

KIDS RESOURCES

7-11



WORSHIP &
TEACHING

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ALL CREATION PRAISES GOD

Key:



– Indoor Session



– Outdoor Session



GAME

Guess the Animal Sound

Instructions:

- Open the youtube film: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnaqymgi3el>
- Ask the children to listen to the animal sounds and call out their suggestions as soon as they guess.
- The children can keep their own score.



GAME

Find a Tree

Instructions: (Demonstrate this game before playing)

- In pairs, one person is going to have their eyes closed, and one person is going to have their eyes open.
- The open-eyed person leads their closed-eyed partner to a tree within the area. The open-eyed person can place their hands gently on their closed-eyed partner's shoulders to help guide them. They also need to be aware of steps, stones, branches etc... telling their partner about them as they get close to them.
- When they get to a tree, the closed-eyed partner needs to feel the tree trunk: up and down, around the area, leaves and branches, see if they can hug the tree etc... whilst keeping their eyes closed the whole time.
- When they think they have found out all they can, the open-eyed partner walks their closed-eyed partner back to the start point.
- The closed-eye partner can now open their eyes and then try to find the tree they were taken to. The open-eye partner tells them when they have got it correct.
- Swap over.



BIBLE

Introduction

Today we are going to be learning that all of creation praises God – the Creator. We are going to be thinking about how and why creation praises God and how that affects the way we see the world. We also think about what it means to join in with all of creation as we worship. Before we start, can you remember all the days of creation? (day 1 – light; day 2 – sea and sky; day 3 – land, plant, sea; day 4 – sun, moon, stars; day 5 – fish and birds; day 6 – animals and humans.)

Bible reading: Psalm 148 (adapted from The Message version)

As you read this Psalm, have some objects and example pictures to place on a table to illustrate the different parts of creation (*There are some suggestions below*)

Hallelujah!

Praise God from heaven, praise him from the mountaintops;

*Praise him, all you his angels, praise him, all you his warriors, (*Angel representation*)*

*Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, you morning stars; (*Picture of space*)*

*Praise him, high heaven, praise him, heavenly rain clouds; (*Jar of rainwater*)*

Praise, oh let them praise the name of God — he spoke the word, and there they made!

He put them in place from the beginning of time. forever;

He gave his orders, and that's it!

*Praise God from earth, you sea-dragons, you awesome deep oceans; (*Pictures of fish/whales/sharks etc...*)*

*Fire and hail, snow and ice, hurricanes obeying his orders; (*Picture of different types of weather*)*

*Mountains and all hills, apple orchards and cedar forests; (*Fruit and Vegetables*)*

*Wild beasts and herds of cattle, snakes, and birds in flight; (*Animal models*)*

Earth's kings and all people, leaders and important people,

[Pictures of world leaders](#)

*Young men and women, even old men and little children. (*Bring up leaders of your group*)*

*Let them praise the name of God — it's the only Name worth praising. (*Globe*)*

His brilliance is greater than anything in earth and sky; he's built a monument—his very own people!

Praise from all who love God! Israel's children, close friends of God.

Shout "Hallelujah!"



BIBLE CONTINUED

Bible discussion

- In pairs, relook at the Psalm and count all the parts of creation which praise the Lord. (31)
- Do any of them surprise you?
- Why do they praise God (Because God created them and put them into place. vs.5 – 6)
- How do the mountains, stars and wild animals praise God? (by being what and who God has made them to be; by reflecting God's creative power; by inspiring awe and wonder)
- Why do people praise God? (Because God created them and put them into place. vs.5 – 6; because we can see the rest of creation praising God; because we can see God's creativity and power within creation; because we are called into relationship with God through His love.)



ACTIVITY

Creative creation reflections

Some people describe us as being part of the community of creation as everything in this world is all interconnected. This community is focused on being the best that God has made them to be as their worship. The animals, fish and birds are beautiful and expressive; making new creatures to keep them living on the earth. The seas work with the moon's gravitational pull. The winds move over the surface of the water. Together the wind and the moon cause the movements of the water around the earth. The fungi recycle all waste. People work with God to enable all of creation to flourish. We are part of a wonderful community which gives praise back to the Creator God.

Materials:

- A4 paper
- Pens and pencils

Instructions:

- Work in small groups or pairs and focus on one aspect of creation (e.g. mountains, a giraffe, an eagle or a goldfish). Draw it and then write around it how and why it praises God and how it is linked to the community of creation.



ACTIVITY CONTINUED

Creative statements

We are going to create an imaginary line across the room – one side represents, "I agree completely" and the other side represents, "I disagree completely". If you stand in the middle, that means that you agree a bit and disagree a bit – you're not quite sure.

I am going to read the statements and I would like you to stand along this imaginary line in a place which shows whether you agree or disagree. Wherever you stand needs to be your thoughts and not just whatever your friends think.

After each statement, I am going to ask a few people about why they have stood where they are – please can we listen to what each other says and respect their views even if they are different to ours.

Statements:

- People are the only ones who can praise God.
- I am part of a community of creation.
- Wasps are a nasty part of creation and need to be killed!
- Chopping down trees doesn't affect creation.
- I praise God for the same reason as the animals, fish and birds do.
- What I do to the world does not matter to God.
- Having thought about all creation praising God will make me look at the world differently.

Work in pairs to create a poem that describes how and why creation praises God. Try to include the wonders of the vast universe with the awe of the tiny insects within this community of creation. It doesn't have to rhyme.





PRAY

As we sing and pray to God, let's remember that we are joining with the whole of creation in praising God.

- Spend a quiet moment just thinking about that: think about animals you know, birds you see around you, land which surrounds us – they are all praising God. [pause]
- Now, think about the wider earth and the animals, fish and birds which live around the world – they are all praising God. [pause]
- Finally, think about the whole universe – it was all made to give glory to God. [pause]

Read out some of the poems as worship to God.

Creator God – we are in awe at the wonders of creation. Thank you for the beauty, power, creativity, variety, cleverness and love which creation shows about you. Thank you for the wonderful relationships there are between each part of creation and that we are part of this wonderful community of creation. We are each going to call out a part of creation which we love most of all [go around the circle and each child names their favourite part of creation]. Thank you Creator God. Amen.



WORSHIP

Sung Worship

"Let all Creation Sing" by ReSound: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwVM0sF-br1I>

"Creator God" by Nick and Becky Drake: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GM4I-vZuljEI>



ACTIVITY

Tree Hunt

We are going to use an ID guide to identify all the trees in the area. We are going to look at the bark, leaves, flowers (if there are any) and shape of the tree to work out what kind of a tree it is. We are going to make a list of the trees we have on site and any we can't name today, we are going to research.

Materials:

- Tree ID guides (for suggestions, see extra resources)
- Clipboards, paper and pens
- Camera

Instructions:

- Look at the tree ID guides together to see how they work and see if the children already recognise some of the trees.
- Carry out the tree identification and create a list of the trees on the site.
- Take a photo of each type of tree so that it can be printed, labelled and displayed.
- Reflect on the trees together with the following questions:
 - What do trees give to us? (beauty, fruit, oxygen, wood, paper)
 - What do trees give to the rest of creation? (food, shelter, soil, absorb carbon dioxide, absorb water, keep soil stable)
 - The Psalm says that they praise God – how are they doing that? (doing the job which God them to do, flourishing and being as fruitful as they can be)
 - What can we learn from the trees about God?

Action – natural celebration

As individuals, in pairs or small groups, use natural materials (leaves, sticks, grass, stones, feathers etc...) from around your area to create a picture of joy and celebration.

Share your pictures with each other.



PRAY

- The Psalm we read today calls for all of creation to praise God and so we are going to copy that idea and call for all creation around here to **'Praise God!'**
- Walk around your area again. Children call out, **'Praise God!'** and the leader names a plant, tree, animal, insect or bird that can be seen (e.g. 'Praise God! you Oak tree'; 'Praise God! you magpies'; 'Praise God! the ladybirds' etc...)
- Stand in a circle and recognise that we are part of creation and we are also called to **"Praise God!"** Ask the children to turn to their neighbours, on the left and right, and call them to Praise God (e.g. "Praise God Mary!")



GOING DEEPER

Tree ID guides can be found on a variety of websites including:

- The Field Studies Council: <https://www.field-studies-council.org/shop/publications/tree-name-trail/>
- The Woodland Trust: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2020/03/tree-id-kids/>
- Caring for God's Acre: <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/13-Wildlife-Safari-Tremendous-Trees.pdf>