

God makes the sky and everything in it, and it is amazing



AT1A

Genesis 1

Aim: To see how amazing and powerful God is



Every story has to have a beginning and the Bible starts with an account of how our earth was formed. The first book of the Bible, Genesis, literally means 'beginning' and in its early chapters presents a poetic progression of creation that begins with light before it moves on to describe the origin of sky land and sea. This world is then populated with plants, sea creatures and animals. In a final act humans are given responsibility for this world; a planet that is repeatedly described as good. The first couple of chapters of Genesis do not pretend to offer a scientific explanation although there is a logical progression of how our world was formed – it does however offer a timeless poetic tale of an almighty, powerful creator God who longs to be in relationship with people.



Play a peekaboo game with everyone encouraging them to cover their eyes with their hands. As you cover your eyes say 'darkness' and say 'light' as you uncover them.

I wonder how we got darkness and light. Today's story from the very beginning of God's story the Bible tells us how God made everything and it was amazing!

Sing – As I sit quietly



Before you start reading encourage everyone to put their thumbs up every time you say the word 'wonderful' or 'good' in the stories.

Read 'God makes light and sky' (p12) and then 'God makes stars and planets' (p14). Pause and put your thumb up every time you read 'wonderful' or 'good'

Nobody know just how many stars and planets there really are but we can see millions and millions from earth. How amazing is it that God knows and loves little me when he can make so much bigness



- *I wonder which bit of God's amazing sky is your favourite. Is it the sun, or the moon or the twinkling stars? Or maybe you like the idea of big, big planets?*

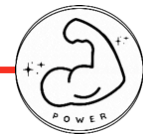


Show pictures of stars and planets and share some 'space statistics'. Wonder together at the enormity of the universe.

Create a 'map' of the solar system - https://www.theplanetstoday.com/solar_system_map.html using different size balls as planets and explaining just how far apart everything is.

Lie on the floor and close your eyes imagining that you are floating in space. Chat to God about what you can 'see'

Read page 3-7 in Bob Hartman's 'Play along Bible'



- Make night sky pictures with black paper, glue sticks and shiny things like: glitter, foil or stickers
- Make a sun with yellow handprints on white or light blue paper or stars with white or silver paint on black or dark blue paper
- Hide the baby or toddler under a blanket to represent darkness and uncover them 'to make light'
- Set up a 'night sky' for people to lie under using fairy lights poked through holes in an old dark sheet



Use 'God makes the sun' (p15) which is based on Psalm 19 as an action prayer

In the beginning, God made the bright Sun and he put it in the sky (hold your hands out with the fingers spread like sun rays and raise it upwards to the sky)

He made the bright planets to circle the sun (move your fists around each other) Up and down, round and round.

Some of the planets were very large (spread your arms and legs wide to make yourself as big as possible) and some were very, very small (curl up and crouch down)

But they all danced round the sun, up and down, round and round (move your fists around each other)

God made the bright sun (hold your hands out with the fingers spread like sun rays and raise it upwards to the sky)

And the dancing planets (move your fists around each other)

God made you (point at someone else) and God made me (point at yourself)

*Thank you God (use the 'thank you' Makaton sign of touching your chin with the fingertips of your open hand and then moving it out in front of you)
Amen*



- My God is so big, so strong and so mighty
- My God is so big, and I am so small
- Bigger than big



Give grown ups a copy of the @home prayer which is a shorter version of the one done in the group and encourage them to have a go at home, perhaps after they have spent some time looking at the sky together

In the beginning, God made the bright Sun and he put it in the sky (hold your hands out with the fingers spread like sun rays and raise it upwards to the sky)

He made the bright planets to circle the sun (move your fists around each other)

Up and down, round and round.

Some of the planets were very large (spread your arms and legs wide to make yourself as big as possible) *and some were very, very small* (curl up and crouch down)

But they all danced round the sun, up and down, round and round (move your fists around each other)

God made the bright sun (hold your hands out with the fingers spread like sun rays and raise it upwards to the sky)

And the dancing planets (move your fists around each other)

God made you (point at someone else)

And God made me (point at yourself)

Thank you God (use the [‘thank you’ Makaton sign](#) of touching your chin with the fingertips of your open hand and then moving it out in front of you)

Amen