

# **GOD MADE THE WORLD**

Genesis 1

## **MAIN IDEA:**

We start by helping kids see how the writer want us know:

**WHO:** Yahweh God made this world, not the gods of the other nations and

**HOW:** God made it by only speaking, not through violence, and in a way that made things ordered instead of chaotic

**WHY:** God made the world to be a place that works in ways that match God--full of love, joy, justice, and goodness.

## **STORY**

The story begins in the beginning, of course. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Before there wasn't much at all, except for God's Spirit hovering over the waters.

Then God said, "Lights on!" God spoke and there was light and dark. And God saw the light and the dark and God said, "Oooo, that's good."

Ok, God didn't say exactly that, but nearly.

And God said, "Daytime, nighttime, sun, moon, stars!" God looked at the day and the night, at the sun, moon and stars. And God said, "Oooo, that's good."

God spoke and sky and land, the rivers and the seas, mountains and valleys were made. God looked at it all and said, "Oooo, that's good."

And God said, "Plants, your turn! Sprout and stretch. Flower and fruit." God said, "Animals, your turn! Crawl and climb, swim and squawk, fly in the sky and flip-flop in the sea. Every time, God said just a word and things are made. The earth formed all the spaces it needed, and those spaces got filled up just right.

And every thing that was made got the same response from God. "Oooo, that's good."

Now here's something important: God's people lived together in one place, but all around them were other groups of people. Those groups had stories too. Every group had a story about who made the world and how they did it. Many of their stories go something like this: The world was made when the gods got into a great big fight. The god who won split open the god who lost, stretched their body out tight, and that's what holds up the sky.

That sure sounds different from our story, so far. Yahweh God just needed to say the word, and the world became. Yahweh God made a good world full of good things. Why? Because Yahweh God is a good God. They can only make a world that matches who They are.

## STORY

The Bible tells this creation story differently on purpose, because our God is different from those other gods.

A sky filled with birds, fields filled with grass and animals to munch on it, oceans filled with fish. Good, good, and good. But something was missing.

People.

The Bible says God said, "Let us make people in our image, according to our likeness. Let them rule over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the sky, over the cattle and over the earth, and over every creepy thing that creeps along the earth. So God created people in God's own image. In the image of God, God created them."

People are made last in this special poem, because people are special. Have you heard someone say "save the best for last" before? That's happening here. God saved the best for last. The whole world God made was good. But people? Of people God said, "Oooo, that's very good." People are called "very good" by God.

God told the people, "Your turn! Fill things up, care for these creatures, expand this good start." Image bearers, after all, get to act on behalf of the one they are like. So people were invited to care like God cares, create like God created, fill up the world like God first filled it.

And when God had finished all of God's good world, God rested.

## WONDER

- I wonder what God's voice sounds like?
- I wonder if any of the animals make God laugh?
- I wonder what it means for people to be made in God's image?

## PLAY

### Animal Mix Up

Create your own creatures! Each person starts with their own paper and folds it into thirds.

- Draw a head in the top third. It can be any creature's head, real or imaginary.
- After drawing heads, everyone passes their paper to another person, and flips to the middle section. In the middle section, draw a body.
- After drawing bodies, pass the papers one more time and flip them to the bottom third.
- On the bottom third, draw legs, or tails, or flippers.
- Return the paper to the first head-artist and reveal your wacky creature creations!

## PLAY

### Animal, Plant, People

Say: I'm going to read you a clue, and you have to guess—is this clue about a plant, an animal or people?

*Get movin' option: Pick 3 spots in the room--one each for plants, animals and people--and then vote your answer by standing by that spot.*

- Who can drink up to 30 gallons of water at one time— is it a plant, an animal, or a person? (*Animal - camel*)
- Who gives off a tiny amount of light, but it's too weak for the eye to see- is it a plant, an animal, or a person? (*A person does!*)
- Who sends messages to each other by putting chemicals into the dirt— is it a plant, an animal, or a person? (*Plant - The chemicals are called 'root exudates' and tell every other living thing in the root zone how the plant is doing.*)
- Who gets smelly when they feel stressed - is it a plant, an animal, or a person? (*Plant - some plants can release scents to protect themselves from being eaten up by bugs, though some people also get smelly from sweat in their underarms while stressed.*)
- This sound can be heard from as far as five miles away— is it a redwood falling, a lion roaring, or a 3 year old screaming? (*Lion roaring. You can hear a tree fall from about 285 meters or 935 feet away. The estimate for screaming is about 1km or .6 miles*)
- Who lives the longest—plants, animals, or people? (*Plants, specifically trees. It's believed that the Great Basin Bristlecone Pine is the oldest living tree species. You'd find it in the White Mountains of California, USA, and it's estimated to be around 5,000 years old.*)
- Who gets new outer cells roughly every month- is it a plant, an animal, or a person? (*Person- the surface of our skin turns over about monthly, about 1,000 times in our lives*)

## KEY QUESTION

Every Bible story tells us at least one thing about who God is or what God is like. What did you notice this time?

## PRAY

Say: We are going to close by thanking God for the things he created. Before we start, think of one or more things God made that you really like—the mountains or beach, an animal, your family or friends. I'll start and pray "Thank you God for creating..." and then we will make a big long list. (You could take turns around a circle, point to different kids for their turn, or just let kids jump in.)

Pray: "Thank you God for creating..."