



MUST KNOW BIBLE STORIES

stories worth exploring

The Christian Creation Story

Early Level: Teacher-led Activities

1. Introducing the Bible

To begin, introduce the word 'Bible' and the word 'Christians' to the pupils to allow them to have a clear understanding of what they are learning about. Show the children a children's Bible and tell them:

This is a very special book. It's called 'The Bible' and it contains lots of exciting stories.

Let's all say together. "The Bible"

And people who believe the Bible are called Christians

Let's all say together "Christians"

Christians learn more about God and Jesus by reading the Bible. Have you ever wondered how things got here? How did the first tree get here? How did the first flower get here? Different people believe different things. Today, I want to tell you a very special story from the Bible. It's the story of how Christians believe the world was made. It's the very first story in the whole Bible, the story of creation.

Try learning and saying this rhyme together:

Here is a Bible, I've brought it for you (open hands like a book)

And Christians believe that what's in it is true! (use BSL for true – one hand flat, one hand comes down perpendicular to it. See: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/true>)

2. The Creation Story

See the Story Script for Creation Early Level for a fun, interactive way to tell the story. This story is a super story to do outside. It's easy and much more fun! Why not give it a go.

Beforehand: Print off the 7 slides in the Creation powerpoint (bibleworld.co.uk/resources). Label them (in the correct order!) from 1-7 on the back. Laminate them.

Now that you have introduced and told the story, choose from the following options to explore it further. Don't forget to tell the story again on each occasion. The first option contains some suggestions of how to do this.

1. Revisiting the Story

Revisit the creation story in a number of different ways to allow the children to get to know it.

Try these suggestions:

- Read it from the Beginners Bible
- Give out Bibles to pairs of children and ask them to look at the pictures and 'read' or tell it to their partner. Feedback to the class. What was each pair's favourite day? Why? What did God think when he made that day?
- Use the laminated pictures of each day of creation: available in the Creation powerpoint (bibleworld.co.uk/resources). Ask the children to help you put them in the correct order.
- Use this video from the Beginners Bible https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_PBpCA2nxG8 (stop at 2 min 11s) . To make it more interactive, try pausing it at the end of every day and say "and God said that it was good" asking the children to do thumbs up for good at the appropriate time.
- Or try this lovely video from Saddleback kids. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=teu7BCZTgDs>
- Repeat your original way of telling the story. Young children love repetition!
- Allow lots of time for acting out the story and allow the children the opportunity to make their own suggestions.

2. Summarise the Story

Use this action rhyme. Repeat it regularly to emphasise the key learning.

Tell the children that Christians believe that God created the world, it wasn't an accident. They believe that:

God made everything out of nothing (action move arms around for everything, make zero with fingers for nothing.)

Everything God made was good. (thumbs up)

3. What did God Make? Outdoor Scavenger Hunt

We've heard how Christians believe that God made the world. Now do you think we could find some things that the Bible story tells us that God made? First talk about boundaries and what's ok and not ok to bring back.

As they bring their objects back, emphasise 'yes, that's something God made. It says in the Bible God made everything'.

Simple version:

a feather
a brown leaf
a stick
a blade of grass
some moss
y shaped twig etc.

Harder version (choose a selection)

Something small
something smooth
something rough
something long
something green
something dead
something living
something growing
something thick
something thin
something with an unusual shape
something flat
something grey
something fuzzy
something with a hole in it
something beautiful
something a bird might eat
something bumpy
something soft
something prickly
something patterned
something tiny
something that snaps

Choose appropriate items for the level of your class and for your own outdoor area. According to the level of your children and what you are doing in Maths, you could get them to sort the objects as they bring them. Small to big, thin to thick etc.

Chat about the objects. Which was the most difficult to find? What do you like about it? Is there something you don't like about it?

What does the Bible tell us that God thought about everything he had made? He thought it was good. (make the thumbs up sign.)

4. What did God Make? Indoor Alternatives

- Print/cut out from magazines lots of small pictures of the elements of creation. Make a collage of the different days of creation. Emphasise that Christians believe God made all these things.
- Ask the children to draw a picture of their favourite outdoor place. Maybe the beach, or the forest or the park. Encourage them to include lots of detail. Emphasise that Christians believe God made all these things.
- Act it out: Can you act out something God made? Can your friends guess what it is? Which day of creation does the story say you are from?

5. Use your Senses to Explore God's Creation

Don't forget to link each activity to the learning. You can do this by simply saying 'it says in the Bible that God made the whole world – not just things to see, but also things to eat, to smell, to touch and to hear. Christians believe that best of all, God made people. He made people special, with eyes to see, ears to hear, a nose to smell, fingers to touch and even an amazing tongue to taste different flavours.

Sight

Go on a scavenger hunt to find one thing for each day of creation. There is a sheet available for this in additional resources – or make up your own. Have a rest at the end, just like the story tells us that God did! Use the hunt to reinforce the Creation story. The sheet can help you with this.

Taste

Have a fruit tasting session. Look at all the different types of fruit that it says in the Bible God made. Which ones did you like? In the creation story, God said they were all good! Why not choose your favourites to make your own smoothie! You could record your results in a pictograph.

Smell

Have a session smelling different things that Christians believe that God has made e.g a hyacinth, an orange, some cloves or other spices. Christians believe that our world is full of nice smelling things that God has made.

Hearing

Go outside and listen for the sounds of nature: a bird tweeting, a seagull squawking, a duck quacking, a dog barking, a bee buzzing. Christians believe that God made them all and he was pleased with what he had made.

Touch

Go outside and go on a feely hunt. Look for rough bark, a smooth stone, cold water, a spiky bush, dry sand etc. Christians believe that God made them all – so many different textures!

6. Make a Picture

Resources Required: rectangular cloths.

Allocate each group a day of creation, give them a piece of cloth and ask them to go searching for natural objects to make a picture of the things that the story tells us that God made on that day. To help, you may wish to show them the laminated pictures from the Bibleworld powerpoint.

Alternatively divide your children into groups and allocate pictures as follows. Two groups can do the same picture if necessary.

- Sea, land, trees and plants
- Sun, moon and stars
- Birds and fish
- Animals and people

Feedback and praise children's efforts.

What does the story tell us that God said about what He had made? (thumbs up)

What should we say about each other's work? (thumbs up)

Indoor Option

If necessary, this activity can be done indoors using loose collage parts (feather, foam, match sticks, pipe cleaners etc.)

7. Resting

Go outdoors. Imagine you are super small! Can you make a cosy den for yourself out of natural materials? Or how about making a house for a ladybird or other tiny animal of your choice.

Ask the children what the story tells us that God did on day 7 - after he had made everything? (A - he rested and enjoyed it all). Is their 'den' a good place for their animal to rest? How do they like to rest?

8. Saying Thankyou

Resources needed: Stephen Fischbacher's 'Weird and Wonderful' (album: I wonder Why).

Sit in a circle and listen to Stephen Fischbacher's 'Weird and Wonderful' (album: I wonder Why). God made a wonderful world. What do you think we could say to God? (thank you!). I wonder what your favourite part of the world is? Which weird and wonderful animal do you like best? What would you choose to say thank you to God for?

Go round and ask the children what their favourite animal is – ask either a selection of children or each one, depending on the class. (You could add 'God was pleased when he made the cheetahs' (or whatever their suggestion was) They were good (thumbs up).

9. People are Special

Resources needed: parachute.

Remind the children what God made on day 6. People! People are all different, let's see how.

- Sing the song: 'God made people who can clap and wave, clap and wave, clap and wave, God made people who can clap and wave. All day long.' (tune of wheels on the bus). Ask the children for suggestions for each verse.
- Using a parachute, mushroom the parachute and call out different characteristics that make people different. Children with that characteristic, should run underneath the parachute to a new space. Characteristics could include brown hair, blue eyes, wearing glasses etc.

If you are in the classroom with no parachute, children could jump up if they have that characteristic.

Christians believe God made us all different, but he loves all of us and wants to be our friend.

10. God Made us Unique (part 1)

Resources needed: enough playdough for each child to have a small ball each. A small mirror.

- At their tables, give each person a piece of playdough. Ask them to make a model of their face out of it. Look at each other's faces. What did God say when he made people? 'That's good!' (thumbs up) Let's tell each other that we think your face is good.
- Allow a few children to look in the mirror and to suggest something (physical) that God likes about them - or, if they are shy, ask their teacher to suggest something.

God likes you! There's no one else in the whole world like you. He was pleased when he made people.

- Now ask the children to look at a friend and tell them two things they like about them - hair colour, nose shape, colour of eyes etc.

Feedback from a few pairs. Direct their responses to the fact that God made them all unique. Christians believe that everyone is special to God.

11. God Made us Unique (part 2)

Resources needed: a small cotton bag or other receptacle to pass around containing several pieces of paper each with a different positive characteristic on it, e.g helpful, kind, loving, friendly, patient. These are available in a file called 'Characteristics' in the **Additional Resources**.

There are other ways that we are special, apart from what we look like. While sitting in a circle, pass a bag around and sing this song to the tune of 'here we go round the Mulberry Bush) :

**God made people who are special to Him, special to Him, special to Him,
God made people who are special to Him, let's see how?**

Each time you stop singing, a child can take a piece of paper out of the bag. The teacher should read it and place it in the middle of the circle, saying 'some people are special because they are ... helpful, kind, generous, patient, gentle, loving, friendly (whatever the piece of paper says).

When there are no pieces of paper left in the bag, ask the children to turn to the person beside them and think of one positive word to describe them that's not to do with what they look like.

e.g. always smiling, funny, helpful,

It says in the Bible that when God made people, he made them to be like him. That's strange! Do you know what God looks like? I don't! In fact the Bible doesn't tell us. (On another occasion, you might like to have a discussion or draw a picture of what **you** think God looks like.)

But It says in the Bible that God is loving and kind and helpful and generous and faithful to his promises and lots of other good things.

It says in the Bible that God made people "in his image", that means we can be loving, kind, helpful and generous too! Maybe that's why he said they were (thumbs up) **very** good.