



# God makes land, sea and plants

## 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 'land and sea'. Make sure everyone is sitting down. When you say 'land' encourage everyone to put their feet firmly on the ground. When you say 'sea' see how quickly they can lift their feet off the ground so that they don't get wet! You can make it more fun by saying lots of other words that begin with 'l' and 's' in between so that they really have to pay attention.



Have ready some props that represent different parts of God's creation mentioned in today's story - e.g. a jug of water, a plant in a pot of earth

Read 'God makes land, sea and plants (p15) using the props as they are mentioned. You could also encourage everyone to continue lifting and placing their feet when they hear the words land and sea.



- *I wonder which bit of the story is your favourite*
- *I wonder whether knowing that God made everything changes how you feel about it*
- *I wonder how God can be bigger than all these really big things*



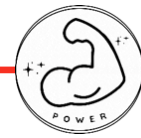
Play a memory game 'I went to the seaside and I took' encouraging everyone to remember a list of items added to by each player

Bring along some pots and compost and plant some seeds, encouraging everyone to post pictures of their growing plants on your facebook page

Provide actual or online pictures of nature and ask small groups to create a prayer for everyone to join in with using the pictures

Practice some geographical Makaton signs together - <https://youtu.be/eGyLGnWh0mk>

Consider working together to use a patch of land to grow some vegetables in a community garden



- fill used yoghurt pots with cotton wool and seeds to grow some cress
- Provide lots of large green and blue pieces of fabric for everyone to lay out in patterns to look like land and sea
- Play musical plants encouraging everyone to grow as the music plays and stand like a statue when it stops
- Gather leaves, stones and natural items to create a nature table (make sure this is supervised so that small people don't eat your exhibits!)



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