

God: creator or created?



Introduction:

The aim of this session helps young people explore God as creator and their understanding and interpretation of the creation story.

Aims & objectives:

- Explore God as creator of the universe.
- Help young people to shape their own understanding of creation and science in relation to the Bible.
- Recognise that they are uniquely made by God.
- Understand a Christian's responsibility to look after the world.

Materials: Enough playdoh for individual models.



Activity...

Create your own

To start this session, hand out the playdoh to the group and encourage the young people to create their own fruit, vegetable or animal. When they have finished invite everyone to give their creation a name and share them with the rest of the group.

Invite the young people to look for any of their fingerprints imprinted in the playdoh. Say that these represent their unique marks as individuals and nobody has the same fingerprint. Encourage the group to look at each other's fingerprints to see who has the most interesting pattern.

To conclude the opening activity, explain to everyone that Christians believe that God created the world and that we are all uniquely made in the image of God:

“ So God created human beings in his own image. In the image he created them; male and female he created them. ”
Genesis 1:27 (NLT)



Activity...

Create your own



Engage...

God's creation



Explore...

In the beginning



Going deeper...

All things bright and...



Pause...

Psalm 8



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Engage...

God's creation

Materials: Laptop/equipment to play a You Tube clip.

Watch the You Tube clip 'God's Creation Part 1' - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AE_BX1XUSC4
After the clip, invite the young people to feed back on what the clip shows about God, creation and the universe.



Explore...

In the beginning

Materials: Genesis 1: on the 'Going deeper' worksheet, audio CD or equipment to play a video clip.

Christians believe that God created the world. Read aloud or listen to a contemporary version of the creation story together. Three suggestions are: The Message, The Word on the Street (the audio CD version is very good or the text can be found on the 'Going deeper' worksheet) or watch the following You Tube clip 'GENESIS (Week Of Creation)' - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TnCiYr8_FgA

Choose the most relevant one for your young people and when the reading, recording or video clip has finished, invite the group to talk about anything from Genesis 1 that they thought was interesting, challenging etc.



Going deeper...

All things bright and...

Materials: Copies of the 'Going deeper' worksheet (questions and images) and pens.

Divide the group into twos or threes and ask the young people to try and answer the following questions that explore the creation story further. Allow enough time so that the groups can discuss all the questions and conclude by facilitating a group discussion that addresses all their answers:

- 1) Using the 'Going deeper' images that illustrate the creation time line as told in Genesis, which day do you think was the most important and why?
- 2) Do you think the world was created in six days or do you have a different view? (You might want to share 2 Peter 3:8 - "But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day".)
- 3) Is God in the centre of the creation story or are there other forces or scientific theories at work? (i.e. the big bang and evolution theories)
- 4) What in creation speaks most to you about the character of God?

Conclude by saying that Christians believe in different theories and ideas in relation to creation and the Genesis story. However, Christians all believe in a creator God and that humans are made in His image.



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Pause...

Psalm 8

Materials: Copies of the 'Pause' worksheets (images).

Place the 'Pause' reflection cards in a circle shape on the floor with space in the middle to symbolise the world. Invite the young people to walk around (or hand around) the images imagining God creating the world and silently thinking about what this means to them. After a few moments, encourage the young people to place their playdoh models from the first activity in the central area amongst the 'Pause' reflection cards. Explain that the models celebrate God as creator and the fact that everyone is a unique part of His creation.

Conclude the time of reflection reading the alternative version of Psalm 8 (below) as a reminder that we are all stewards and co-shapers of what God has created.

Our Lord and Ruler,

Your name is wonderful, everywhere on earth!
 You let your glory be seen in the heavens above.
 With praises from children and from tiny infants,
 You have built a fortress.
 It makes your enemies silent,
 and all who turn against you are left speechless.

I often think of the heavens your hands have made,
 and of the moon and stars you put in place.

Then I ask: "Why do you care about us humans?
 Why are you concerned for us weaklings?"
 You made us a little lower than you yourself,
 and you have crowned us with glory and honor.
 You let us rule everything your hands have made.
 And you put all of it under our power -
 The sheep and the cattle, and every wild animal,
 The birds in the sky, the fish in the sea,
 and all ocean creatures.

Our Lord and Ruler,

Your name is wonderful, everywhere on earth!

