them write their name on their cup and decorate it however they would like Demonstrate how to put the dirt into a cup. Give each child few seeds and let them push their seed into the dirt and make sure that it's covered. Let the children take their seeds home and explain that they need to water it and let it get sunshine in order to grow.

DAY 4: God Created the Sun, Moon and Stars

Introduction

Imagine yourself camping with friends and family in the mountains; you are looking at the night sky, gazing at the beautiful stars. You may see thousands of stars and you might wonder exactly how many stars are there in the universe, but you surely cannot count them all. Do you know why can't we see as many stars in a city? Because the lights of the city create a glow in the sky that mask the stars.

As you watching the stars, what kind of stars you might see? (Allow for responses ...). Did you know that there are couple of stars that are 100 to 200 times larger than the sun?! Some stars are smaller than the earth. Do you know that scientists study stars and group them depending on how they are different and how they are alike? Did you know that God created all of the stars, the sun and the moon by the word of His mouth?

Summary

Today, we are going to learn what God created on the fourth day of creation. God did a lot on the fourth day! He made two great lights: the sun and the moon, and he also created the stars.

Fun Facts

- On a clear night, you can see around 3,000 stars with the naked eye.
- The brightest star twinkling in the sky is called Sirius. The best time to view Sirius is during winter.
- The light of the Sun takes 8 minutes to reach the earth.

Start Things Off

Let's open the Bible and read how God created the sun, the moon and the stars.

Genesis 1:14- 19

"And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day".

Didn't God created light on the first day of creation? Yes He did, but he also created specific lights to separate the day from the night. He gave us

something specific to mark the days with. What do we usually use to keep track of days and years? (Allow for responses...) Right, we have calendars to help us know the days. God gave us the sun and the moon so that we know the days, the years and the seasons.

Bible Back-Up

God created the sun, “the larger light” and the moon “the smaller light” to rule over the day and the night. God made it lighter in the day and darker at night; God also made the stars and put them in the huge space of the sky to give light on the earth. God is an amazing and powerful God! He created all these lights!!! He taught the sun to bring a new day to the earth and the moon and the stars to light and shine on our nights.

Psalm 147:4- *“He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.”*

Can someone count all of the stars? No, because they are numerous. God is amazing and bigger than we can ever imagine; He knows exactly how many stars are in the universe and He created all of the galaxies. Isn't He powerful? Can you imagine all the stars in the galaxy? God knows them all. As God knows the stars by their names, He knows us and calls us each by His name. He knows Mark, Steve, Julia (Name some of the students in the classroom...) and loves each one of us. Every one of us is special to Him.

Psalm 19:1- *“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands.”*

Did you know that the lights in the sky are made to praise God? God wants us to be like the stars, shining and declaring His glory. We are placed as lights in this world to praise God. He wants us to shine in this world and give praise to Him wherever we go. How can we declare the glory to God? When we celebrate God's love for us and praise Him. How do you think God feels when we praise Him? Of course He will be happy. Can you thank God and praise Him? Yes, you can. You can do this in everyday activities, not just at church.

Conclusion

Today we learned that God created the lights for us to help us know the days, the years and seasons. God is an amazing God! Every time you look at the sky and gaze at the stars, remember to praise God like the stars and all His creation does. Remember to shine and show God's love to other people.

Prayer

Let children thank God for the stars, galaxies, sun and moon. Thanking him for the daylight and the nights.

Extras

- **Crafts:** *Hanging Moon and Stars*
 - o Materials needed: paper plate, aluminum foil, hole puncher, yarn, black marker and scissors
 - o Draw a picture of a moon on the paper plate and cut it out.
 - o Use a marker to draw stars on a piece of aluminum foil and cut them out.
 - o Use a hole puncher to make a hole at the top of the picture.
 - o Put a piece of yarn through the hole and tie it.
 - o Hang this craft from the ceiling or on a door.
- **Snacks:** Crackers or cookies in the form of the sun moon and stars to let them remember that God created them all.

DAY 5: God Created Birds and Sea Creatures

Introduction

Divide the class into two groups. Ask the first group to make a list of all the birds they know. Ask the second group to make a list of all the animals that live in water that they can think of. Read the two lists. Great job! That's quite a lot of animals. Did you know there are hundreds more that we didn't think of? God thought of all of these kinds of fish and birds and made He created them different from each other!

Summary

Today we are going to learn about what God created on the fifth day of creation. The fifth day is a big day because God created all the birds and all of the creatures in the sea.

Fun Facts

- The majorities of fish don't eat each other, but eat underwater plant material like seaweed, algae and drifting tiny plants called plankton.
- If you will keep a goldfish in the room without light for a long time, it will naturally turn white.

To Start Things Off

Genesis 1: 20-23- *“And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.” So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.*

Why do you think God waited until the fifth day to create birds and all of the creatures in the sea? (Allow for responses...). Because God needed the earth to be ready so the animals could survive. He first made water, soil, air and plants. He also made the sun to provide light and warmth, and the moon to govern night and the ocean's tides. After all that, God created Earth's first inhabitants—the animals that live in the sea and those that fly in the air. Think about the hundreds or thousands, of types of things that live in the ocean. God made jellyfish and eels, crabs and octopuses; He made different kind of fish like sardines, salmon, swordfish and many more!!!

Do you know what else God created on the fifth day? (Allow for responses...) Right! Every kind of bird that flies and He made their bodies to work and fly with

a word of his mouth. He created birds like parrots and pigeons. Bugs, like beautiful butterflies, were also created on the fifth day.

Did you know that birds cannot fly without the feathers? The feathers move apart during flight allowing the air to pass through the feathers and reduce resistance. Sometimes the feathers close completely to improve the bird's lift. Also, a bird can vary the shape of its wings in order to have a more efficient take-off, flap, glide and landing. What a wonderful God we have, He made all the animals with so many details!

Do you know what God felt after creating all these animals on the fifth day? God was more than pleased when he looked at what, do you know why? (Allow for response...) Because God not only said creation was good but He blessed all the fish and the birds, and commanded them to multiply and to make more. That was God's first blessing on earth!

Did you know that?

- Some birds like ostriches and emus have wings but do not fly? They use their wings for balance while running, cooling in hot weather, warmth in cold weather, protection of their ribcage during falls, scaring predators etc.
- The largest butterfly in the world is the Giant Birdwing from the Solomon Islands. The female can have a wing span of over 12 inches, that's over one foot long! The smallest butterfly ever found was only one half of an inch long.
- God designed a sophisticated brain that enables the butterflies to see, smell, taste, fly and navigate with such great precision that they can travel huge distances and find the very tree where their great-great-great-grandmother laid an egg. No one but God could make such a marvelous creature as a butterfly!

Bible Back-up

Matthew 6: 26- *"Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"*

God is reminding us that the birds of the air do not sow or reap; yet God feeds them. Do you know that God values us, as human beings even more than the birds of the sky? Do you know why does God say we are more important than the birds? (Allow for responses...) Because we have been created in God's image.

1 Kings 17:2-6- *"Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah: "Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. You will drink from the brook, and I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there." So he*

did what the LORD had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook."

Conclusion

Wow! God fed the prophet Elijah by ordering ravens to bring him food in the morning and evening while he hid in the wilderness. Do you believe that God can provide us help whenever we need him? Do you trust that God cares for you?

Prayer

Let us close our eyes and think "How does God provide for our needs?" What is something you've been worrying about that you need to trust God to provide?

Extras

- **Crafts:** Colorful butterflies
 - o Ingredients: Various colors of tissue paper squares, sandwich-size plastic bags, chenille wire and wooden doll pins or wood clothespins
 - o Fill a bag with colorful tissue paper squares. Wrap a piece of chenille wire around the round top of the clothespin to create antennae and push the bag through the slats of the clothespin to form wings.
- **Crafts:** Pools of Fish
 - o Ingredients: Blue Jell-O gelatin, boiling water, cool water, gummy sharks, clear plastic cups, a mixing bowl, and a mixing spoon.
 - o Combine the gelatin and boiling water in the mixing bowl, following the directions on the package. Add cool water, and then pour equal amounts into the clear cups. Refrigerate the cups until the gelatin begins to thicken. Suspend gummy sharks in the middle of the gelatin cups, then place the cups back in the refrigerator until the gelatin is set.

DAY 6: God Created Animals and Man

Introduction

Take a picture of someone in the classroom with a digital camera or bring a photo of someone most everyone will recognize. Is this photo actually the same person? (Allow children to answer...). The image can't speak, think, etc..., but it does show a lot about the person and what they are like. We are created in the "image of God." We are NOT God, but created to be like Him and reflect what He is like.

Summary

Can you remember that what God created on the first five days of creation? Allow children to recall what God created on each day of creation. Today we are going to learn what God created on the sixth day, which is the last day of creation. Do you know what it is? God created animals and created the very first human being. We are also going to see how human beings are different from all the animals that God created.

Fun Facts

- Dolphins always sleep with one eye open.
- A Duck's quack doesn't echo, and nobody knows why.
- Snakes hear through their jaws.

Start Things Off

Show pictures of different types of animals (choose common animals and ones that the children will not know). Do you love animals? Do you know that God loves animals but he also loves us more than animals? (Allow for responses...). God loves everything that he created but He loves us differently because He made us on His own image. We are so special to him and He gave us the special job of caring for all He created.

Bible Back-up

Genesis 1:24-31- ²⁴ And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals,^[a] and over all the creatures that move along the ground." ²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in

number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”²⁹ Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.”³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

The bible says that on the sixth day of creation, God made all the animals that live on the land. He did this by commanding the earth to “bring forth” the land animals, and that’s what happened—God created life on land. He created all types of animals: domestic animals, creatures that move along the ground and wild animals. Do you know that He made animals of special use to us too? (Allow for the children to give examples...) He made small animals (let children give examples of small animals) like squirrels and spiders, rabbits and mice, frogs and lizards; and beasts, like apes and elephants, dinosaurs and many more!

After all God created, the earth was now ready to be the home for God’s greatest creation, the first human beings—Adam and then Eve. Do you know why man was the last thing God created? (Allow for responses...). Man was created to care for everything in creation. And God created man in his own likeness. Wow! We are the only part of creation that was created in His image. Do you know why we are different from the rest of God’s creation? Because we have a soul. No other animals can think, act or feel like us. God blessed Adam and Eve and asked them to fill the earth and rule over the fish in the waters, the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground. Again, God is pleased with His creation and He said it was “very good”. This is the first time that He said anything was very good.

Did you know that?

- Only one in 2 billion people will live to be 116 or older!
- Human eyes are the same from birth but our nose and ears never stop growing.

Man is a special creature of God. We are like God in many ways, and unlike the animals in many ways:

- 1 John 4:8- “Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love”. The Bible is telling us that God is love; we can love and worship God and love other people. Animals cannot do this.
- John 4:24- “God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth”. Unlike the animals, we have an eternal, everlasting spirit. We can be filled with God’s Holy Spirit and pray to God directly.

- Psalm 34:8- *"Taste and see that the LORD is good"*. God is holy and perfect. What does this mean? (Allow for responses...) This means He never does anything wrong or out of His character and He wants us to be like him. He gave us a conscience, which tells us what is right and what is wrong. Animals do not have this.

God makes very special. What a wonderful God we have! We are different from the animals in many other ways, too. Do you know that animals do things by instinct without planning and thinking like we do? What else sets us apart from animals? (Allow for responses...). God loves us and he gave us ability and creativity to cook, plant, play music, write and invent things like the light bulb, computers, games ... (let children make a list of things human can do and animals cannot).

Conclusion

What did God create last? (Allow for responses...). God waited to the end to make humans. We learned today that every part of creation is important to God but humans are especially special because we were made in His image. Do you know that each one of you is special to God too? Since we are special, He wants us to take care of His creation and watch over all of the plants and animals in the world.

Prayer

Thank God because he created all the animals in the world and he created humans to be like him. Thank God for allowing humans to tend to His creation. Pray for God to show you ways to love Him and His creation more.

Extras

- **Crafts:** Marshmallow People
Let children create their own people with the marshmallows and pretzels.
- **Crafts:** Amazing Animals
 - o Ingredients: Chocolate pudding, small paper cups, chocolate cookies, plastic bags, plastic spoons and gummy animals or animal crackers.
 - o Fill a small paper cup $\frac{3}{4}$ full with chocolate pudding. Crush chocolate cookies inside the plastic bags. Use the chocolate cookie crumbs to create a "dirt" layer on top of the pudding layer. Insert gummy animals or animal crackers as well.

DAY 7: God Rested

Introduction

After a long day at school learning, reading, playing and eating meals ...do you usually feel tired and you need to rest right? At night your body gets to rest getting ready for a new day. That is why it is so important to give yourself time to sleep. Every living thing needs to rest. Some animals spend as many as 20 hours a day sleeping! We need to rest in order to stay healthy.

Summary

We have arrived at our last day of creation, the seventh day. Who can recall all the days of creation? Good. Do you know what God created on the seventh day? (Allow children to respond...). Nothing! God didn't create anything on the seventh day. God rested on the last day. Why did God rest? Was He tired? Today we are going to learn how to rest and why.

Fun Facts

- Gorillas sleep up to fourteen hours, a day.
- Before hibernation, and during the fall season, brown bears can eat around 90 pounds of food per day, stocking for the next four to seven months! Bears dig their own den or they hibernate in natural caves.

Start Things Off

The seventh day of the creation week was totally different from all the six days. God didn't create anything on this day instead God rested. Do you think God needs rest? Let us read what God did on the seventh day.

Genesis 2:1-3- *"Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done."*

Bible Back-up

The Bible tells us that on the seventh day, God rested from all of his work. God rested?! Does this mean that God was tired after all the work of creating the earth, the plants, the sun, moon and stars, the animals and all his creation? Do you think God needs to rest or to sleep to recover His strength? No! God does not sleep. God is teaching us to rest, to thank Him and celebrate. God rested, which means that it's okay for us to rest, in fact we are supposed to rest. God blessed the seventh day and made it holy. This is why we are supposed to rest one day a week, on the Sabbath, and keep it holy.

Exodus 20:10–11- *“But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy”*

In this passage, God is commanding his people, to work for six days and rest for one. That is why a week is seven days long, not six days or eight. It is based on the way God made the universe during creation. His 'rest' on the seventh day was to give us an example. God wants us to rest and celebrate like He rested and enjoyed his creation.

Leviticus 25:4- *“But in the seventh year the land is to have a year of Sabbath rest, a Sabbath to the LORD. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards”.*

In this verse God is asking his people to give the land on the seventh year rest so that the land will enjoy its Sabbath year and rest. Do you know why? Soil has a limit as to how much support it can offer over a period of years, and then it becomes depleted. That is why it needs to rest like all God's creation. Animals need to rest too. Did you know that much of environmental degradation is a result of our wanting more and more and not being content? We have to protect nature by keeping it fresh and allowing it to restore itself.

God teaches us that work is not an end by itself, rather a means for life. To be healthy, we must have a day to renew our strength and spirits and to rejuvenate. On the seventh day, God created the possibility of renewal. God wants us to stop rest and thank him and enjoy all the good things he gave us.

Did you know that?

- When you get enough sleep you can pay attention better in school, be creative and solve problems better? You will also be more likely to fight sickness and stay healthy.

Conclusion

God created everything in six days and rested on the seventh day. He created the universe, the moon and sun, the birds and fish, animals and humans. God gave humans the special job of tending to and caring for His creation. God wants us along with the rest of His creation, to find time to rest.

Prayer

Let children pray thanking God all of creation and for the Sabbath.

Extras

- **Activity:** Let students bring pillows, slippers, snacks and juice boxes. Ask each child to find a quiet private area in the room to "nest" during their hibernation. They can line their nests with snacks, personal items and books. Let children read about various animals of creation (hibernating animal printouts are suggested). Encourage them the rest.

- **Game:** Heart Rate Game
 - Hibernation helps the animal conserve energy. It slows down the animals heart rate and breathing.
 - Set a timer during a rest period and have students take their pulses during a one-minute interval.
 - Have them perform strong exercises such as jumping, running and have them sit and take their pulses again. How do the results differ? Does rest or activity require more energy?