

## Create (Sept - Oct 2015)

<p>7<sup>th</sup> Sept Dave</p>	<p><b>Caring for God's world</b></p> <p><i>Aim: To help kids understand that God wants us to care for his world.</i></p>	<p><u>Starter:</u> 'God's wonderful world' sheet. Children to draw their favourite thing in all of God's creation.</p> <p><u>Introduction:</u> Collect several items from nature that have different textures and place them in separate bags. Give children a chance to feel in each bag then once they have all had a turn let them tell you what they think is in each bag. Show the items and see if they guessed right. Explain that God give us a very important job of caring for these things and more when he created the world.</p> <p><u>Bible story:</u> Genesis 2:15-20 (Garden of Eden)</p> <p>As you tell the story invited the children up to play different parts to set the scene. (Have one child be Adam, a couple stretching on the floor to make the river, a few pretending to be trees including the tree of life and the tree of having knowledge of good and evil, and finally some birds and animals). When the story has finished asked the children if they can imagine what the garden was like? Explain that Adam must have enjoyed living there, taking care of it and watching over the animals. Go on to explain briefly that Adam was joined by Eve and later they sinned which meant they had to leave the garden.....and more and more people were born, and they began to spread over the earth. This now means we have the whole earth to care for and not just the garden.</p> <p><u>Application:</u> Ask the children if they think we are doing a good job of caring for God's world. What type of things are we doing right/wrong? How do they think God feels when we mess up his world?</p> <p><u>Game:</u> 'Clean sweep'</p> <p>Number children 1-3. 1's and 2's form a circle with a sheet if newspaper each. 3's on their hands and knees in the middle of circle with a bag ('sweepers'). On the word 'Go' 1's and 2's need to rip their newspaper into little pieces whilst the 3's have to try and keep the circle clean by picking it up. After 1 minute see how well they did and then changing the 'sweepers'. Ask the children how they found the game and how they think it might be what's happening in real life. Remind the children again that God wants us to care for his world and that a small job like putting litter in the bin or picking it up could make a big difference. Take suggestion of other things we can do to help.</p> <p><u>Craft:</u> Growing a plant</p>
<p>14<sup>th</sup> Sept Bob</p>	<p><b>The best creation of all</b></p> <p><i>Aim: to help kids understand that we are all special to God.</i></p>	<p><u>Starter:</u> Self-portrait. Have mirrors on the table and get children to try and draw themselves. Don't let the other children see and once they're finished put them all in a bag.</p> <p><u>Introduction:</u> Pull the self-portraits out the bag and children are to guess who's who. Once they've guessed each other's ask them how they were able to guess correctly. Were some easier than others? Is it a good thing that we all look different? What other ways make us different to our friends apart from our looks? Mention that we are all special and unique because that is how God created us. Point out some special facts about each of the children. Explain that today we are going to be looking at what the bible says about us as people and how we know we are all special to God.</p> <p><u>Bible story:</u> Genesis 1:26-31a (Creation Day 6-7)</p> <p>Children will again be able to act out animals as you read the verses. At the end ask the children what it means when it says that everything God made was very good. Do they think he was just on about the trees and animals being good or was it everything including us humans? Get the children to think about what makes them feel good by reading out some statements and if it makes them feel good they are to stand. Did they all feel good or bad at the same time? Why could this be? Get the children to tell you what would make them feel the worse out of the list you read then explain that because God loves us and thinks we're special, even if we do a terrible thing he would still love us. He loves us no matter what because he created us and he created us in his image.</p> <p><u>Application:</u> We are all different and not only by how we look and who we are but also what we can do. We all have different skills and talents. Read Ephesians 2:10 ask the children what 'good works' they think God means. Take suggestions and challenge them to do one good thing in the coming week. Could they use one of their skills/talents to do something good for someone else to make them feel special also?</p> <p><u>Game:</u> Give children a blank piece of paper, newspaper, scissors and glue. They are to work in teams to find all the letters of their first name. No two letters should be the same style in any one name. First team to finish wins.</p> <p><u>Craft:</u> Balloon people.</p>

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<p>21<sup>st</sup> Sept</p> <p>Dave</p>	<p><b>Promises to keep</b></p> <p><i>Aim: to help kids understand that God keeps his promises and we should too.</i></p>	<p><u>Starter:</u> Ark Activity Sheet</p> <p><u>Introduction:</u> Would you believe me.....?</p> <p>...if I promised to give you a treat that's not been touched by human hand? - Orange (who put the orange in the peel?)</p> <p>...if I promised to put a small piece of paper over someone's head and around their neck? - cut to make a loop.</p> <p>Use the 'would you believe me' statements and prove to the children you were telling the truth. Ask how many actually believe at first. Ask them why or why not? When the first promise was kept was it easier to believe the second promise? When people make promises how do we know whether or not to believe them? Explain that God made a promise to us and he has kept it. He also expects us to keep the promises we make to others.</p> <p><u>Bible story:</u> Genesis 6:9-9:17 (Noah's Ark)</p> <p>Read the story of Noah's Ark (Off the deep end) but have some prompts for the children to do actions as you read the story.</p> <p>-God = point to heaven</p> <p>-neighbour = cover mouth and laugh</p> <p>-animals = make favourite animal noise.</p> <p>Why do they think Noah believed God and built the ark? Do they think it was harder when his neighbours were laughing at him? Finally ask the children what the promises were in the story? Explain that the first one was that the flood would come and it did. Second one was that God promised to keep everyone in the Ark safe and he did. Third one was to never flood the earth again which he hasn't done.</p> <p><u>Application:</u> Explain to the children that it is important for us as Christians to keep promises because people need to be able to trust us. We want to be able to show others what God is like and if they don't trust us then they may not listen to us. By trusting us one day they might be able to trust God.</p> <p><u>Game:</u> 'Promise pop-up'</p> <p>Read out various promises and if the children think they would be able to keep a promise like those read out they run to the right side of the room. If they don't think they can they run to the left side. If they're not sure they sit in the middle.</p> <p><u>Craft:</u> Thumb print rainbow</p>
<p>28<sup>th</sup> Sept</p> <p>Bob</p>	<p><b>God guides</b></p> <p><i>Aim: To help kids understand that God will guide us.</i></p>	<p><u>Starter:</u> Path finder</p> <p><u>Introduction:</u> Finders, Eaters</p> <p>Pair the children up and have one person of each pair be the finder. These need to go out the room whilst the other person of each pair hides two sweets. When the finders come back in explain to the children that the 'hidiers' have hidden some sweets and it is their job to guide the 'finders' to their own sweets. The only rules are that they cannot talk, use their arms and legs and the guide cannot move from the middle of the room. Once all sweets are found ask the children what the most difficult part of the task was. What would have made it easier? Give a short story about a time you couldn't find your way somewhere and needed some guidance, Have the children ever been on a trip with a guide? What was the good thing about having a guide? Explain that today we are going to hear a story about someone who went on a trip with a guide he couldn't even see.</p> <p><u>Bible story:</u> Genesis 12:1-7; 13:5-18 (Abraham's journey)</p> <p>Tell the story using props to set the scene. Once you've finished ask how they think Abraham felt going into the wilderness without a map or without even knowing where he would end up? Mention that even if Abraham was worried he still did as he was asked and trusted God to guide him</p> <p><u>Application:</u> Have a jigsaw puzzle and split it into 4 sections. Give each group a section and have them try and put their section together. Tell the children to let you know when they think they know what the picture. After a few minutes bring them back together and ask them why they haven't been able to figure out the puzzle. Get groups to join together and finish the puzzle. Mention that the jigsaw puzzle is like life. We only get to see a small portion of it. We just see little pieces a day at a time. We don't know what our lives will be like from one day to the next but God does and we need to trust that he will guide us every day. We need to trust him, even though we don't know exactly how things will turn out as he knows what is best for us.</p> <p><u>Game:</u> Blind fold maze race.</p> <p><u>Craft:</u> Decorate your own jigsaw puzzle.</p>

## Create (Sept - Oct 2015)

<p>5<sup>th</sup> Oct Dave</p>	<p><b>When tempers sizzle</b></p> <p><i>Aim: To help kids learn that God wants us to be peacemakers.</i></p>	<p><u>Starter:</u> Colour the peace signs  <u>Introduction:</u> Caution, Explosive  Get the children to form a circle and have a bean bag. Start with saying "it really makes me mad when....." pass the bag to another child and then finish the sentence. They then have to start it off again and pass it to another child. Continue until all children have had a go. Explain that if the bean bag is dropped they all need to take cover as is if it was an explosive.  Mention that when we get angry sometimes we can be just like the bean bag exploding when it's dropped. Ask the children if they have even had a time when they felt like exploding. Does it make them feel any better if they do blow up? Why or why not? Explain that it never really pays off to get so angry to blow your top. It is much smarter to learn how to handle the situation so things can get better. Say that today's story is about a man who knew how to do this.  <u>Bible story:</u> Genesis 13:1-18 (Keeping the peace)  As you read the story have two groups. Abraham's group and Lot's group. Children can act out as you read the story and when you're finished get them together and ask why they think Abraham didn't fight for his rights. What was the benefits to Abraham in the end?  <u>Application:</u> Mention that God wants us to be peacemaker just like Abraham. Ask the children what type of things they think they could do to be a peacemaker/settle an argument? Read out some situations and ask the children how they would and should deal with it.  <u>Game:</u> Marshmallow Madness  Have two teams and have a line between the teams. Explain that we're going to have a big fight - just to see what it feels like. Give each team a large bag of marshmallows and explain that these will be our weapons. The aim is to throw as many marshmallows at the other team as possible. They can only throw one at a time and If a child is hit they lose an arm, then a leg. The child who has been hit can use the same marshmallow to throw back. At the end of two minutes the team with the least marshmallows on their side wins. How did it feel to be the winner/loser? Mention that although this was different to a real argument in the sense that no one got hurt it also had some similarities because every wanted to win and tried hard. It quickly got out of control like a real argument does.  <u>Craft:</u> Peace Dove</p>
<p>12<sup>th</sup> Oct Bob</p>	<p><b>Can you believe it?</b></p> <p><i>Aim: To help the kids understand that sometimes God will surprise you.</i></p>	<p><u>Starter:</u> Challenge Time - have various challenges around the room for children to complete as they arrive  <u>Introduction:</u> Give the children a challenge to try and poke a straw straight through a potato. Give them a couple of minutes and have prize for anyone that manages to do it. If no one manages as the children if they think it's possible. Get them to put their hands up if they think it is possible then show them how it's done (cover the top of the straw with your thumb then poke it straight through). Give them all a little prize for trying. Ask the children if they thought it was an amazing trick. Why/why not? Mention that although they may think it's a clever trick it is something that can be learned and can be done. It is not impossible. Then go on to say that the story we're going to hear today is about some amazing things God did. Some things that surprised everyone and can't be learnt. Something that seemed impossible and only God could do it.  <u>Bible story:</u> Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-3 (Sarah's surprise)  Introduce Sarah and explain what her problem was then read the poem 'Sarah's surprise'. Ask the children why they think Sarah laughed at first when she was told she'd have a child. Mention that her visitors weren't just ordinary visitors, they were sent from God. Follow on by mentioning that God may have waited so long to give Sarah a baby so that they knew it would be special because only God could make something like that happen. Sometimes God surprises us by doing something amazing like this. He doesn't work on our clock or calendar like we do. He does it in his time so we shouldn't worry if things don't happen quick for us or things don't happen when we want them because God is in control and surprise us like he did Sarah.  <u>Application:</u> Tell a story of a time God surprised you by doing something amazing. Mention that if we are in a tough situation, we may not be able to think of a way out - but God can! Read out some situations and get the children to come up with ways they think God could surprise the person you're talking about.  <u>Game:</u> Pass the parcel.  Mention we all like surprises and one game that always ends with a big surprise is pass the parcel. As the layers are ripped off we become more and more eager about the prize at the end. Our life is like that as the longer we wait for something the more excited/eager we get.  <u>Craft:</u> Kinder Surprise person</p>

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<p>19<sup>th</sup> Oct</p> <p>Dave</p>	<p><b>God talk, good talk</b></p> <p><i>Aim: To help kids understand that God wants us to be encouragers.</i></p>	<p><u>Starter:</u> Encouragement sticker</p> <p><u>Introduction:</u> In teams children are to build a larger balloon person (one round balloon &amp; 4/5 straight balloons) using string and tape. Once they're finished go up to one of the balloon people and say "I think you're full of hot air" and popping one of the balloons. Get children to insult each other's balloon person and pop a balloon each time until there are no balloons left. Ask the children how they felt destroying the other team's balloon. Mention that when we say bad things about people it is very similar. God wants us to be encouragers. Someone who lifts others up not puts them down. Explain that today's story is about a family who were torn apart because of put downs.</p> <p><u>Bible story:</u> Genesis 21:1-14 (A sad day)</p> <p>Tell the story from Abraham's perspective. Maybe get a child to dress up as Abraham and act out as you tell the story. Read 'A visit from Abraham' then ask the children why they think Ishmael acted the way he did. Have they ever felt jealous? What happens when we make fun of others? Explain that although it may feel good sometimes if we put someone else down, especial if they've hurt us, but the good feeling will only last for a short while and we usually feel bad for it after or pay for our mistakes, like Ishmael did.</p> <p><u>Application:</u> Read Ephesians 4:29. What does it mean? Now get the children to say nice things and as they do put some air in a balloon at each nice thing said. Every now and then get a child to say something nasty and deflate some of the balloon. How did it feel when they saw the balloon getting deflated? Explain that it's much nicer to say positive things to people and build someone up. God wants us to be encouragers to others not just our friends but everyone.</p> <p><u>Game:</u> Build the person up.</p> <p>Have some clothes on the floor and children need to work as a team to stuff the clothes with newspaper. Team with fullest clothes/person wins.</p> <p><u>Craft:</u> Encouraging talking cards.</p>
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