

HOW AND WHY WAS THE WORLD CREATED?

Consider & Prepare

Below is a meeting resource to use while children and adults are together in the meeting.

Questions to ask as you plan this are:

Can everybody do it? (optional joining-in is key to this, that people can do it IF they want to.)

Can everybody sit through it? (keep each part of the meeting 5-7 minutes long for those with shorter attention spans.)

Can everybody understand it? (is the language pitched so everyone has a good chance of understanding what is being said, demonstrated or sung or prayed?)

Can everyone learn from it? (are the teaching points presented for a variety of learning styles; body, visual kinetic; and are they suited to a range of personality types and levels of introversion/extroversion.)

Is everyone connecting with it? (are there enough connections to current life and local community,

daily issues that people can see the sense in this?)

This is a special service that can be lead by a team, or all the members of a family, a Junior Soldiers group etc. There are a variety of activities listed to allow for interaction during the service, as well as quiet reflection and response.

Purpose

To affirm that the process of creation is full of mystery

- ❖ To acknowledge that however the world was formed, God was at the very heart of its design and formation and he continues to be at the very heart of its design and creation
- ❖ To explore some reasons for why God created the world
- ❖ To consider our role in creation

Key Scripture

Everything was created by him, everything on heaven and earth,



everything seen and unseen, including all forces and powers, and all rulers and authorities. All things were created by God's Son, and everything was made for him. **Colossians 1:16 (CEV)**

"Our Lord and God, you are worthy to receive glory, honour, and power. You created all things, and by your decision they are and were created."
Revelation 4:11 (CEV)

Notes for Leaders

Many children in your community, as well as adults, will have heard about a variety of theories regarding creation. By the age of 10, the majority of our children will have been educated, to some extent, by their school teachers about scientific theories of creation processes.

It can be very confusing for a child to be told that the information they have been taught at school is wrong. Adults may have also accepted scientific theories of creation as fact.

Optional

You might like to play the YouTube clip by Phil Vischer called 'What's in the Bible – Creation' at the beginning of your time.

Please note that we would strongly recommend that you watch this clip beforehand and assess whether it is suitable for your faith community. Please pay particular attention to the light hearted way that the 'Big Bang Theory' is mentioned. We acknowledge that this could be offensive to some members of your community.

Song Suggestions

Hip, Hip, Hip Hippopotamus – Mainly Music

God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale – Vajda

Lord of all Creation... "God of Wonders" – Chris Tomlin

Indescribable – Chris Tomlin

If I were a Butterfly

You Will Need

For Activity 1

- ❖ Table
- ❖ 5 glasses
- ❖ Blue food colouring

- ❖ A funnel
- ❖ A bottle of blue coloured water
- ❖ A jug containing blue coloured water
- ❖ A bowl containing blue coloured water
- ❖ A small towel to clean up any spills!
- ❖ 5 cards with the following written on them

Evolution

Big Bang

Dreamtime

Six Days

Thousands of Years

For Activity 2

Note: If you choose to do this in smaller groups then you will need to multiply the following items by the number of groups.

- ❖ Tables
- ❖ Black cloths
- ❖ Print outs of Scripture readings
- ❖ Dark coloured box
- ❖ Torch (small enough to fit in the box)
- ❖ Bowl of water or a water gun
- ❖ Rock or pebbles (enough for everyone to have one)
- ❖ Fragrant flowers
- ❖ Tray of cut fruit
- ❖ Sheet of black cardboard or small blackboard
- ❖ Silver or gold marker or white or yellow chalk
- ❖ Square piece of paper
- ❖ Scissors
- ❖ Bird in a cage or feathers
- ❖ Fish in a bowl or cut out of a fish/ picture of a fish
- ❖ Animal in a travelling cage (eg dog, cat, rabbit) or toy animal
- ❖ Playdough
- ❖ Mirror

For Activity 3

- ❖ Enough bags of coloured objects for each small group (4-5 people) to have one
- ❖ These bags can contain m&m's, jelly beans, counters, small pieces of coloured cardboard etc
- ❖ About 15-20 objects in each bag

Set Up

For Activity 1

- ❖ Place a table where everyone can see it
- ❖ Place one glass of coloured water on the

table

- ❖ Place another four empty glasses in a row next to the first
- ❖ Have a box ready containing all the other items you will need for this activity

For Activity 2

- ❖ Set up a series of elements under black cloths on a long table across the front as per the table below
- ❖ Organise beforehand for people from a variety of age groups to read the Scriptures for each of these elements.
- ❖ **Options:** sit everyone in a large circle and have the table down the centre, or divide into small groups/ tables around the room and supply each group with a set of elements

DAY	ELEMENT	CATEGORY	SYMBOLIC ITEM
1	1	Light / Dark	Dark coloured box with a lid containing a torch (switched on)
2	2	Sky / Water	Bowl of water to dip fingers in or a water gun
3	3	Land / Sea	Tray of sand / dirt + enough rocks or pebbles to give one to each person
	4	Plants	Fragrant flower + tray of fruit to share
4	5	Sun / Moon / Stars	Sheet of black cardboard and silver or gold marker
	6	Seasons	A folded square piece of paper and scissors to cut out a snowflake
5	7	Birds	A bird in a cage or some feathers
5	8	Sea Creatures	A fish in a bowl or fish cut out/ picture of fish
	9	Animals	An animal in a travelling cage or a soft toy animal Plus some playdough for volunteers to make models of their favourite animal
	10	Humans	A mirror or person with their head sticking up between tables Note: You could fix the mirror inside a box

OUTLINE - How And Why Was The World Created?

Introduction	The Creator
Activity 1	The How of Creation
Link 1	The Mystery of Creation
Activity 2	The Breadth of Creation
Link 2	The Goodness of Creation
Teaching	The Why of Creation
Link 3	The Wonder of Creation
Prayer Activity	The Colours of Creation
Response Opportunity	The Response of Creation
Conclusion / Benediction	The Love of the Creator

How and Why Was the World Created – All Age Worship

Introduction/ Call to Worship The Creator

God has set up His kingdom in heaven, and He rules the whole creation.²⁰ All of you mighty angels, who obey God's commands, come and praise your Lord! ²¹ All of you thousands who serve and obey God, come and praise your Lord! ²² All of God's creation and all that He rules, come and praise your Lord! With all our heart let us praise the Lord! **Psalm 103:19-22**

Activity 1 The How of Creation

Here is a glass of water.

I have coloured the water to make it easier to see.

You can see the water is in the glass but I wonder how it got in there.

Maybe it happened like this...

Pour the water into the second glass from the jug

But maybe it happened like this...

Place the funnel into the third glass and pour the water from the jug

Or it could have happened like this...

Dip the fourth glass into the bowl and scoop the water out

But maybe it happened like this...

Pour the water from the bottle into the fifth glass

Which way do you think I did it? How do you think I put the water into the first glass? Hands up if you think I poured it straight from the jug? Hands up if you think I used the funnel? Hands up if you think I dipped it into the bowl? Hands up if you think the water came from the bottle?

Could there have been another way for me to get the water into the glass? You can make some guesses, you can look around for clues (like a funnel or water dripping down the sides) but you can't be 100% certain unless you were there to see it for yourself. All you really know is that water really did get into the glass.

How was the world created?

As each of the following statements are read put a card in front of each glass with the words 'Evolution', 'Big Bang', 'Dreamtime', 'Six Days', 'Thousands of Years'

Some people say the answer is 'evolution'. One tiny cell developed into another and kept on growing to eventually form everything that exists today.

Some people say the answer is 'The Big Bang Theory'. One day there was a massive explosion

that started the process of creation.

Some people say the answer is that creation happened in 'The Dreamtime'. Indigenous Australians have lots of stories about how different things were created.

Some people say that God spoke and the world came into being in six days, just as the Bible story in Genesis describes it.

Some people say that God spoke and the world appeared but slowly and over many, many years.

Link 1 The Mystery of Creation

No one living today, or even thousands of years ago, was living when the world was created. Many people have ideas about what they believe happened. The Bible gives us lots of clues. Scientific research gives us some ideas. Archaeology (that's looking at stuff from the past) gives us some information. Using our senses and exploring God's creation gives us some clues. But even with all of these clues, how God created the world is still **full** of mystery.

Activity 2 The Breadth of Creation

God created some amazing stuff. We are going to spend some time discovering what the Bible tells us, in Genesis, that God made.

1. *Ask for a volunteer / family to come and lift the cloth on the first element.*

What have you discovered?

The volunteer will open the box and find 'light'.

I wonder why God created light.

Allow the volunteer to respond then open up to others.

Genesis 1:3-5

God said, "I command light to shine!" And light started shining. ⁴ God looked at the light and saw that it was good. He separated light from darkness ⁵ and named the light "Day" and the darkness "Night." Evening came and then morning...

2. *Ask for a volunteer/ family to come and lift the cloth on the second element.*

What have you discovered?

Invite the volunteer to dip their fingers in the water or to spray the congregation with the water gun!

How does it feel?

I wonder why God created water. God also created the space above the waters and we know it as the sky.

Genesis 1:6-7

⁶ God said, "I command a dome to separate the water above it from the water below it." ⁷ And that's what happened. God made the dome ⁸ and named it "Sky." Evening came and then morning...

3. *Ask for a volunteer/ family to come and lift the cloth on the third element.*

What have you discovered?

Pick up a handful of the sand/ earth and let it run through your fingers. How many grains of sand/ dirt do you think there are in this tray? I wonder how many God created in the whole world.

Ask the volunteer to take the rocks and hand them out.

Genesis 1:9-10

⁹ God said, "I command the water under the sky to come together in one place, so there will be dry ground." And that's what happened. ¹⁰ God named the dry ground "Land," and he named the water "Ocean." God looked at what he had done and saw that it was good.

4. *Ask for a volunteer/ family to come and lift the cloth on the fourth element.*

What have you discovered?

How does the flower smell? Would you like to eat a piece of the fruit? How does it taste?

God created all sorts of amazing flowers and plants for us to eat and for us to enjoy.

Genesis 1:11-13

Ask the volunteer to share the fruit.

¹¹ God said, "I command the earth to produce all kinds of plants, including fruit trees and grain." And that's what happened. ¹² The earth produced all kinds of vegetation. God looked at what he had done, and it was good. ¹³ Evening came and then morning...

5. *Ask for a volunteer/ family to come and lift the cloth on the fifth element.*

What have you discovered?

God has sometimes been described as the artist

who designed and created the world. Now I would like you to be an artist. Take the marker/ chalk and draw a sun, a moon and stars.

Hold up your creation for everyone to see. The sun, moon and stars bring light and beauty to the earth. The sun gives our plants energy to grow and the moon and stars help to mark the time when we can stop working and rest.

6. *Ask for a volunteer/ family to come and lift the cloth on the sixth element.*

What have you discovered?

Take the folded paper and cut some shapes out of the sides. Now unfold it. When God created the sun, moon and stars he also created the seasons. Winter is represented by this snowflake. What are the other seasons?

Genesis 1:14-19

¹⁴ God said, "I command lights to appear in the sky and to separate day from night and to show the time for seasons, special days, and years. ¹⁵ I command them to shine on the earth." And that's what happened. ¹⁶ God made two powerful lights, the brighter one to rule the day and the other^[e] to rule the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷ Then God put these lights in the sky to shine on the earth, ¹⁸ to rule day and night, and to separate light from darkness. God looked at what he had done, and it was good. ¹⁹ Evening came and then morning

7. *Ask for a volunteer/ family to come and lift the cloth on the seventh element.*

What have you discovered?

These feathers came from one bird but God created many different species of birds in many different countries. What is the largest bird you can think of? What is the smallest? What is the most colourful? Can anyone make some bird sounds? Strangest bird song you have ever heard?

8. *Ask for a volunteer/ family to come and lift the cloth on the eighth element.*

What have you discovered?

This in one fish but God filled the sea with all sorts of creatures. What are some other of the other creatures that God created under the sea?

Genesis 1:20-23

²⁰ God said, "I command the ocean to be full of living creatures, and I command birds to fly above the earth." ²¹ So God made the giant sea monsters and all the living creatures that swim in the ocean. He also made every kind of bird. God looked at what he had done, and it was good. ²² Then He gave the living creatures His blessing—He told the ocean creatures to live everywhere in the ocean and the birds to live everywhere on earth. ²³ Evening came and then morning...

9. *Ask for a volunteer / family to come and lift the cloth on the ninth element.*

What have you discovered?

Our amazing God filled the earth with so many different types of animals that it would take us days to name them all! I wonder why he made so many different types of animals.

I have some playdough here. Would anyone like to come and make a model of their favourite animal?

Genesis 1:24-25

²⁴ God said, "I command the earth to give life to all kinds of tame animals, wild animals, and reptiles." And that's what happened. ²⁵ God made every one of them. Then he looked at what he had done, and it was good.

10. *Ask for a volunteer / family to come and lift the cloth on the tenth element.*

What have you discovered?

God created humans; men and women, girls and boys. He made us to be like God. I wonder what it means that we are created like God.

Genesis 1:26-31

²⁶ God said, "Now we will make humans, and they will be like us. We will let them rule the fish, the birds, and all other living creatures."

²⁷ So God created humans to be like himself; he made men and women. ²⁸ God gave them his blessing and said:

Have a lot of children! Fill the earth with people and bring it under your control. Rule over the fish in the ocean, the birds in the sky, and every animal on the earth.

²⁹ I have provided all kinds of fruit and grain for you to eat. ³⁰ And I have given the green plants as food for

everything else that breathes. These will be food for animals, both wild and tame, and for birds.

³¹ God looked at what he had done. All of it was very good!

Link 2 The Goodness of Creation

God created sky, water, land, sea, plants, sun, moon, stars, birds, fish and animals and he thought it was good. He created humans and He thought it was very good. God is pleased with who He created you to be!

Teaching The Why of Creation

How God created the world is full of mystery. I wonder **why** he created the world. The Bible gives us some clues. Let's look at what the Bible tells us, remembering that this question is also full of mystery.

Each of these three reasons has two sides to it. Ask everyone to stand on one side while you explain the first half of the reason then move to the other side for the second part. Or sit / stand. Or face the left side of the room / face the right side of the room. This will give the wrigglers a chance to move, improving their concentration, as well as emphasising that each reason has two parts.

I am going to share some verses with you and also ask some questions. I want you to tell your answers to someone who is near you. Find a partner (or two) who is at least ten years older or younger than you.

1. God created us for himself

- (i) He wants to show his love by caring for us

All things were created by God's Son, and everything was made for him. Colossians 1:16

How does God care for you?

- (ii) We can show how great God is by living his way

You were created to be like God, and so you must please him and be truly holy. Ephesians 4:23-24

What is one thing you can do to live God's way?

2. God created us for each other

- (i) He created others to look after me

The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable

for him." Genesis 2:18

What has someone done to look after you today?

- (ii) He created me to look after others

Show love in everything you do. 1 Cor 16:14

What can you do to look after someone else?

3. God created the world for us and us for the world

- (i) He created the world to provide everything we need to live happily and healthily

You provide streams of water in the hills and valleys, so that the donkeys and other wild animals can satisfy their thirst. Birds build their nests nearby and sing in the trees. From your home above you send rain on the hills and water the earth. You let the earth produce grass for cattle, plants for our food, wine to cheer us up, olive oil for our skin, and grain for our health. Psalm 104:10-15

What is your favourite thing that God has created for you to eat or favourite place to visit in God's creation?

- (ii) He created us to care for the world he has created

You let us rule everything your hands have made. And you put all of it under our power— Psalm 8:6

What is one thing you can do to care for God's world?

Link 3 The Wonder of Creation

These reasons are just some of the clues we have for why God chose to create the world and to create us. We don't know the full story but we do know this...

The Lord alone is God! He created the heavens and made a world where people can live, instead of creating an empty desert. The Lord alone is God; there are no others. Isaiah 45:18

God's creation is full of mystery and it is full of wonder.

Prayer Activity The Colours of Creation

Form groups of about 4 or 5. Make sure there are

people from several different generations in your group.

Each group needs to come and take a bag of m&m's/ jelly beans/ counters/ coloured papers. Take turns choosing m&m's/ jelly beans/ counters/ coloured papers out of the bag and thanking God for something that is the same colour. For example, if you choose a green object then you might thank God for broccoli; a yellow object then you might thank God for daffodils.

When you have finished saying thank you, talk together about something new you have learnt today or your favourite thing about God's creation or about any questions you still have about creation.

Response Opportunity The Response of Creation

What is my role in creation? Genesis 1:26; 2:19-20

God said, "Now we will make humans, and they will be like us. We will let them rule the fish, the birds, and all other living creatures." Genesis 1:26 (CEV)

Stretch your arms up high as though you are reaching to the sky. God created us to be his friends and to love and take care of us.

Stretch your arms out to someone near you. You might want to hold someone's hand or give them a hug (or you might not). God created us to be friends with each other and to love and care for each other.

Stretch your arms down as far as you can to the ground. God created us to love and care for the animals, the birds, the fish, the water, and the land. He wants us to look after the world he has given us.

Earlier on everyone was given a rock/ pebble. You might like to bring your rock and place it on this table to show that you want to keep on being God's friend. You might want to give it to another person to remind them that you love them and want to take care of them. You might want to hold on to it to remind yourself to take the best care possible of the world God has given us.

We are going to take a few minutes now and you can stop and think about what you have learnt today and give your rock away if you would like to.

Conclusion / Benediction

The Love of the Creator

God is a powerful God and His ways are full of mystery. Today we have remembered that however God created the world he was in control then and he is still in control while he keeps on creating even now. He created us and this world because of his love for us.

Lord by your wisdom you made so many things; the whole earth is covered with your living creatures. You created all of them by your Spirit, and you give new life to the earth. Our Lord, we pray that your glory will last forever and that you will be pleased with what you have done. As long as we live, we will sing and praise you, the Lord God.

Based on Psalm 104:24-33 (CEV)