



A Resource for a School Assembly or Church Youth Group, exploring how we look at and value the world created by God

INTRODUCTION

During this time of worship we will thank God for the wonderful world he has made. Sometimes, the world isn't very nice because people do horrible things and spoil God's world. So we will also be thinking about what we can do to make the world a better place.

PRAYER

God our Father, the world you have created is wonderful and amazing but sometimes it is spoiled by the people you have made. Help us to change the world so that it becomes the world you want it to be. We ask this through Jesus the Lord. Amen.

DRAMA: 'IN THE BEGINNING'

Characters: *Involving the whole congregation but particularly 9 people: Dr Hans Down and Dr Hans Off, and seven children with a card each saying Day 1, Day 2.*

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Dr Down Hello, my name is Dr Hans Down.
 Dr Off And I'm Professor Hans Off.
 Dr Down Today we are taking you back to the beginning of time.
 Dr Off Imagine what the world was like then. There were no interesting features anywhere.
 Dr Down And it was very dark.
 Dr Off The only sign of life was God's Spirit swooping over the waters.
 All: **Day 1** *(The person holding the Day 1 card holds it up to their face)*
 Dr Down God said, 'It's a bit dark around here. Let's make it light.' And just as he said 'Let's make it light,' there it was. The light needed a name so he called it 'day'. The dark he called 'night'.
 Child 1 *(peeking above the card)* God liked naming things.
 All: **Day 2** *(The person holding the Day 2 card holds it up to their face)*
 Dr Off God said, 'There's too much water around here. So let's divide it into two, so there'll be water down there and water up here.' The bit in the middle he called the heavens.
 Child 2 *(peeking above the card)* God liked naming things.

All **Day 3** *(The person holding the Day 3 card holds it up to their face)*
 Dr Down God said, 'There's still too much water. We need something else. If I squeeze all the water together I can make something that I will call sea. And the bits in between, there we are, that's the earth.'
 Child 3 *(peeking above the card)* God liked naming things.
 Dr Off God said, 'Well it's all very good but it needs a bit of colour. So let's make some stuff that will grow and carry on growing. Plants and trees and shrubs and seeds and flowers and fruit.
 Child 3 *(Peeking above the card)* God was really pleased with how things were going.
 All: **Day 4** *(The person holding the Day 4 card holds it up to their face)*
 Dr Downs God said, 'Now then, what if we throw some lights into the sky?' And so he made a great big light for the daytime. And he made a smaller light for the night-time. 'There, that's good,' he said.
 Child 4 God was still very pleased.
 All: **Day 5** *(The person holding the Day 5 card holds it up to their face)*
 Dr Off God said, 'Now then, back to the water. Let's make the sea full of living creatures. And let's fill the sky with flying things.' And soon there were things swimming through the sea, and birds flying in the sky.
 Child 5 *(peeking above the card)* And God told them to start families.
 All: **Day 6** *(The person holding the Day 6 card holds it up to their face)*
 Dr Off God said, 'Let's place animals on the earth.' And before long there were things running around, and crawling and scurrying everywhere over the earth and through the earth. 'Now then,' said God. 'Let's make people. They'll be like us. But human. And they can look after the earth for us. They will be in charge.'
 Child 6 *(Peeking above the card)* God was really pleased with himself!
 All: **Day 7.** *(The person holding the Day 7 card holds it up to their face)*
 Dr Down God was rather tired after all the work he had been doing.
 Child 7 *(Peeking above the card)* So he took a well-earned rest!

REFLECTION

When God made the world he looked at it, and saw that it was good.

How do we look at the world?

Do we see all the wonderful, beautiful, fragile, precious, amazing things that God has made – or do we take it all for granted?

How do we look at the world?

Do we see it as something to use for our own purposes, something that we can use as we like - or do we see it as a precious gift to be valued and cared for?

How do we look at the world?

Do we see the damage we have done and the way in which human beings have spoiled the world or do we ignore the bad things that humans have done to the world?

The beautiful world of God is damaged by pollution and greed, by war and violence, by selfishness and over indulgence, by being irresponsible or uncaring.

God created us to look after the world, to care for his creation. Sometimes, we only have to do the smallest of things to make a big difference.

For example...turning off light switches, walking or using the bus instead of always using the car, not dropping litter, recycling our rubbish: these are small things that all of us can do in our daily lives.

We hear an awful lot about Global Warming and Climate Change. It's often the poorest countries and poorest people who are most affected: harsh dry summers, damaging floods, severe weather can all so easily ruin the lives of people who are trying to build a life for themselves.

So, the small things we do *can* make a big difference: for good or bad. Why not try to make a big difference in a good way: by valuing the world God has made, by caring for it, and looking at the world in the same way that God looks at the world: seeing its goodness and loving it.

BIBLE READING

Jesus said, 'Look at the lilies of the field, they neither sow nor spin yet, God has clothed them. Yet even Solomon in all his splendour was not dressed in this way.'

(MATTHEW 6:28)

PARTING SHOT

Let's be real 'Global Citizens': let's value the world in which all of us live, the world that God has made, the world that Jesus loves.

PRAYER

Lord God
the world is wonderful and amazing
but we don't always look after it.
You sent Jesus into the world
to show us how to love one another
but we don't always share your love.
You sent your Spirit to help us to live like Jesus
but we don't always do the right thing.
Give us a sense of awe and wonder
in the world in which we live
to marvel in the things that surround us and astound us,
and to lift our hearts to you in thanksgiving.
We ask this through Jesus the Lord. Amen.

Check out our website www.stmaryscf10.com for more resources. We're passionate about caring for God's Creation and sharing our resources with others, and we'd love to hear if any of our resources have been of use to you!



FROM OUR WILD SIDE

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