

Day One: God Creates

Lesson for the Day: Everything God created is good.

The story of creation in the book of Genesis describes God's relationship with all created things, including us! The story helps us to see just how much God cares for and loves all of creation. It also reminds us that everything in creation is a gift from a loving God – a gift we are called by God to care for. This includes resources such as water and one another. God's plan for creation begins with God's overwhelming love and care, as well God's desire for harmony in the world.

Opening Activity

Tell the participants that today, you will be hearing the story of how God created the world. Invite each person to think of something God has created. Next, invite them to think of one thing God created that starts with the same letter as their first name. Take turns, allowing each person to share their name and the creation (for example, Gabriella Grapefruit or Chris Clouds.) Continue until everyone has had a turn. For younger children, allow them to name things from creation that don't match their name. If you are doing "River of Life" at home with your family, you can also invite each person to take one minute to find something around the house that God created and then share your objects together.

Bible Reading

This is meant to be an immersive reading of the creation story, involving all five senses. If you are doing "River of Life" online with a group, consider using pictures or audio as you read the story. Remember to be inclusive of children in your group with different sensory abilities.

Part 1

- Action: Turn out the lights in your room.
- Read: Genesis 1:1-5.

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

- Ask: What do you think it would be like without light? What would it be like if it were light all the time? (ex. It might be difficult to sleep.)
- Tell: God created day and night because we need both, and God called them "good." We need
- light to see and for most plants to grow. But we need night, too.

Part 2

- Action: Use a light spray bottle and a fan to spray a gentle mist over the children as they listen. If doing VBS online, share a picture of a body of water. Have a plant ready to show after the bible reading.

- Read: Genesis 1:6-13

⁶And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

- Ask: Show the children the plant and ask them, what does this plant need to grow? How do plants get water?
- Ask (younger children): What is your favorite fruit or vegetable? How many vegetables or fruits can you name?
- Tell: God separated the sky from the water, but even in the sky, there is still water – in clouds, in rain and in that sticky feeling you might get on your skin in summer. Everything God created needs water to live, including the plants around us. Without water, there is no life.

Part 3

- Action: Show pictures of birds and undersea creatures. If doing VBS at home, invite children to find pictures, books or toys that represent birds or undersea creatures.

- Read: Genesis 1:14-23

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights¹⁴ in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." ²¹So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

- Ask: How many birds can you name? How many things can you name that live underwater? For older children, ask them to name things that live underwater that are not fish.

Part 4

- Read: Genesis 1:24-31

²⁴And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

²⁷So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." ²⁹God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

- Ask (older children): What did God call everything God had made? (God called everything good.)
- Why do you think God called everything "good"? What are some ways that different parts of creation depend on each other? (ex. Humans need water to drink. Animals need plants to eat. Plants need the sun.)

- Ask (younger children): What did God call everything God had made? (God called everything good.) What are some of your favorite parts of God’s creation?
- Tell: God created everything, and God called each thing “good.” Each part of God’s creation is important and can show us how much God loves the whole world.

Part 5

- Go to Bethesda’s Website to find coloring pages, crafts, worksheets, videos, and music for Day 1.

Closing Prayer

Invite children to think about one thing God created that they are thankful for.

Dear God, thank you for creating so many amazing things, from the sky to fish to each and every one of us. Especially today, we give you thanks for the things we name now: [Invite the children to say what they are thankful for.] Be with us today as we learn about the people you created who live in Cambodia. Amen.

VIDEO:

This video is part of ELCA World Hunger’s “River of Life” Vacation Bible School and is a great way to share the story of the day with children participating either online or at home.

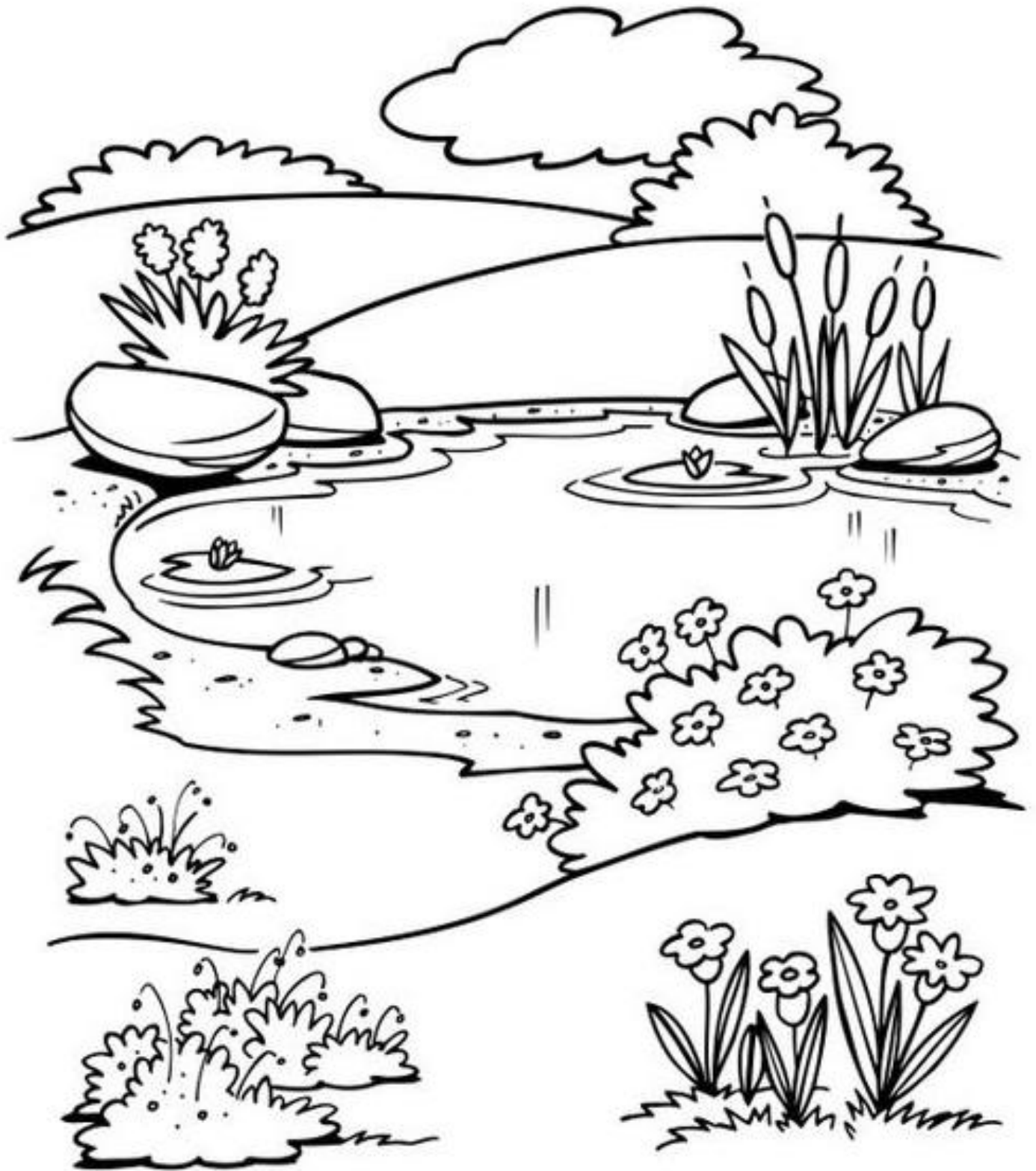
<https://vimeo.com/showcase/7224146/video/540836298>

MUSIC:

Please enjoy the YouTube video by Ellie Holcomb called “Sing” (or search YouTube.com for Ellie Holcomb, Sing, but the below link brings you to a video with words on screen)

https://video.search.yahoo.com/video/play;_ylt=AwrJ6OIjwNBgNYEA6QG3mWRH;_ylu=c2VjA3NyBHNSawN2aWQEdnRpZAMEZ3BvcwMy?p=copy+elle+holcomb+music&vid=638672af07153663667538b32c9dfbb3&turl=https%3A%2F%2Ftse2.mm.bing.net%2Fth%3Fid%3DOVP.3GeHopVz1GoBmEf-0P7_wwHgFo%26pid%3DApi%26h%3D150%26w%3D250%26c%3D7%26rs%3D1&rurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DLMdSpLFv5Qs&tit=Ellie+Holcomb+-+Sing&c=1&h=150&w=250&l=223&sigr=uDPndhrWs_h&sigt=bdxsBL7YUI36&sigi=hVtiug2RQML1&age=1538745135&fr2=p%3As%2Cv%3Av&fr=ipad&tt=b

God made everything.

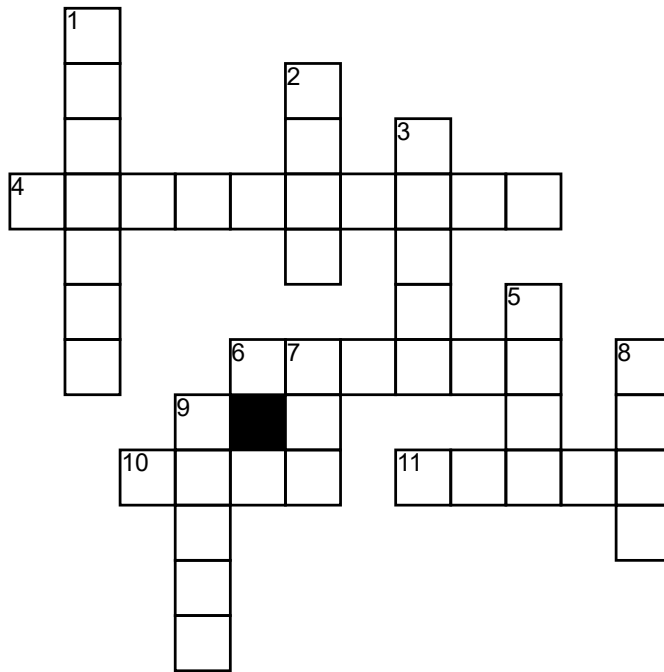


The Beginning (Genesis 1)

Name: _____

Date: _____

Creation Story



Across

- 4. On day 3, god also created, _____.
- 6. On the 7th day God _____.
- 10. Which day did God create birds and creatures?
- 11. What was made from Adam's rib? A _____.

Down

- 1. The name of the first story of the Bible.
- 2. The gathering of the waters.
- 3. God made _____ on the first day.
- 5. The name of first man God created.
- 7. The name of the first woman God created.
- 8. Appeared on the 3rd day when God gathered the waters together.
- 9. God called darkness, _____.

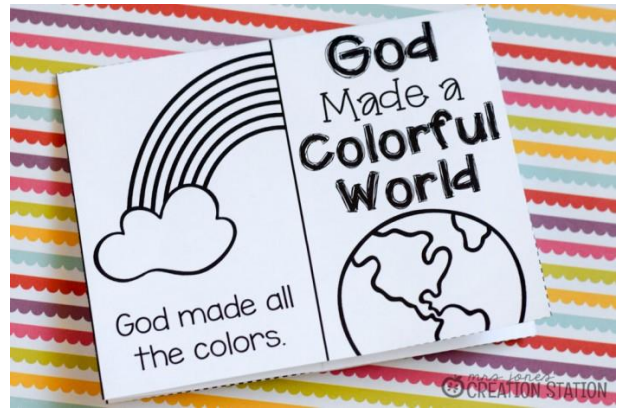
Print out attached template



First, fold the book in half...



Then, fold it in half again...



Next, unfold the last fold and cut on the dotted lines...



Fold the book "hot-dog style" and push the outer sides together so that it folds in the middle like so...

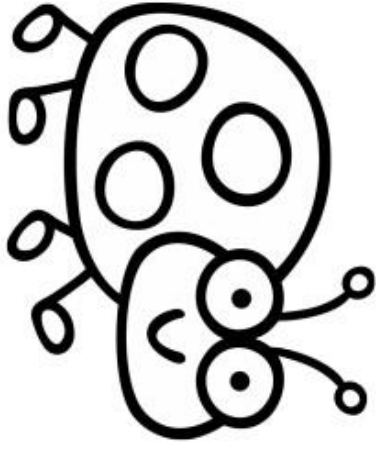


The uncut edges should line up when the book is pushed together leaving you with these pages of the front and back of the book...



Finally, fold on the line to create the book!!! A little tricky, but totally worth it!

God made a **red** bug.



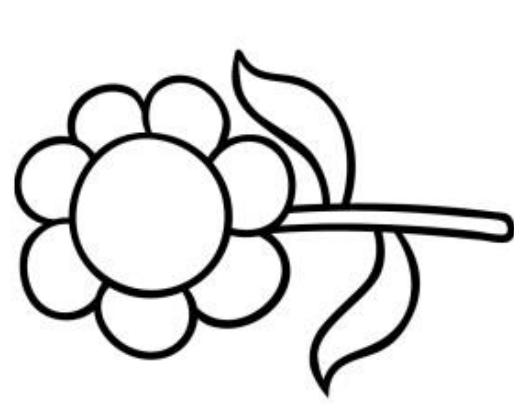
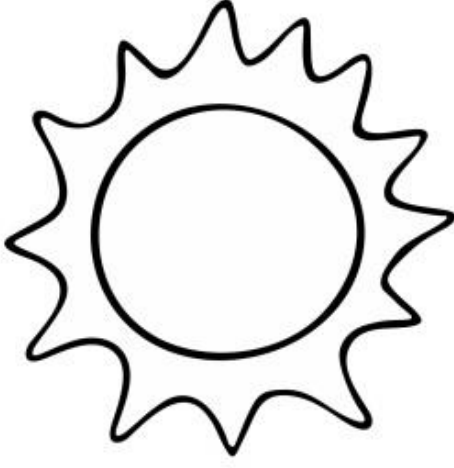
God made **blue** sky.



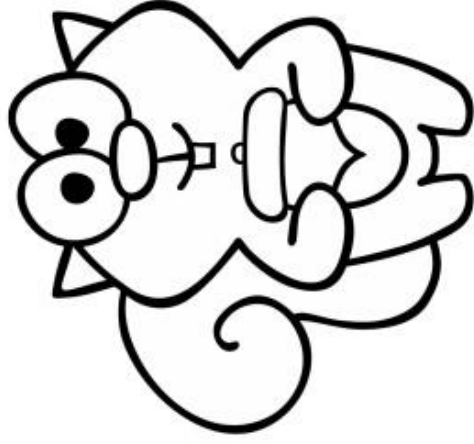
God made **green** grass.



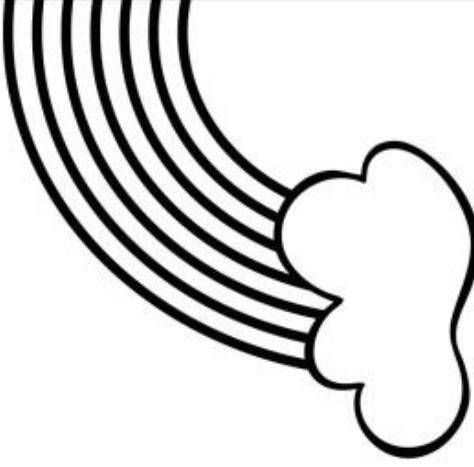
God made a **yellow** sun.



God made a **purple** flower.



God made a **brown** squirrel.



God made all the colors.

God
Made a
Colorful
World

