

THE ISLAND

LEADER	DATE (am) 11 January 2009
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

- **SERIES / LESSON:** The Creation / Day 3
- **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Genesis 1:9-13
- **CONCEPT:** God made everything

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To help kids realise that God created the earth, and that Jesus was there in the beginning.
- To challenge kids to be thankful for their sight to see the beauty of God's creation, and for His provision of plants and trees.
- To lead kids into a prayer time and help them understand that God listens.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ DVD player / laptop / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Song DVD
- ✓ Treasure chest with the flashlight inside (from last week's story)
- ✓ Display board – as you tell the story, stick up layers of coloured card to represent the elements of creation (See the picture at the end of the lesson). Light blue card / cotton wool balls / brown-green card / blue-green card / pictures of plants and trees (could be cut out of magazines and stuck onto card to strengthen them).
Drawing pins / blu tack.
- ✓ Bible
- ✓ Stones or pebbles you have gathered from a local beach (if possible) – enough for one for each child
- ✓ 2 large planting containers, with a layer of stones in the bottom for drainage and half-filled with soil
- ✓ A selection of spring-flowering bulbs (e.g. daffodil, tulip, crocus, hyacinth) – enough for one for each child
- ✓ Extra topsoil
- ✓ Watering can filled with water
- ✓ Prayer Net
- ✓ Prayer cards and pen
- ✓ Name tag box

<p>A. Worship through Music (with puppets) 10 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome kids and invite them to praise God by singing. 2. Sing 2 songs together (<i>Royalty / Super Strong God</i>). 3. Open in prayer. 4. Ask kids to lift a mat each and sit down. 	<p>You'll need ... DVD player / projector Song DVD (<i>Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God</i>)</p>
<p>B. Message 15 minutes</p> <p>1. Recap Ask a child to help you open the treasure chest and take out the flashlight you placed there last week. Ask for someone to explain the significance of the flashlight and what it should remind you of. Ask a few follow-up questions to recap last week's story of the beginning of God's creation – in the beginning there was nothing, except God; on the first day, God created the light and the darkness, or day and night; on the second day, God created the sky. Finish by eliciting the concept: God made everything.</p> <p>If you have time, you could also recap last week's Bible passage, or refer to it if you displayed it in your room: <i>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. John 1:1-2</i></p> <p>2. Set the scene <i>Change this as appropriate to you.</i> Yesterday, I went for a walk at the seaside. I try to go there at least once a week, sometimes more, because I really like being by the sea. Have you ever thought about how great it is to live in our town by the sea? We don't think about it too much, do we? We just get used to seeing the water there all the time. Well, for three and a half years, I lived in a place that was far away from the seaside. I had to travel for five hours to get to the coast! And I didn't like that. I really missed the sea in our town here. I missed going for walks on the promenade. I missed walking on the sandy beach in summer and getting my feet wet. I missed collecting seashells and pebbles from the beach. I missed watching the white waves roll in on the bluey-green sea. I missed the sound of the waves lapping on the shore on a good day and crashing on the rocks on a bad day. I missed the taste of salt on my lips ... and I even missed the smell of seaweed! Can you tell how much I love the sea? What about you? Do you like the sea?</p> <p>3. Tell the story Remember the first day God made something? What did He say? <i>Flick on your flashlight to give kids a clue.</i> "Let there be light." And on the second day, what did God make? The sky. <i>Stick up a layer of light blue card on a display board to represent sky. Add some cotton wool clouds if you wish.</i></p> <p>We know that God didn't stop there! He had a lot more work to do to make the world as perfect as He wanted it. I wonder what He decided to do next. Let's go to the Bible to find out. Does anyone remember what book of the Bible we find this story in? Genesis. And what does 'genesis' mean? The beginning or start. So where is Genesis in the Bible? Right at the very beginning.</p>	<p>You'll need ...</p> <p><i>Treasure chest (with the flashlight inside)</i></p> <p><i>Flashlight</i></p> <p><i>Light blue card</i> <i>Cotton wool ball clouds</i> <i>Drawing pins / Blu-tack</i></p> <p><i>Bible</i></p>

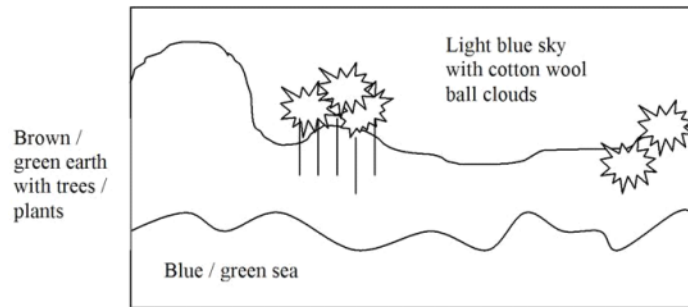
<p>the first book of the Holy Bible.</p> <p><i>Point to the sky you just placed on your display board as you read. In Genesis 1:9-10, we read, 'And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. God called the dry ground "land", and the gathered waters he called "seas". And God saw that it was good.'</i></p> <p>Kids! God made the dry land – the ground we live on and walk on, and ... God made the sea! The beautiful sea that I love so much! I should have known that God made it – no one else could make anything so strong and powerful and beautiful as the sea, sure they couldn't? Earlier we were singing about how God made the mountains and the oceans. Did you ever stop to think, when you look up at the sky, or at the hills, or at the sea ... God made that?! How awesome is God! <i>Stick up a layer of brown/green card on your display board beneath the sky, shaped like hills etc., to represent the dry land. Stick up a layer of blue/green card with waves beneath the dry land to represent the sea.</i></p> <p>Yesterday, I told you that I went for a walk by the sea. I took a bag and filled it with stones from the beach. Look at how pretty they are. <i>Show kids the stones you gathered. I'll set them here at the front to remind me of my walk at the seaside.</i></p> <p>Boys and girls, there's more to tell you about the third day of God's creation. He didn't only make the dry land and the seas. Let me read the rest to you. 'Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. <i>Stick up pictures of plants and trees onto the land on your display board as you read.</i> And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning – the third day.' (Genesis 1:11-13)</p> <p>God made all the plants in your garden. He made the tall trees we saw on the way to church today. He made the happy yellow sunflowers that we grow in summer, and the beautiful perfumed roses, and even the little daisies and buttercups that grow in the grass. He made trees that grow fruit for us to eat, and vegetables that grow in the ground. Plants and trees to look at, to eat and be thankful for. Amazing! Let's take a walk around the church garden and see what plants we can spot. <i>If the weather is suitable, and your church has some form of garden or planted area, take the kids out to look at the different plants and trees. Encourage discussion by asking them about the differences and similarities in the size, the leaves, the colour, which they prefer, etc. Bring the kids back inside.</i></p> <p>Boys and girls, at this time of year the garden looks quite bare. In winter, in our country, many of the plants and trees lose their leaves, but this is an important time for them. The plants are not dead. They are getting ready for spring when they will show their new leaves and flowers! Winter is a time of waiting in the garden, waiting for the first signs of spring.</p>	<p><i>Brown/green card Drawing pins / blu-tack Blue/green card</i></p> <p><i>Stones/pebbles</i></p> <p><i>Pictures of plants/trees</i></p>
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<p>I have an idea. Why don't we plant some spring bulbs today so that we will have flowers to wait for in a few months' time? I have two containers, one for the boys and one for the girls. There is some soil in each container. And here are some bulbs. <i>Show kids the flower bulbs.</i> Look at them. They don't look too pretty, do they? How could anything beautiful ever come out of one of these? Well, we have to remember that God designed it. He made it that way, and God never makes mistakes, so He must have wanted it to be like this. All we have to do is put it in some soil (which God made) and make sure it gets enough water (which God made) and enough heat and light (which God made) and He will do the rest. By spring, we should see the shoots appear through the soil, and then the flowers will blossom. How exciting to watch and wait for the beautiful spring flowers!</p> <p><i>Allow each child to choose the bulb they want. Provide a mixture for them to choose from – e.g. daffodils, tulips, crocus, hyacinth. Show them the right way to plant the bulb, with the point facing upwards. Supervise the boys and girls as they plant their chosen bulbs in the container of soil. Cover the planted bulbs with some more soil and press down. Pour a little water on the containers. Allow kids to wash their hands.</i></p> <p><i>When the kids leave today, put the containers in a suitable place where they will be free from freezing weather conditions. Watch the containers over the coming weeks, don't let them dry out, and wait for the first shoots to sprout.</i></p> <p>4. Explain Boys and girls, just like the bulbs we planted, we don't look perfect either. Maybe we don't like our hair or our eyes or our nose, but that's how God designed us. The bulb has a beautiful flower inside it, and if we plant it in good soil and water it with the right amount of heat and light, then the flower will grow and blossom. That's the same for us. When we tell Jesus we're sorry for the bad things we say and think and do, and we promise to live for Jesus, that's like us planting ourselves in good soil – we plant our hearts in Jesus. And when we pray and talk to God, that's like watering our hearts just like we water the bulbs in the ground. And when Jesus lives in our hearts, He gives us all the heat and light we need to grow into beautiful flowers. We might not change on the outside, but God thinks we're beautiful when Jesus lives in our hearts. And other people can see the difference in us because we try to be better; we try harder to think and say and do good things for God and for the people around us, just like the bulbs grow beautiful flowers to remind us of God's creation.</p> <p>If you would like to have Jesus in your heart, and you haven't already asked Him, would you come and talk to me before you go home today?</p>	<p><i>2 containers half filled with soil</i> <i>Spring flower bulbs</i></p> <p><i>Extra topsoil</i> <i>Watering can</i></p>
<p>C. Prayer Net 1. Ask a child to explain what it means when we <i>pray</i> – We talk to God and He listens.</p>	<p>10 minutes You'll need ... <i>Net (with last week's prayer cards)</i></p>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Explain that prayer / talking to God is very important because that's how we get to know Him. 3. Choose a child to retrieve the prayer net. Lift out the prayer cards you put there last week. Ask the kids for updates on those situations. 4. Explain that when we have something to be thankful for, or something we worry about, like our world, we need to tell God about those things. 5. Tell kids that we are going to make a note of some special prayers today and put them in the prayer net. Next week they will tell us what happened in those situations. 6. Encourage kids to thank God for creating the earth and the sea. Thank God too for making the plants and trees – and that they can grow in the earth while the sea waters them and helps them to grow. 7. Ask a few kids if they have a prayer to put into the net. As they tell you, write their name and the topic of their prayer on a small card. Ask the child to say a prayer aloud (help them to do so) before they place their card into the prayer net. 8. Finish by leading a prayer for the whole group. 	<p><i>Small cards / postcards</i> <i>A pen</i></p>
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<p>D. Conclusion (with puppets) 5 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What did God make on the first day? Day and night. What did God make on the second day? Sky. What did God make on the third day? The earth and the sea; all the plants and trees. Let's put a stone from the beach and a flower bulb into the treasure chest to remind us of what God made on the third day. 2. Ask kids to put their mats away and their name tags in the box. 3. Sing a closing song. (<i>Super Strong God</i>) 4. Allow each child to choose a stone that you picked up from the beach. They can take the stones home to remind them of our lesson today. 5. Challenge kids to remember to be thankful for their senses that they can see, hear, smell, taste and touch the beauty of God's creation. 6. Remind kids to come back this evening. 	<p>You'll need ...</p> <p><i>Name tag box</i></p> <p><i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God)</i></p> <p><i>Stones/pebbles</i></p>
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Display Board Example:



THE ISLAND cont'd

LEADER	DATE (pm) 11 January 2009
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To reinforce today's Bible concept by learning a related Scripture verse.
- To consolidate today's Bible story and concept by playing a seed guessing game and making 'strawberry roses'.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ Song DVD / laptop / DVD player / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Memory Verse Task: Slide (John 1:1-2)
Two apples – one red, one green
- ✓ Activity: Tables
 - 5 numbered paper plates with a few seeds on each plate
(e.g. green pepper, sunflower, poppy, apple, tomato)
 - 5 pieces of paper towel to cover the plates
 - A picture or an actual flower or fruit to prove the origin of each group of seeds
 - Knife
 - Pre-made 'strawberry rose' (see the Activity section below for instructions and photos)
 - Skewers
 - Green grapes
 - Strawberries (leave the hulls attached; pre-cut with a cross in the narrow end, about half-way down the strawberry)
 - Small marshmallows
 - Optional – a vase with leafy herbs to display the roses
- ✓ Small prizes (selection of bookmarks, stickers, pencils, etc.)
- ✓ Name tag box



<p>E. Worship through Music (with puppets) 10 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome kids and invite them to praise God by singing. 2. Sing 2 songs together. (<i>Royalty / Super Strong God</i>) 3. Open in prayer. 4. Kids should remain standing for the following activity. 	<p>You'll need ... DVD player / projector Song DVD (<i>Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God</i>)</p>
<p>F. Memory Verse (with puppets) 10 minutes</p> <p><i>"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning."</i> (John 1:1-2)</p> <p>*This is a theme passage for the current series. We will add verse 3 later.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have kids stand in a circle. 2. Ask a few questions to recap the series so far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Which book of the Bible tells us about how God made the world? <i>Genesis</i> - Where do we find Genesis? <i>At the beginning – it's the first book of the Bible</i> - The Bible tells us that in the very beginning, there was nothing – no mountains or seas, no trees or flowers, no earth or sky, no animals or people, nothing. Only one thing existed – what was it? <i>God</i> 3. <i>Explain:</i> God was the only thing that was there because God has no beginning and no end – He has always existed and always will! 4. <i>Explain:</i> Boys and girls, do you remember last week we learnt that Jesus was with God in the beginning too, helping God to make the world? The same Jesus who came to earth as a tiny baby at Christmas, and who grew up to be a man who died on a cross to save us and make a way for us to get to heaven. We know this because the Bible tells us: (<i>Show verses on screen and read aloud</i>) "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning." John 1:1-2 ... The Word is Jesus – God's Word of hope to the people on earth. 5. Have the kids repeat the verses a few times with you, as a group and individually. 6. When they are ready, take the verses away and have the kids recite them once or twice altogether. 7. The kids should still be standing in a circle. Choose two kids in the circle and give each one an apple (e.g. one green and one red apple). 8. <i>Explain:</i> When I say 'Go!', the two people with apples should start passing them around the circle, from person to person. The person with the green apple should pass it to the left, while the person with the red apple should pass it to the right. Keep passing the apples until you hear me shout 'Stop!' The two people left holding the apples must say the memory verse. When they have said it correctly, those two people should sit down. The other kids can move in to keep the circle close together. When I say 'Go!', start passing the 	<p>You'll need ...</p> <p><i>Memory verse slide (John 1:1-2)</i></p> <p><i>2 apples – one red, one green</i></p>

<p>apples again – green to the left, red to the right – until you hear me say 'Stop!' We will keep going until everyone has a chance to say the verse.</p> <p>9. Encourage kids to have fun repeating the verse and correcting each other. Also help them with the direction of the apples moving around the circle.</p> <p>10. Finish with a group repetition of the verses.</p>	
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G. Activity	15 minutes	You'll need ...
<p>Part One (7-8 minutes)</p> <p><i>You should prepare this activity before the kids arrive. Set up a table with, e.g. five, different varieties of seeds from flowers, trees, fruit and/or vegetables. Put a few seeds of one variety on a paper plate and number the plate. Do the same for the other groups of seeds. Set the plates of seeds at regular intervals along your table, and cover each one, e.g. with paper towel. Make sure that you have either a picture, or an actual flower, branch, piece of fruit or vegetable, etc. to prove the origin of the seeds – but keep these hidden for now.</i></p> <p><i>(We are using seeds from a green pepper, a sunflower, a poppy, an apple, a tomato. We will cut open the pepper, apple and tomato for the kids to see the seeds inside. We will show pictures of the sunflower and poppy as it is not the season for these flowers.)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ask kids to gather around the table to see what you have.2. Ask kids: What did God make on the first day? <i>Light and darkness, or daytime and night, and the sky.</i> What did God make on the second day? <i>The dry land and the sea, and all the plants and trees.</i>3. <i>Explain:</i> Today, we're going to take a look at some of the plants and trees God created. On our table, there are five plates. Each plate has some seeds on it. You must guess where the seeds came from. In other words, if we planted the seeds, what would grow? You can look at the seeds and touch them, but don't eat them.4. Uncover each plate. Supervise kids as they examine the seeds. Give them a couple of minutes to discuss the seeds with each other.5. Call the kids back to order. Starting at the first plate, ask kids to tell you what ideas they have as to the type of seed they see. Tell them the correct answer. Prove the answer by showing them a picture (e.g. on the seed packet; cut from a magazine; from a gardening book), or by cutting open a piece of fruit or vegetable, or showing them a flower or tree branch, etc.6. Thank God for seeds! Encourage kids to remember to thank God when they see the seeds in their food or on the flowers and trees in their gardens. God made everything! <p>Part Two (7-8 minutes)</p> <p><i>Clear away the materials from part one of the activity.</i></p>	<p>Table</p> <p>5 paper plates</p> <p>5 varieties of seeds</p> <p>5 pieces of paper towel to cover the plates</p> <p>A picture or an actual flower or fruit to prove the origin of each group of seeds</p> <p>Knife</p>	

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set up tables as workstations for the kids. Ask kids to find a space around the tables. 2. Ask kids: What did God make on the third day of the creation? <i>The dry land and the sea ... and all plants and trees.</i> 3. Explain: All plants and trees ... you know that some plants have beautiful flowers for us to admire in the garden, like the sunflower and poppy we saw earlier. Some trees grow really tall and wide and we can even climb up their branches and hide amongst the leaves like Rocky and the other monkeys like to do! And some other plants and trees grow beautiful fruit and vegetables that we can eat, just like the apples and tomatoes we looked at earlier. I had an idea – I thought that we could make flowers that we could eat too! Look at my beautiful, delicious strawberry rose! Show kids the 'strawberry rose' you prepared earlier. 4. Explain: This is what we're going to do. Everyone will get a skewer. You must be very careful with these because they have a sharp point. Push 4 green grapes onto your skewer to make the stem of your flower. Then push a strawberry onto the skewer, the fat end first. You will see that the strawberries have a cross cut in the top. This is to make the petals of your rose. The green leaves on the strawberries are like the little sepal leaves on a real rose. They protect the flower bud when it is growing. Then there should be just enough space for you to push a little marshmallow onto the top of the skewer, between the four petals of your strawberry rose. Beautiful and delicious all at the same time! 5. Give a skewer to each child. Place dishes of grapes, pre-cut strawberries and marshmallows on each table. Supervise and help kids to skewer the fruit. 6. The kids can eat their 'roses' once they have made them, or they can take them home to show their parents. Alternatively, you could place them in a vase along with some leafy herbs (e.g. basil, mint, parsley in a little water) to make a bouquet of 'strawberry roses'. The adults will enjoy looking at this creation when they come to pick up their kids! 	<p>Tables</p> <p>Pre-made 'strawberry rose'</p> <p>Skewers Green grapes Strawberries (pre-cut with a cross in the narrow end, about half-way down the strawberry, hulls still attached)</p> <p>Small marshmallows</p> <p>Optional – a vase with leafy herbs to display the roses</p>
<p>H. Conclusion (with puppets) 5 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask one boy and one girl if they can recite the memory verse. The puppets / another leader will judge if they deserve a prize. Award the prizes. 2. Sing a song in closing. (Super Strong God) 3. Close in prayer. Remind kids to come back next week! 4. Make sure kids leave their name tags in the box before they leave. 	<p>You'll need ...</p> <p>Small prizes – bookmarks, stickers, etc.</p> <p>DVD player / projector Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God)</p> <p>Name tag box</p>



