

God makes animals and asks us to look after them



AT1C

Genesis 2

Aim: To think about how God wants us to care for creation



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.



Before the session ask everyone to bring a toy animal with them.

Spend some time finding out what people have brought with them (have plenty of toy animals ready to hand out for those who don't have one) and making the noises of the different animals. If you have binoculars use these to 'spot the animals'

When God made the light and the dark, it was good. When God made the land and sea and plants, it was good. Today we are going to find out that he made animals too!

Sing – As I sit quietly



Read 'God makes animals (p16). As you do so make sure you include all the animals that are present in the room and give them time to join in with their noise.

God has given us so much to look at and so much to look after. It makes him very sad when we don't look after all that he has made



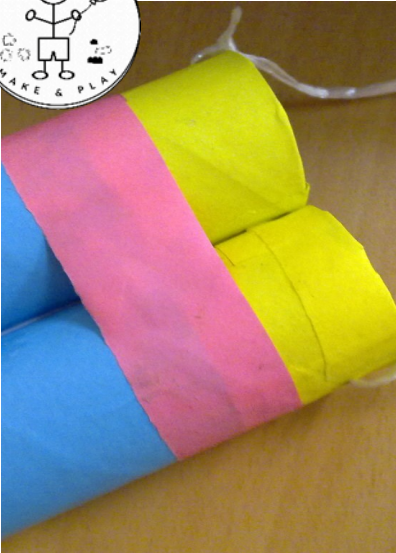
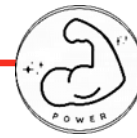
- *I wonder which animal is the noisiest in the whole world and which animal is the quietest.*
- *I wonder which animal is God's favourite or if he loves them all the same.*



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

Do some research together about endangered species and discuss what you can do to help

Come up with at least one animal for every letter of the alphabet thanking God for each and every one.



- Make binoculars out of two loo roll tubes taped together
- Set up a pretend 'petting zoo' with all the toy animals. Include pretend food, water and brushes so that the children can care for the animals
- Play a video clip of lots of different animals
- Make fingerprints with an ink or paint pad all over a piece of paper. When the ink is dry add legs, eyes, ears, etc. to make the print into an animal
- Potato print animal and bird trails by cutting paw and claw prints into the bottom half of a potato



Read 'God the maker' p11 and encourage everyone to say

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)

In between each sentence



- Sing 'Old Macdonald had a farm' changing the words to 'God the creator made a world, ee, ay, ey oh. And on that world...' asking for ideas on what animals to include
- My God is so big, so strong and so mighty
- My God is so big, and I am so small
- Bigger than big



Encourage everyone to say 'Wow. God you are amazing' every time they see an animal in real life or on screen this week