



Junior Church

LESSON PLANS: 10-05-20

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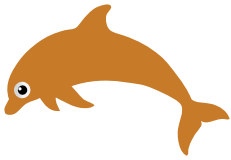
God makes animals and people

Activity time: 10–15 minutes

Aim: to understand that God created many different birds, fish and animals

You will need: a timer, a small prize (optional)

1. Read Psalm 148 together and think about all God has created.
2. Give out paper and pens. If you have a large group, divide the children into twos or threes.
3. Invite a confident reader to read Genesis 1:20–25.
4. Challenge the children to see how many different birds, fish and animals they can think of and write down in a minute.
5. First, give them a minute to write down as many different birds as they can think of.
6. When the timer goes off, add up the totals. The individual or group who named the most is the winner.
7. Do the same for fish and animals. You could award a prize to the overall winner.
8. If you have time, add up how many different birds, fish and animals the group thought of in total. Remind them that God created each one – and many more!



Dolphins

(Age 3, F1 & F2)

Bible story & Play-dough creatures

Activity time: 15–20 minutes

Aim: to thank God for the animals he has made

You will need: play-dough (recipes below), boards, rolling pins, animal cutters, play-dough tools

1. Tell the story below, encouraging the children to join in with animal sounds and movements. God was pleased with all he had made: how can we show we are pleased? Clap hands, cheer, thumbs up or something else? Choose and practise one method.
2. Explain that God had finished making the world. Say: God was pleased with it. (Show you are pleased.) Now he wanted to fill his world with living creatures. First, he made fishes for the sea. (Wiggle your hand.) Can you think of any other creatures that live in the sea? Can you wave your arms like an octopus? And walk sideways like a crab? God was pleased with the fish. (Be pleased.) God made birds to fill the sky. (Flap your arms.) Can you think of the names of any birds? Can you stand on one leg like a flamingo or waddle like a duck? God was pleased with the birds. (Be pleased.) God made lots of animals. Can you think of any animals? Can you wave your trunk like an elephant or trot like a horse? Can you bark like a dog or roar like a lion? God was pleased with the animals. (Be pleased.) Best of all, God made people, like you and me. (Point to each other.) What can people do that animals cannot do? We can speak and smile, sing and dance, pray and praise God. Can you do any of these now?
3. Declare, 'God was very pleased with everything he had made.'
4. Give each child a lump of play-dough on a board.
5. Encourage the children to model animals with it. If they ask for help, you could suggest rolling out a long thin snake, spiralling a long 'sausage' to make a snail, or pushing eight legs on to a ball of dough to make an octopus (or spider).
6. Alternatively, the children could cut out animal shapes (including fish and birds) with cutters. Encourage the children to use the dough tools to mark on feathers, fur or scales.
7. Talk about how the children are making play-dough animals, but God makes 'real' animals. How amazing God is to make living creatures! Pray, 'Thank you, God, that we can make play-dough animals and you can make real animals.'

Play dough recipes

Quick dough

This is not a precise dough recipe but the variation in the dough can be fun in itself. The type of flour used and even the weather can make dough vary greatly. The advantage of this recipe is that children can join in safely and do their own preparation, which is as much fun as 'real' cooking.

You will need: 1.5 kg flour, 500 g salt, 400 ml water, a large mixing bowl

- 1 Mix all the ingredients together in the bowl.
- 2 If the mixture comes out sticky, provide children with plenty of extra flour when playing with it. If it comes out dry, splash on a little water as they play with the dough.

Play dough

Children love to play with generous quantities of dough. This recipe makes enough for four children to enjoy.

You will need: 1 kg plain flour, 500 g salt, 50 g cream of tartar, 75 ml cooking oil, 1.5 l water, food colouring, a large strong saucepan (not your best!)

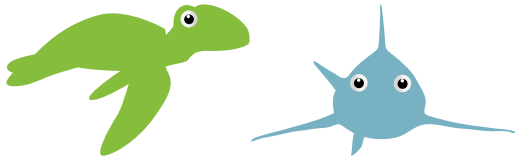
- 1 Put the dry ingredients and oil in the saucepan.
- 2 Add a few drops of food colouring to the water.
- 3 Pour the coloured water slowly into the saucepan, stirring all the time. Mix well to try to get rid of lumps.
- 4 Put the pan on a medium/low heat and cook. Keep stirring all the time, until the mixture starts to pull away from the sides of the saucepan.
- 5 Remove the pan from the heat and tip the dough out on to a heat-resistant surface. Use a wooden spoon if it is clinging to the saucepan. Put the pan to soak immediately.
- 6 If you have a sturdy food mixer or processor with a dough-making attachment, use this to knead the dough. The warmer the dough is as it is kneaded, the better the final product. If you are kneading by hand ensure that it has cooled down well: it retains heat in the centre. Keep kneading until the dough is smooth and elastic.

Salt or baking dough

This dough can be used as ordinary play dough, but can also be cooked to make a hard, long-lasting model. Please note: make sure hands are not cut or grazed before using this type of dough as the saltiness may sting.

You will need: 300 g plain flour, 300 g salt, 15 ml cooking oil, 200 ml water (multiply quantities up for a larger group of children), a large mixing bowl

- 1 Mix everything in the bowl. Add a little more water if the dough seems too dry. Tip out on to a floured surface. Knead well (or use a mixer). Keep going until the dough is smooth and springy.
- 2 Give the dough to the children to play with and shape.
- 3 To cook finished items: put them on a greased baking tray in the centre of the oven. Salt dough cannot be cooked in a microwave oven. Small items need to be cooked for 10–20 minutes at gas mark 4/350°F/180°C.
- 5 Large items need to be cooked overnight at gas mark 0.5 /250°F/130°C. The larger and thicker the item, the longer and slower it needs to be cooked.
- 6 When the items are cooked and cooled, allow children to decorate or play with them. Baked items will last a long time as the salt acts as a preservative.



Turtles Sharks

(Year 1 & 2)

(Year 3 & 4)

Prayer chart

Activity time: 10–15 minutes

Aim: to thank God for his world and to think about our part in looking after it

You will need: Splash sheet 36 (attached)

1. Give out copies of the weekly chart from page 36. Read the sentence at the top together. Discuss what the children might say in their thank-you prayers. Younger children could copy out phrases or a whole prayer.
2. Explain how the chart works. Through the week the children should write or draw in the spaces things they see that God has made – for example, along the plant line they might draw a potted plant, an apple tree or flowers in the park.
3. Challenge them to fill in the bottom section at home as they think about God's world. What can they do to look after God's world? What do they want to say to God about their part?

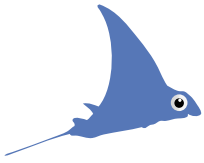
God has given us a wonderful world.
Write a thank-you prayer here.

Use your prayer every day.

Write or draw here the things you see during the week.

plants							
birds							
animals							
people							

My part.
Write here what you can do to look after God's world.



Psalm praise

Activity time: 10–15 minutes

Aim: to praise God the Creator in whose image we are made

You will need: musical instruments (optional)

1. Make sure everyone can see a Bible, or the words of Psalm 8.
2. Invite everyone to join in reading the psalm together, shouting verse 1 at the beginning, and verse 9 at the end. For verses 2 to 8, divide the group in half and read alternate verses.
3. Challenge the children to write their own poem or song to praise God. They could do this in groups or individually. If you have musical instruments available, use them to join in praising God.