



MUST KNOW BIBLE STORIES

stories worth exploring

The Christian Creation Story

Early Level: Contexts to Explore the Story

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SCOTTISH
BIBLE SOCIETY

For young children to get the most out of the story, it is important that they are given time to explore it for themselves in different ways. So have fun setting up your Nursery or Play area and allow the children to freely explore this wonderful story and internalise it in their own way. Give them space to talk about what they enjoyed and allow them to guide you into what they would like to explore further. There will be particular aspects of the story that fascinate them that they will want to re-enact or delve into deeper. We hope that the ideas below will help you to develop the learning through their interests.

As you set up different contexts, keep in mind the links to the Creation story. Suggestions of how to link the activities to the story are found in blue. Don't worry about making the links over complicated, just gently extend their thinking by asking questions such as "What do Christians believe about ...?" or "Who do Christians believe made....?" Ask them what they think too! "Do you think that?" "How do you think this was made?" Some suggested phrases to use in your discussions with children can be found in the blue speech bubbles in the 'Nursery mind-map – creation' file.

1. Art and Craft Area

Christians believe that God created the world. So get creative and allow your children to turn their hand to any creative technique for making the following:

- (a) Day 1: God made Light
Make a collage picture contrasting dark and light - lots of dark things on one picture and lots of white/yellow things on the other. This is a good one for outdoors.
- (b) Day 2: God made the Sky
Think cotton wool, pale blue tissue paper, blue see-through plastic and more! Bubble painting fits for this too.
- (c) Day 3: God made the land (with trees and plants) and the seas
- (d) Day 4: God made the sun, the moon and the stars
Paint colourful planets of different sizes and hang them up as a mobile. Make glittery stars.
- (e) Day 5: God made the birds to fly in the sky and the fish to swim in the oceans
- (f) Day 6: God made animals and people.
Make lots of different paper plate animals or use your creativity in other ways! Make junk models. The children could be a creator and make a new creature? What characteristics does it have? Encourage living things rather than robots or machines.

Why not combine all of the above into one huge wall collage to depict the whole creation story.

2. Playdough

- (a) **Playdough cutters:** Provide appropriate playdough cutters for each day of creation: You could provide them all and allow children to choose, or put out a different set of cutters each day to represent [each day of creation](#).
- (b) **Colours of Playdough:** Start at the beginning of the week and provide a different colour of playdough each day of the week e.g.
 Monday: yellow playdough for '[God made light](#)'
 Tuesday: blue playdough for '[God made the sky and sea](#)'
 Wednesday: '[God made the sun, moon and stars](#)' Provide yellow playdough for sun, white for the moon and one other different colour for planets.
 Thursday: Green playdough for the '[God made the land and the plants](#)'
 Friday: children's choice (or a variety of colours) for '[God made the animals and people](#)' (and '[God made the birds and fish](#)' from day 5)
- (c) **Free Creations:** Provide matchsticks, pebbles, feathers etc. and allow children to be a creator. What can they create? Encourage them to create something living, rather than a robot or machine. Talk about all the amazing things that God made.
- (d) Practise making the numbers 1 to 7 with playdough. [The Bible tells us that God made the world in 6 days and rested on day 7](#)

5. Outdoors

- (a) **Collect lots of things that God has made:** A leaf, a stick, a stone, a feather, a blade of grass, a worm.
- (b) **Go on a [Creation Hunt](#) and mark off what you see:** There is a '[Creation Scavenger Hunt](#)' sheet in our 'Additional Resources' designed to tie in to [the Creation story](#) by hunting for things that were made on each day of creation.

 Or just make up your own hunt e.g. a bird, a cloud, a spiders web, a flying bug, an animal footprint, a human footprint, a tree, a butterfly, a puddle, the sun.
[Refer to the Creation story. On which day did God make these things? What did God say when he made them?](#)
- (c) **Do leaf or bark rubbings.** [God is amazing to make everything so special.](#)
- (d) **Make natural pictures** of things that [God made](#). Or make a picture of [each day of creation](#), using natural objects
- (e) **Go on a mini beast hunt**
- (f) **Explore the wonders of creation in a Wee Green Space or similar area.** You will be amazed at what the children discover. [Isn't God's world great!](#)
- (g) **Plant seeds, bulbs or vegetables** and care for them as they grow. What is needed for them to grow? [God made light, water and air](#)
- (h) Arrange a **pond dipping** outing. Did you know all these things lived in the water? [God didn't just make fish!](#)
- (i) Have a community **litter pick**. [Christians believe we should look after God's world](#)
- (j) **Weed** an overgrown area and plant something in it.

4. Writing Table

- (a) Make a [creation wheel](#) – see the internet for lots of ideas. Children can colour a pre-printed one or make their own and practice writing their own numbers on it. Alternatively, cut the rim off a paper plate and divide the circle that is left into six sections. Allow children to stick magazine cuttings onto each section to illustrate a single day of creation. They do not need to be in order. Use a split pin fastener to attach the circle to the centre of a complete paper plate. On the rim, draw an arrow pointing towards the centre. Take turns to ask someone [what God made](#) on a specific day of creation. They can then turn the arrow to the correct picture. [Talk about the Creation Story.](#)
- (b) Can they write the numbers 1 to 7? [The Bible tells us that God made the world in 6 days and rested on day 7](#)
- (c) Can they draw a picture of [God's face](#) at the end of each day. [How does the story say he felt about what he had made?](#)

5. Small World

Lots of scope: A zoo, a farm, a garden. [God made a lovely world with a variety of animals and plants for us to enjoy.](#)

6. Sand and Water:

God made the land and sea.

- (a) Add soil to the sand tray and hide small potatoes or other seeds in it.
- (b) Provide trowels, pots and other items for planting and growing.
- (c) Provide natural objects such as sticks, stones and shells
- (d) Wet sand: Allow children to landscape the earth with mountains, valleys and plains.
- (e) Provide toy fish to play with in the water tray

7. Snack Area

- (a) Fruit: Talk about all the different types of fruit trees that [God made](#). Which is your favourite?
- (b) Make a fruit kebab or a smoothie with your favourite 2 or 3 fruits
- (c) Make simple fairy cakes and decorate them into different animals. [God made all the animals and said that they were good.](#)
- (d) Try making a fun ladybird from babybel cheese. (check the internet) [God made mini-beasts too!](#)
- (e) Try a selection of different vegetables. [Who do Christians believe made the plants and seeds and earth? Who made the light and the water to help them grow?](#)

8. Literacy

- (a) Read the [Christian Creation](#) story from a [Children's Bible](#). Suggestions are:

The Beginners Bible	ISBN 9781859855546
The Big Bible Storybook (Scripture Union)	ISBN 9780281081127
The First Lion Bible	ISBN 9780745961033
The Jesus Storybook Bible	ISBN 9780310708254

...or use a selection of stand alone picture books about the [Christian creation story](#). There are plenty available e.g.

In the Beginning, Rachel Elliot ISBN 978-1474860451

- (b) Puppets

- Make happy faces with paper plates and allow children to join in with "God said that it was good"
- Provide (or make) animal finger puppets .
- Cut out animal shapes from cardboard, attach a lollipop stick and use them as shadow puppets using a light and a wall. The children will love it! How many different animals can you make? [How many did God make?](#) [Wow!](#)

9. Numeracy and Mathematics

- (a) Learn a song about the days of the week. [God made the whole world in just 6 days. On day 7 he rested and enjoyed it!](#)
- (b) Counting to 7: Lay out 7 of different things (beads, sticks, shells, small blocks etc.) and see if the children can sort them into categories. Practise counting to 7 with them.
- (c) Practise making the numerals 1 to 7 – on paper, with chalk, with playdough, outside with mud or natural objects
- (d) Data Handling: Collect outdoor items and make simple pictographs of how many sticks, stones, feathers etc. you have. Which is your favourite? [God liked them all. After he had made them he said 'It is good'](#) Talk about the wonderful world God made.

Do a litter pick to [care for God's world](#) and make a pictograph of what you have collected. [How do you think God feels when we don't take care of His lovely world?](#)

- (e) Big and Small – sort animal cards into big animals and small animals. Sort natural items into big/small thin/thick, heavy/light [What a variety of animals God made.](#)

10. Music Area

'God made my Hands to clap, clap, clap' God made people to be very special

'God made the stars'

Both available from itunes (album Mr Cow – the best of Julia Plaut)

or try Out of the Ark for simple Creation songs. Choose from animal songs, mini beast songs, all about me songs

<https://www.outoftheark.co.uk/products/early-years/early-years-songbooks/>

There are many simple songs and rhymes about animals, and fish e.g Old MacDonald, Slippery Fish. As you sing them, ask the children "Who do Christians believe made the fish, the pigs etc.?"

11. Science

- (a) **Growth:** Indoors - plant cress, seeds or beans. Outdoors – plant bulbs, vegetables, outdoor flowers. Christians believe that God made them all!
- (b) **Examine flower heads** and learn the parts of a flower. Isn't God amazing to make each flower so detailed.
- (c) **Seasons:** investigate what happens in the different seasons. What a wonderful, interesting world God has made.
- (d) **Animal classification :** Which ones live in the sea? On the land? in the air? God made them all!
- (e) **Make a volcano** and investigate these and other natural phenomenon. Christians believe God is powerful and understands how all these things happen.

12. Role Play

Exploring aspects of God's wonderful world:

- (a) a planetarium
- (b) a spaceship
- (c) a garden or garden centre
- (d) a woodland nook
- (e) a vets
- (f) a farm
- (g) a zoo
- (h) a beach scene
- (i) a beauty salon (to fit in with 'God made people special')