

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



GOD CHOOSES TO CREATE THE WORLD

Genesis 1 to 2:3 The beginning of the world

In today's session we take time to consider God's amazing creation. We'll look at each day of the creation story and think about everything God has made. On the seventh day God looked at the world and all the creatures in it and decided to take a break. In this session we will think about the example God set for us all and consider the importance of rest.

Each child will need:

- Bible verse wristband
- Pens/pencils
- Art materials (dependent on the activity that you choose)

You will need:

- Seven pieces of paper labelled with 'Day One', 'Day Two' ... (leave room for notes to be added)
- To enlarge the memory verse poster, for display

Start It

● **Say:** There are millions of examples of God's amazing creativity.

Ask: What is your favourite thing that God created? Explain your choice.

● **Say:** We are going to see how much you know about God's creation. Have a go at a Beano geography quiz either together or individually and test your geography knowledge. (Tip – if you choose an alternative quiz, beware of the Fun Geography Quiz: it always seems to give a score of zero!)

Beano Geography Quiz

www.beano.com/posts/world-geography-quiz

● **Say:** Name one new thing that you discovered from the quiz.

Sing It

● **Say:** Today we will be thinking about the way God created our amazing world. As you sing along and join in with the actions, try and remember what God created each day.

'Motions' (creation song) by Saddleback Kids (2 mins 36 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=nWgC62KGsKM

Tell It

Place the seven labelled cards on the floor in front of the children.

● **Say:** Today we are going right back to the beginning. The first book in the Bible is called the book of Genesis, which means the origin or root. It is in the first few chapters of Genesis that we read the story of God creating the world. The story is set over seven days, which some Christians believe is a poetic understanding of the time God spent creating the world.

🗨️ **Say:** We are going to watch a clip that tells us what God created on each day. After the clip we will jot down each creation on the sheets of paper on the floor.

Video

Creation (Genesis 1-2) by Saddleback Kids (3 mins 47 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=teu7BCZTgDs

Discuss

Discuss with the children what God created on each day and write it down on the appropriate piece of paper on the floor. For each day ask the children what images come to mind when they think of that part of God's creation. This bank of ideas will help them in the 'Action It' section of today's session.

Here is a rough outline of each day:

Day One: God created the heavens and the Earth. He created light and divided the day and night.

Day Two: God separated the water of the heavens from the water of the Earth. He called the waters of the heavens, sky.

Day Three: God created dry land called the earth and collections of water called the seas. The land was filled with every kind of tree.

Day Four: God created the stars in the sky, the sun to light the day, and the moon for the night.

Day Five: God created animals that live in the water and the sky.

Day Six: God created all the animals that live on dry land, including humans.

Day Seven: God didn't create; he rested.

Ask:

- How did God describe what he had created?
- After a busy time creating the world, what did God do?

🗨️ **Say:** As we look at the sheets on the floor, we see all the amazing things God created. The story of creation also teaches us the importance of rest. Throughout these sessions we are going to learn a memory verse that reminds us of the importance of rest.

Display a large copy of February's memory verse. Read through the memory verse together and give each child a wristband. When you have read through the memory verse, ask the children to create actions to help them learn the verse.

Memory verse

'God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day. He made it holy because on that day he rested. He rested from all the work he had done in creating the world.'

— (Genesis 2:3 ICB)

Action It

Earlier in the session the children identified what God created or did over seven days. They also shared images that came to mind for each day. In this part of the session, they are going to create a piece of artwork to represent the seven days of God's creation. How you decide to do this will depend on your group. The finished artwork could be displayed in the room where you gather, on a church noticeboard, or through the corps' social media page.

Creation artwork ideas

- Allocate a different creation day to each child.
- Create one large piece of artwork that celebrates each day of creation.
- Fold a piece of A4 paper three times to make eight smaller sections. Use the first box for the title and then represent each day of creation in the remaining spaces.

- Give each member of the group a paper plate to decorate to represent a day of creation.
- Follow the link to either use the creation hanging decoration printable or encourage the children to create their own version by Christian Preschool Printables:
www.christianpreschoolprintables.com/creation-preschool-printables/7-days-of-creation-craft-globe/

Pray It

Ask: What does God encourage us to do when we have been busy creating?

- 💬 **Say:** You have been very busy with your artistic creations, and now we are going to have time to rest. You might want to try this at home too, to rest your mind and take away any distractions.

Ask the children to find a place to sit comfortably or lie on the floor. They can close their eyes if they would like to. Play the song 'Look at the world' by John Rutter and encourage the children to rest as the music plays. If you are playing the clip with a screen, then turn the video off so that it doesn't cause a distraction. You can fade out the music whenever you feel is best for your group and then say the prayer, based on John Rutter's lyrics, below.

Video

'Look at the world' by John Rutter (4 mins 31 secs)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=kxr8QBPqIz0

- 💬 **Say:** Let's pray together.

**Praise to thee, O Lord for all creation,
Give us thankful hearts that we may see
all the gifts we share and every blessing;
all things come of thee.
Amen.**

Ask:

- What piece of music could you use to help you rest at home?
- What distractions would you need to take away so you can rest properly?
- 💬 **Say:** We live in a world where there is constant noise and distraction, but God encourages us to take time out to rest and spend time with him.
- 💬 **Say:** Let's finish our time together today by sharing our memory verse.

'God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day. He made it holy because on that day he rested. He rested from all the work he had done creating the world.'

— (Genesis 2:3 ICB)

Explore It

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.

Explore It

IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

FEBRUARY
SESSION 01

GOD CHOOSES TO CREATE THE WORLD

 Genesis 1 to 2:3 The beginning of the world

FOR ME

TOGETHER



Rest

In today's session we discovered the importance of taking time to rest. Choose a quiet piece of music to listen to, remove all the distractions, find a place to rest, and close your eyes.

At the start you might find it difficult to switch off and rest, but keep practising and see if you can rest for the whole song by the end of the week.



Watch

At the end of today's 'Explore It' session we listened to a beautiful song by the composer John Rutter. The song reminds us of all the amazing things God has created. Watch the clip with someone at home and discuss the pictures you see of God's creation.

'Look at the world' by John Rutter
www.youtube.com/watch?v=kxr8QBPq1z0

Which is your favourite image from the clip?
Which place would you most like to visit?



Song for the week

'Motions (Creation Song)' by Saddleback Kids

www.youtube.com/watch?v=nWgC62KGsKM



Memory verse

'God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day. He made it holy because on that day he rested. He rested from all the work he had done in creating the world.'

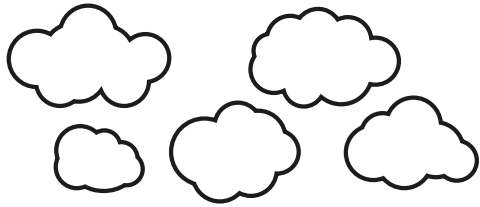
— (Genesis 2:3 ICB)

KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE

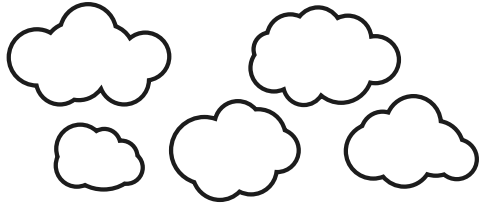
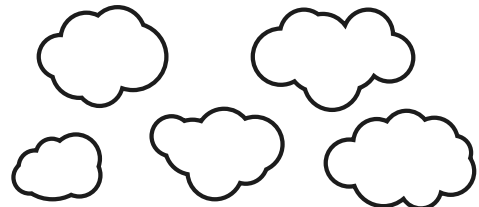
<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive>

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!

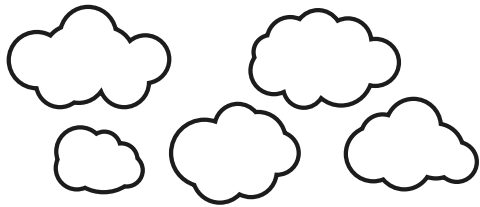
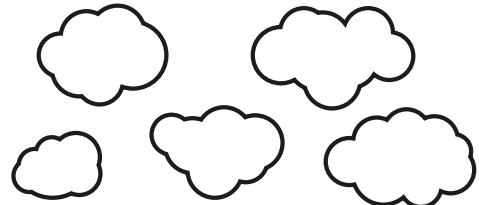




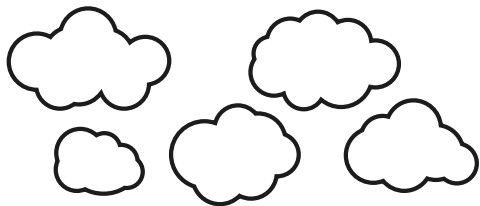
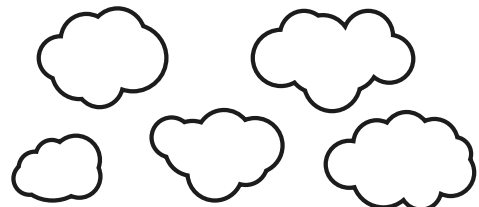
'God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day. He made it holy because on that day he rested. He rested from all the work he had done in creating the world.'
(Genesis 2:3 ICB)



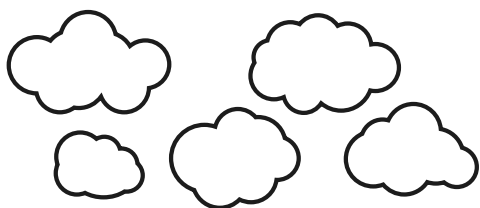
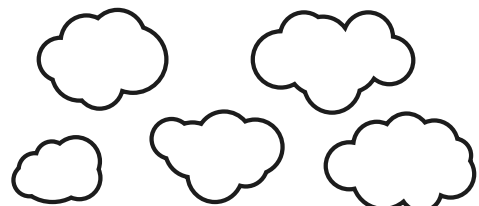
'God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day. He made it holy because on that day he rested. He rested from all the work he had done in creating the world.'
(Genesis 2:3 ICB)



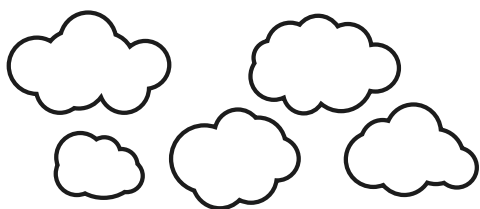
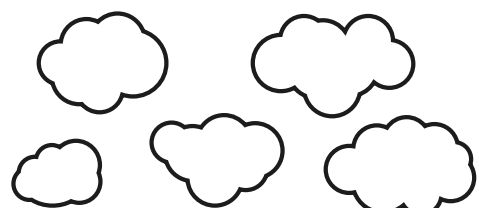
'God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day. He made it holy because on that day he rested. He rested from all the work he had done in creating the world.'
(Genesis 2:3 ICB)



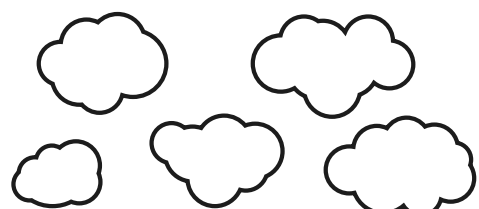
'God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day. He made it holy because on that day he rested. He rested from all the work he had done in creating the world.'
(Genesis 2:3 ICB)



'God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day. He made it holy because on that day he rested. He rested from all the work he had done in creating the world.'
(Genesis 2:3 ICB)



'God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day. He made it holy because on that day he rested. He rested from all the work he had done in creating the world.'
(Genesis 2:3 ICB)



'God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day. He made it holy because on that day he rested. He rested from all the work he had done in creating the world.'
(Genesis 2:3 ICB)

'God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day. He made it holy because on that day he rested. He rested from all the work he had done in creating the world.'
(Genesis 2:3 ICB)

'God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day. He made it holy because on that day he rested. He rested from all the work he had done in creating the world.'
(Genesis 2:3 ICB)

'God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day. He made it holy because on that day he rested. He rested from all the work he had done in creating the world.'
(Genesis 2:3 ICB)

'God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day. He made it holy because on that day he rested. He rested from all the work he had done in creating the world.'
(Genesis 2:3 ICB)

'God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day. He made it holy because on that day he rested. He rested from all the work he had done in creating the world.'
(Genesis 2:3 ICB)

‘God blessed the seventh day
and made it a holy day.

He made it holy because
on that day he rested.

He rested from all the work he
had done in creating the world.’

(Genesis 2:3 ICB)

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



ADAM AND EVE MAKE A CHOICE

📖 Genesis 2:7-9,18-23; 3:1-6,12-13,21-23 The beginning of sin

This month we will continue to learn more about God's creation – but unfortunately things don't quite go to plan. Adam and Eve make a choice that changes everything. After God had given them everything they could possibly need, they took the advice of the serpent and lost their place in the beautiful garden of Eden.

Each child will need:

➔ Craft equipment to make Valentine's Day cards – see Action It section

You will need:

➔ Creation charade clues folded up in a container – see Start It section

Start It

● **Say:** In Session One we spent time thinking about God's amazing creation. Today we are going to play a game of Charades where all the clues are based on God's creation.

Write each charade clue on a small piece of paper, fold them up and place them in a container. Ask one of the children to act out the word for the rest of the group and see who can guess it. (Be aware of any child with difficulty reading.)

Here are some possible clues: clouds, coconut, desert, earthquake, forest, giraffe, human, lizard, moon, mountains, mouse, ocean, planet, rain, sky, snowball, soil, solar system, stars, sun, volcano, water, waves, whale.

Sing It

● **Say:** In today's story we meet Adam and Eve, the first people God created. They forgot to be grateful for all God had given them, and it did not turn out well! Our song for today helps us not to make the same mistake as Adam and Eve and to remain thankful for all of God's creation.

'If I were a butterfly' by Brian Howard (Unreached corners) (3 mins 9 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-nb5CR1uec

Tell It

● **Say:** Today we are going to carry on moving through the book of Genesis and discover more about Adam and Eve. Watch the clip for a reminder of what we found out in our last session and a quick introduction to today's Bible characters.

Video

Adam and Eve by Saddleback Kids (1 min 14 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=w5T_bzDWMxc

Ask: What two things did God ask Adam and Eve to do?

🗨 **Say:** God provided Adam and Eve with a beautiful garden to look after. It was perfect – but it wasn't enough for Adam and Eve.

In the next clip, we find out what happens when Adam and Eve turn away from God. Use the timings below to stop the clip and discuss the questions.

Video

Adam and Eve sin by Saddleback Kids (3 mins 24 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7TDvJrjjz0

Watch: 0:00–0:38

Ask:

- Where did Adam and Eve live?
- What tree was forbidden?
- Why do you think God didn't want Adam and Eve to know the difference between good and evil?

Watch: 0:38–1:41

Ask:

- Who was the cleverest of all the animals God made?
- What did the serpent ask Eve? How did she reply?
- How did the serpent trick Eve?
- Why do you think Eve listened to the serpent instead of following God's rules?

Watch: 1:41–3:24

Ask:

- What happened when Adam and Eve ate from the forbidden tree?
- When Adam and Eve heard God walking in the garden, what did they do?
- Why do you think they hid from God?
- Who did Adam blame for eating the fruit?
- Do you think that was fair?
- Who did Eve blame for eating the fruit?
- Do you think she was right to do that? If so, why?
- What was the punishment for the serpent?
- What was the punishment for Adam and Eve?
- Why could Adam and Eve no longer live in the garden?

🗨 **Say:** The serpent was able to get Adam and Eve to focus on the one tree in the garden that they could not touch. They were allowed to eat from all the other wonderful, fruit-filled trees in the garden, but it wasn't good enough for them. They had forgotten everything God had given them and focused on what they could not have.

Ask:

- In what ways do we behave in the same way as Adam and Eve?
- Have you ever wanted something that you couldn't have?
- What did it feel like?
- Who said you couldn't have it and what was their reason?

🗨 **Say:** We can sometimes find it difficult when we are told we can't have something or are told not to do something. Often the person saying no to us wants what is best for us and so is putting boundaries in place.

🗨 **Say:** Many of the things that go wrong in our world happen when humans believe they are wiser than God and make decisions that go against what he wants for us. Humans were created to look after God's creation, but instead we have spoiled a lot of the Earth he created.

Ask: What can we learn from Adam and Eve about following the guidelines God has set out for humans to follow?

Action It

Ask: What day is celebrated on 14 February?

🗨️ **Say:** Valentine's Day is a celebration of love, and people across the world send cards and gifts to the ones they love. God loved Adam and Eve so much that he gave them a beautiful garden to live in. They had everything they needed, but they selfishly made a choice that broke God's heart.

🗨️ **Say:** God wants us to make choices that please him and show his love to others.

Ask: Do you know a special phrase to describe The Salvation Army's mission?

🗨️ **Say:** In The Salvation Army we are called to 'Love God, Love Others'. This is a command that Jesus gave to every Christian, not just members of The Salvation Army.

Ask:

➔ In what ways can loving other people sometimes be challenging?

➔ How does it feel when making a choice to love someone else means that we'll miss out on doing something we want to do?

🗨️ **Say:** Adam and Eve put their own feelings above their love for God and made a poor choice. Today we are going to make the choice to love God, love others, and celebrate Valentine's Day all at the same time.

Valentine's Day cards

How you complete this activity depends on your group and local setting, but the aim is to make Valentine cards for a local community. You may have links to a residential home, or there may be people in your church who are currently unable to attend due to illness, or refugees who are settling into the area. Whichever group you decide to connect with, encourage the children to make cards sharing messages of love. They could use some of the Scripture verses below to help create their cards.

➔ John 3:16

➔ Isaiah 54:10

➔ 1 John 4:7-8

➔ Psalm 136:26

➔ Romans 8:37-39

➔ Zephaniah 3:17

When the children have finished their cards, discuss the following question.

Ask: What other good choices could you make this week that show your love for God and your love for others?

Pray It

Ask: Who did Adam and Eve listen to instead of God?

🗨️ **Say:** Adam and Eve became distracted when they listened to the voice of the serpent. The serpent encouraged them to turn away from God's rules and guidelines.

Ask: What kinds of voices encourage you to make the wrong choice?

🗨️ **Say:** As Christians it is important that we take time to listen to God, to silence all the other voices, and rest in him. Our memory verse for this month reminds us to follow God's example and to take time to rest.

Share the memory verse together and see if the children remember the words and the actions they created.

'God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day. He made it holy because on that day he rested. He rested from all the work he had done in creating the world.'

— (Genesis 2:3 ICB)

Ask: Did any of you try the *For Me* activity at home last week? It encouraged you to choose a song and try to rest in God. How did you get on?

🗨️ **Say:** This week our time of quietness will be a little more challenging as we will not be using any music. As we sit quietly for a short while you may want to focus on our memory verse.

This time of quiet will need to be tailored to your group. Some children may find it very difficult to sit quietly, but the hope is for them to gradually become more comfortable taking a moment to rest. When you feel that the time is right, then bring the session to a close as you pray with the group.

Explore It

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.

Explore It

IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

FEBRUARY
SESSION 02

ADAM AND EVE MAKE A CHOICE

 Genesis 2:7-9,18-23; 3:1-6,12-13,21-23 The beginning of sin

FOR ME



Create

In this week's Explore It session we made a good choice! We created cards to share with people who needed a reminder of God's love for them. Can you think of any of your family or friends that need to hear God loves them? Create a card to surprise them with on Valentine's Day.

TOGETHER



Play

Create your own game of Charades to play with the people at home. Choose a theme for your clues and see if anyone can guess what it is.



Song for the week

'If I were a butterfly' by Brian Howard
(Unreached corners)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-nb5CR1uec



Memory verse

'God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day. He made it holy because on that day he rested. He rested from all the work he had done in creating the world.'

— (Genesis 2:3 ICB)

KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive>

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!



Explore It

FOR LEADERS



CAIN MAKES A BAD CHOICE

Genesis 4:1-12 The first family

Have you ever heard of the green-eyed monster? It represents all those feelings of envy and jealousy we get when someone else has something that we want. Our Bible character for today made a terrible choice because he was jealous of his brother. In today's session we will think about ways we can make the right choice and avoid feeling jealous toward others.

Each child will need:

- A paper plate, a Styrofoam ball (if possible), scissors, glue, green pen or paint plus additional craft materials – see Action It section

You will need:

- *Toy Story* questions to place around the room – see Start It section (optional)

Start It

Show the children the clip from *Toy Story*. They will need to watch carefully to answer the questions when the clip has finished.

Video

Toy Story 'Woody is jealous' by Disney Pixar (Crazy Buzz Fan) (1 min 46 secs)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=UULFS0kf7_g

You can either read the questions out and discuss, or you could stick individual questions around the room to get the children moving. The first child or partnership to come back with all the correct answers could get a prize.

1. What colour is Buzz Lightyear's laser beam? **Red**
2. Who shakes hands with Buzz Lightyear? **Rex**
3. What is the colour of the large clock on the wall? **Blue**
4. When Buzz presses his button, what does it say? **'Buzz Lightyear to the rescue'**
5. How does Woody make a noise? **He has to pull a string**
6. How does Mr Potato Head describe the noise Woody makes? **Like a car ran over it**
7. Who is Buzz's arch enemy? **The Evil Emperor Zurg**
8. Bo Peep says that Buzz has more gadgets than a what? **Swiss army knife**

Ask: How did Woody feel about Buzz?

- **Say:** Woody was jealous of Buzz because he was so popular with all the other toys.
- **Say:** Our session today is all about how we can make the right choice when we are jealous of the things other people have.

Sing It

- **Say:** In today's story Cain chooses not to show love to his brother because he is jealous of him. Our song for this session reminds us of the different ways we can show love to others.

'Follow the way of love' by Gospel Light Kids (tkcross) (2 mins 26 secs)

Warning: includes flashing images

www.youtube.com/watch?v=AGDOEUKSmeE

Tell It

Ask: Have you ever heard of the green-eyed monster? Or a visit from the green-eyed monster?

🗨️ **Say:** We often describe someone as having a visit from the green-eyed monster when they are jealous of someone else. The green-eyed monster isn't real, but it gives us a useful way to imagine what our jealousy looks like.

Ask:

- ➔ Do you ever get jealous of other people?
- ➔ If so, what does it tend to be about?
- ➔ Why do you think we get jealous of others?

🗨️ **Say:** Often, when we have an attack of the green-eyed monster, it is because we want something that someone else has or we don't like them having more than us. Jealousy is not a nice emotion to feel, and it can often lead us to make poor choices, or even tragic ones like our Bible character for today.

Read:

'Adam had sexual relations with his wife Eve. She became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. Eve said, "With the Lord's help, I have given birth to a man." After that, Eve gave birth to Cain's brother Abel. Abel took care of sheep. Cain became a farmer.

'Later, Cain brought a gift to God. He brought some food from the ground. Abel brought the best parts of his best sheep. The Lord accepted Abel and his gift. But God did not accept Cain and his gift. Cain became very angry and looked unhappy.

'The Lord asked Cain, "Why are you angry? Why do you look so unhappy? If you do good, I will accept you. But if you do not do good, sin is ready to attack you. Sin wants you. But you must rule over it."

— (Genesis 4:1-7 ICB)

Ask:

- ➔ What did Cain and Abel bring to God as an offering?
- ➔ Which one was a greater gift to bring?

🗨️ **Say:** Abel brought the precious gift of the best parts of his sheep to God. He gave God his best. Cain brought a gift, but it wasn't the best he could give.

Ask:

- ➔ How did Cain react when God rejected his offering?
- ➔ What 'green-eyed monster thought' do you think Cain started to have?
- ➔ What do you think Cain did next?

Read:

'Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out into the field." So Cain and Abel went into the field. Then Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

'Later, the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"

'Cain answered, "I don't know. Is it my job to take care of my brother?"

'Then the Lord said, "What have you done? Your brother's blood is on the ground. That blood is like a voice that tells me what happened. And now you will be cursed in your work with the ground. It is the same ground where your brother's blood fell. Your hands killed him. You will work the ground. But it will not grow good crops for you any more. You will wander around on the earth."

— (Genesis 4:8-12 ICB)

🗨️ **Say:** The story of Cain and Abel is upsetting because Cain let jealousy take over his emotions. This led to Cain making a tragic choice.

Ask: How did Cain react when God asked him where Abel was?

🗨️ **Say:** Cain was given an opportunity to be honest with God about his sin, but instead he denied knowing where Abel was. God was trying to teach Cain a valuable lesson about his sin, but Cain didn't want to listen. The following clip explains a bit more about the offering.

Video

Cain and Abel's offering by Saddleback Kids (1 min 31 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=CSrfONGsrzo&t=2s

🗨️ **Say:** In the clip we see Cain kicking over the food basket when he doesn't get his own way.

Ask:

- ➔ Can you relate to how Cain is feeling at that point? Explain why.
- ➔ Why is it a big mistake to make a choice when we are feeling angry, upset, or jealous?
- ➔ What choice could Cain have made instead?

Action It

🗨️ **Say:** If we are not careful, jealousy can lead us to make poor choices. God wants us to love him and love others and that includes not constantly comparing ourselves to other people.

🗨️ **Say:** Paul wrote about the way we can love other people in his first letter to the Corinthians.

Read:

'Love never gives up.
Love cares more for others than for self.
Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.
Love doesn't strut,
Doesn't have a swelled head,
Doesn't force itself on others,
Isn't always "me first,"
Doesn't fly off the handle,
Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,
Doesn't revel when others grovel,
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,
Puts up with anything,
Trusts God always,
Always looks for the best,
Never looks back,
But keeps going to the end.'

— (1 Corinthians 13:4-7 MSG)

Ask:

- ➔ Did you spot the part that talked about jealousy?
- ➔ What did it say?

🗨️ **Say:** 'Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.'

🗨️ **Say:** Today we are going to make our own green-eyed monster to remind us that jealousy has no place in our love for God and our love for others.

Craft

The children will need paper plates and a range of craft materials to make their green-eyed monsters. Here are some examples of ways to make paper plate monsters by Super Simple.

www.supersimple.com/article/monster-paper-plate-craft/

Ask the children to include the words 'Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.' They could write this on their monster or create a thought bubble to add to it. Give the children an opportunity to share their finished creations.

● **Say:** Today we have discovered how important it is to make sure we do not let the green-eyed monster, our jealousy, take over our thoughts and feelings. Even though the green-eyed monster is totally made up, it is a good reminder that, with God's help, we can be happy for other people when they have something that we would like.

Pray It

Ask: We have had another busy creative 'Explore It' session today. So, what do we need to do now?

● **Say:** Our memory verse for this month reminds us how important it is for us to rest. Let's share our memory verse together.

'God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day. He made it holy because on that day he rested. He rested from all the work he had done in creating the world.'

— (Genesis 2:3 ICB)

Encourage the children to find a place to lie down or sit comfortably for a time of quiet. This will need to be tailored to your group, but they will hopefully be able to rest for a little longer than in the previous session. Some children may find it very difficult to sit quietly, but the hope is for them to gradually become more comfortable taking a moment to rest. When you feel that the time is right, then bring the session to a close as you read the words of 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 as a closing prayer.

● **Say:**

Love never gives up.

Love cares more for others than for self.

Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.

Love doesn't strut,

Doesn't have a swelled head,

Doesn't force itself on others,

Isn't always "me first,"

Doesn't fly off the handle,

Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,

Doesn't revel when others grovel,

Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,

Puts up with anything,

Trusts God always,

Always looks for the best,

Never looks back,

But keeps going to the end.

Heavenly Father, help us to make the right choices this week and try to show your love to others in this world.

Amen.

Explore It

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.

Explore It

IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

FEBRUARY
SESSION 03

CAIN MAKES A BAD CHOICE

 Genesis 4:1-12 The first family

FOR ME

TOGETHER



Pray

Shrove Tuesday is on 21 February.

Traditionally Christians give up something for Lent, which starts on Shrove Tuesday. But some choose to do a challenge instead. And some do both!

Read through 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

- ➡ Which of the examples of God's love could you focus on during Lent?
- ➡ What would you need to ask God to help you give up, so you can show his love to others?



Share

Watch this clip with someone at home and share with them what you have asked God to help you give up over Lent.

Love is patient and kind (1 Corinthians 13) by Logos Bible Software

www.youtube.com/watch?v=8F9_A7XIU6k

After you have watched the clip, see if your friends and family would like to give up something for Lent as well.



Song for the week

'Follow the way of love' by Gospel Light Kids (tktcross)

Warning: includes flashing images

www.youtube.com/watch?v=AGDOEUKSmeE



Memory verse

'God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day. He made it holy because on that day he rested. He rested from all the work he had done in creating the world.'

— (Genesis 2:3 ICB)

KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive>

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!



Explore It

FOR LEADERS



NOAH CHOOSES TO FOLLOW GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS

 **Genesis 6:5-22; 7:13-16; 8:6-11; 9:12-16 Noah and the Great Flood**

Our final session this month focuses on Noah and his obedience to God. When everyone else had turned away from God, Noah remained faithful. Through the sign of a rainbow, God promised all creation that he would never flood the Earth again. Today we think about Noah's obedience and the love and faithfulness of God.

Each child will need:

- Craft materials for your chosen activity – see Action It section
- Pens/pencils and paper

You will need:

- Rainbowtastic PowerPoint presentation

Start It

Show the group the Rainbowtastic presentation. The first question on the presentation is: How many of you have seen a rainbow? It is very unlikely there is anyone in the group that hasn't seen a rainbow, but the following 15 slides show a range of rare and unusual rainbows. Show and discuss each one.

At the end of the presentation, ask the group which kind of rainbow they would most like to see in real life.

Sing It

- **Say:** On 2 March it is World Book Day. On this day we celebrate all the amazing stories authors have created over the years. Our song for this week reminds us of the many stories within the Bible that show us how much God loves us.

'God's love' by Shawna Edwards and Linda Urquhart (3 mins 44 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4rZcN8dQpE

The chorus to the song has these words that you can join in with:

**'In every Bible story I read,
I learn this undeniable thing:
That God's love is wider than the sky
And deeper than the deep blue sea.
God's love can light the darkest night
And fill an aching heart with peace.
God's love is guaranteed to be
Unchanging through eternity.
Just as God loved Joseph and Jonah and Job,
I know he loves me.'**

Tell It

🗨️ **Say:** Today we are going to listen to Noah's story of obedience to God.

Watch the clip with the children to help them explore the story of Noah and use the timings below to stop the clip and discuss the questions.

Video

Noah's Ark by Saddleback Kids (3 mins 38 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzYjy6lhRag

Watch: 0:00-0:41

Ask:

- ➔ What kind of person was Noah?
- ➔ Was everyone like Noah? If not, then how were they different?
- ➔ How did God feel about what was happening to his creation?
- ➔ What did God decide to do?
- ➔ Why do you think God wanted to save Noah and his family?

Watch: 0:42-1:38

Ask:

- ➔ What did God tell Noah to do?
- ➔ How would you have felt if God had asked you to do something like that?
- ➔ Do you think you would have been able to keep going, even when everyone was laughing at you?

🗨️ **Say:** Noah continued to do as he had always done. He chose to follow God, no matter how silly it made him look or however embarrassing it became. He kept his family and all the animals safe as the rain came pouring down.

Ask:

- ➔ How long did the rain fall for?
- ➔ How long were Noah and his family on the boat before it came to rest on a mountaintop?

Watch: 1:38-2:55

Ask:

- ➔ What birds did Noah send out of the boat to find dry land?
- ➔ What did the dove bring back to the boat?

🗨️ **Say:** Noah and his family had to wait patiently on the boat for a long time after the rain stopped.

Ask: How do you think you would have coped being on the boat all that time?

Watch: 2:56-3:38

Ask:

- ➔ What did Noah build to make a sacrifice to God?
- ➔ What promise did God make to Noah?

🗨️ **Say:** We read about God's promise to Noah in Genesis 9:12-16.

Read:

'And God said, "I am making an agreement between me and you and every living creature that is with you. It will continue from now on. This is the sign: I am putting my rainbow in the clouds. It is the sign of the agreement between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth, a rainbow appears in the clouds. Then I will remember my agreement. It is between me and you and every living thing. Flood waters will never again destroy all life on the earth. When the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it.

Then I will remember the agreement that continues for ever. It is between me and every living thing on the earth."

— (Genesis 9:12-16 *ICB*)

- 🗨️ **Say:** Every time you see a rainbow, remember God's promise to Noah and the whole of creation.

Action It

- 🗨️ **Say:** Today we are going to make a rainbow to remind us of God's love for all his creation.

Show the children how to make their own promise rainbow, to take home and display. Each time they see it, it will remind them of God's love and the promise he made to Noah.

There are a number of different ways they could create their rainbow and a range of options are provided below:

- Lollypop stick rainbow
www.thejoysharing.com/2017/08/popsicle-sticks-rainbow-craft.html
- Create a rainbow marbling picture using marbling inks
- Rainbow wooden keyring
www.thejoysharing.com/2017/08/popsicle-sticks-rainbow-craft.html
- Rainbow tissue craft
www.bakerross.co.uk/rainbow-tissue-craft-kits
- Rainbow hanging decoration
www.teachingmama.org/rainbow-craft-for-toddlers
- 3D Rainbow
www.craftymorning.com/3d-paper-rainbow-kids-craft

- 🗨️ **Say:** Your rainbow will help remind you of God's love for you.

Ask:

- How did Noah show his love for God?
- What choices could you make this week that show how much you love God?

Pray It

- 🗨️ **Say:** Today is the final session where you will have a chance to share our memory verse for this month. See if you can remember it without looking at the verse. Let's share our memory verse together.

'God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day. He made it holy because on that day he rested. He rested from all the work he had done in creating the world.'

— (Genesis 2:3 *ICB*)

- 🗨️ **Say:** At the end of each 'Explore It' session this month we have had a time of rest where we have been quiet and calm.

Ask:

- What have you liked or disliked about this part of our session?
- Have you tried to have times of rest at home?

- 🗨️ **Say:** Throughout our February 'Explore It' sessions we have reflected on God's amazing creation. We have thought about how our choices show how much we love God and we have seen what happens to creation when we don't follow God's guidelines for his world.

- 🗨️ **Say:** In the first session we listened to a piece of music all about God's creation by John Rutter. Today we are going to watch a version of the song that is filled with images of all the things God has made. As you watch the clip try and think of an end to this prayer: 'Thank you, God, for your creation. I am grateful for ...'

Video

'Look at the world' by John Rutter (4 mins 29 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=T4k8oVf9v78&t=168s

After the song has finished, encourage each child to say the prayer and finish the sentence with their own thoughts. Bring the time of sharing to a close with a prayer.

Explore It

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.

Explore It

IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

FEBRUARY
SESSION 04

NOAH CHOOSES TO FOLLOW GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS

📖 Genesis 6:5-22; 7:13-16; 8:6-11; 9:12-16 Noah and the Great Flood

FOR ME



Write

Write a rainbow poem that celebrates God's creation using every colour in the rainbow.

TOGETHER



Discover

Find someone at home who would like to know more about how rainbows are formed and watch this clip together.

How rainbows form and what shape they really are (colourful weather) by ABC Australia
www.youtube.com/watch?v=oz6yyGn-DbY

How would you describe the creation of a rainbow to someone else?



Song for the week

'God's love' by Shawna Edwards and Linda Urquhart
www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4rZcN8dQpE



Memory verse

'God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day. He made it holy because on that day he rested. He rested from all the work he had done in creating the world.'

— (Genesis 2:3 ICB)

KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE


<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive>

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!






RAINBOWTASTIC

A vertical rainbow gradient on the left side of a black background, transitioning from red at the bottom to blue at the top.

How many of you
have seen a rainbow?



How many of you
have seen these
kinds of rainbows?

Contrails



Moonbow



Upside down rainbow



Full circle rainbow



Reflection rainbow



Monochrome rainbow



Fogbow rainbow



Double rainbow



Rainbow wheel



Waterfall rainbow



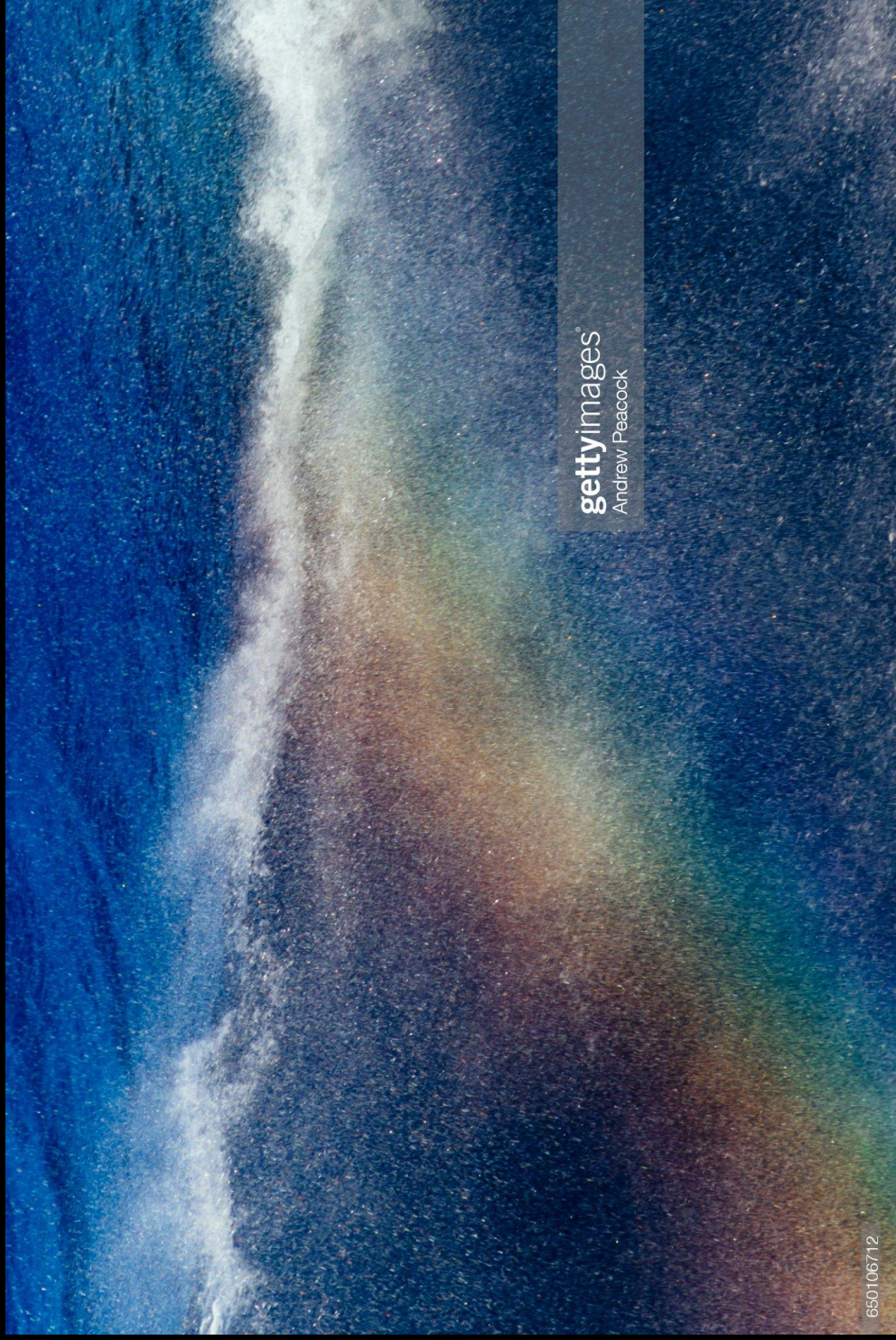
Alexander's dark band rainbow



Twinned rainbow



Sea spray rainbow



gettyimages®
Andrew Peacock

650106712

Supernumerary rainbow



Rainbow cloud

