God Made

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Series Overview

This *God Made* series is the first in a five part programme which explores two key Bible themes: God as Creator and Jesus as the Son of God. A detailed outline of the entire programme can be found on page 4.

*God Made* explores all the different things that God created as recorded in Genesis chapter 1. Each lesson focuses on a different aspect of creation and encourages the children to marvel at the wonder of all the God has made.

The series shows God’s design and purpose in all that he has made and encourages the response of thankfulness and praise.

The climax of the series is the creation of people in God’s image. Humans are part of the creation, but we are distinct from the rest of creation because we have been created in God’s image and given the task of taking care of this world.

Series Aims

- To understand that everything we see in our world was made by God.
- To see the infinite wisdom of God in the variety, precision and purpose of all that God has made.
- To encourage a response of thankfulness and praise.
- To help the children understand that they are made by God and loved by him.
Complete Programme Outline

**Series 1: God Made** – introduces God as the universal Creator of all things. Lessons include:
1. God Made the Sky and Birds
2. God Made the Sea and Fish
3. God Made the Earth and Flowers
4. God Made the Earth and Trees
5. God Made the Animals and Insects
6. God Made the Wild Animals
7. God Made Domestic Animals
8. God Made Me
9. God Made: Summary

**Series 2: Thank You God** – teaches the appropriate response of gratitude for all that God has made including who we are as human beings. Lessons include:
1. Thank You, God, for My Hands
2. Thank You, God, for My Feet
3. Thank You, God, for My Eyes
4. Thank You, God, for My Ears
5. Thank You, God, for My Nose
6. Thank You, God, for My Mouth
7. Thank You, God, for Making Me
8. Thank You, God, for My Mum
9. Thank You, God, for My Dad
10. Thank You, God, for My Family
11. Thank You, God, for Spring
12. Thank You, God, for Summer
13. Thank You, God, for Autumn
14. Thank You, God, for Winter

**Series 3: God Cares** – teaches that the Creator God knows everything about us. He is intimately involved in the details of our lives. Lessons include:
1. God Knows My Name and What I Look Like
2. God Knows That I Am Growing
3. God Knows Where I Live
4. God Knows When I Am Naughty
5. God Looks After Me While I Play
6. God Looks After Me While I Sleep
7. God Looks After Me While I Travel
8. God Gives Me Food and Drink
9. God Looks After Me: Summary

**Series 4: Friends with God** – teaches how we can be friends with God because of Jesus’ death on the cross and what that friendship involves. Lessons include:
1. How Does God Speak to Me?
2. How Do I Speak to God?
3. How Does God Want Me to Live? Trusting
4. How Does God Want Me to Live? Obeying
5. How Does God Want Me to Live? Helping
6. How Does God Want Me to Live? Thanking
7. How Does God Want Me to Live? Being Kind
8. How Does God Want Me to Live? Saying Sorry
9. How Does God Want Me to Live? Praising
10. Friends with God: Summary

**Series 5: The Life of Jesus** – introduces Jesus as the Son of God who came to rescue us from sin and death. Lessons include:
1. Christmas Story: the Angel’s Announcement
2. Christmas Story: the Birth of Jesus
3. Christmas Story: the Shepherds
4. Christmas Story: the Wise Men
5. Jesus Loves the Little Children
6. Jesus Walks on Water
7. Jesus Made a Sick Man Well
8. Jesus Made a Lame Man Walk
9. Jesus Made a Blind Man See
10. Jesus Made a Deaf Man Hear
11. Easter Story: The Triumphal Entry
12. Easter Story: The Crucifixion
13. Easter Story: The Resurrection
Teaching This Age Group

This series is designed to engage 18 month to 3 year old children with a Bible teaching programme that will lay the foundations for a distinctively Christian worldview.

While children 18 months old generally take a few weeks to settle into this kind of programme, once they grasp the routine they benefit enormously from systematic Bible teaching presented in an age-appropriate way.

A successful programme for this age group requires three things; variety, repetition and sensory experience.

Variety – Children generally have an attention span of one minute per year of age. That does not mean that the lesson for a 2 year old should only be 2 minutes! But it does mean that every two minutes something has got to change if you are going to hold their attention – variety is therefore critical.

Try to adopt a ‘cyclic’ approach in your teaching. This means that you will teach the same truth repeatedly in the lesson using a variety of different songs, games, discussion, problem solving tasks and craft work.

Repetition – This needs to take place on two levels; the lesson itself and the structure of the session as a whole. As you teach be sure to repeat the main point of the lesson a number of times as you engage the children in each activity.

As you think about the structure of the session make sure that the basic structure is repeated every week. Children this age thrive on routine. So while there needs to be a variety of activities within each lesson, the overall structure of the lesson should be the same each week. They will begin to anticipate what’s next in the programme.

Sensory Experience – Think about ways in which you can engage as many of the senses as possible in each lesson. For example, instead of showing the children a picture of an egg, give them a real egg to hold and pass around the group – hard-boiled would be best! If you’re talking about birds or flowers, have a feather or actual flowers for the children to feel and smell, etc.

Work hard to make the lesson an experience so that when the child sees, smells or feels these items again they will recall the truth taught in the lesson.

Reinforcement

The Bible teaches that parents have the primary responsibility for passing on spiritual truth to their children (Deuteronomy 6:4-9). They do not have the sole responsibility because children will also learn from grandparents and the community of faith (church), but the parents are primarily responsible.

It is important therefore that weekly teaching is reinforced in the home during the week and that your children’s ministry team actively encourages and equips parents to do so.

Every lesson in this series provides suggested ideas to help parents remind their children of the aim of the lesson as they engage with their children during the week.

These can be found for the whole series on pages 9 to 10. You may want to print one copy to give to each family at the beginning of the term so that parents can continue to teach their children at home even if they miss one lesson. Or you may find it helpful to work week by week, attaching the relevant ‘reinforcement slip’ to each child’s take-home activity.

Craft Symbols

We make use of the following symbols for the craft activities:

- **Apply glue here**
- **Cut along this solid line**
- **Cut out this shaded area**
- **Fold outwards along this dashed line**
- **Fold inwards along this dashed line**

Using Toilet Rolls and Egg Boxes

Some of the craft ideas in this resource suggest the use of either cardboard toilet roll tubes or egg boxes.

If you use either of these they should be cleansed by placing them in a microwave on full power for ten seconds. This reduces the risk of disease from toilet rolls and traces of salmonella from egg boxes.
Sample Lesson Plan

What follows below is a description of the 45 minute programme we run for this age group in our local church. It’s a programme that we have been running in various churches for over twelve years. You may need to adapt it to suit your particular setting and available resources.

We run this programme every week, even if there is only one child present. Consistently providing a quality programme puts parents at ease and encourages regular attendance. It also frees the parents to be taught in the main service.

1. Welcome – Have the children sit down on the floor/carpet in a semi circle. The teacher also sits on the floor to maintain eye contact with all the children.

Sing a welcome song or two, perhaps a song that reminds the children that it’s time for ‘Bible Tots’ (or whatever you call this programme in your church).

A good song is one which includes each child’s name in turn. To welcome our children we sing the following song to the tune of Frère Jacques:

*Where is [Mark]*?

*Where is [Mark]? Did [he] come?*

*Did [he] come?*

*Come to Bible Tots? Come to Bible Tots?*

*Yes [he] did. There [he] is.*

While singing for each child, we look through a cardboard tube (big enough to fit your hand through and shorter than your forearm) and scan the class before fixing our attention on the child we’re welcoming.

At the end of each round, we put our hand through the tube, shake the child’s right hand and say, “Welcome, [Mark], I’m so glad you could be here today.” It’s also good to engage the child at this point by noticing one special thing about what the child is wearing e.g. a car on a t-shirt, pink shoes, pretty buttons on a dress, etc.

2. Prayer – Sing a song about talking to God which ends with the children covering their eyes with their hands or holding their hands together to pray. This helps them to keep their hands to themselves as well as seeing your example of reverence before God.

We sing the following song while doing the appropriate actions:

*Put one little hand over one little eye,*

*The other little hand on the other little eye.*

*Close your eyes, bow your head and talk to the Lord.*

Pray a very simple one-line prayer e.g. “Thank you, God, that we can be together today to learn about you and the [animals] you made. Amen.”

3. Musical Instruments – Have a box of simple instruments e.g. maracas, bells etc.

These could be homemade e.g. uncooked rice in a plastic camera film holder or other small container makes a great shaker. A pipe cleaner threaded through bells from a haberdashery store and attached to a lolly stick works well. Have one instrument per child and a few extra for visitors.

Sing two songs using the instruments. Thank the children when they place the instruments back in the box at the end. Place the closed box behind your back to prevent distraction.

4. Action songs – Sing three more songs. Use songs that require different kinds of actions – standing, stretching, moving about and also ones with smaller hand movements.

5. Visuals – At this point, we usually bring out a series of A4 sized printed cards depicting various animals for the song If I were a butterfly. These need to be larger if you have more than five children as they will lose interest if they cannot see properly.

Where possible, embellish each picture to incorporate texture. This will enhance their learning experience and help them memorise the concepts e.g. for the butterfly, add cellophane wings; for the robin in the tree, glue red and brown feathers, etc. Allow the children to touch the pictures as the song is sung.

6. Bible Song – A song to introduce the true story from the Bible. We have made felt Bibles for each child. These depict some of the basic themes in the Bible and the children look/turn the pages as we sing the following song:

*This is the Bible, God’s written word.*

*It tells us how God made us.*

*It tells us how God loves us.*

*This is the Bible, God’s written word.*

*We must be so careful as we turn the pages.*

*We must be so careful as we turn the pages.*

*This is the Bible, God’s written word.*

The ‘Bibles’ are put away and the Bible story follows.

7. Story Blanket – A story blanket could now be laid out for the Bible story time. Get the children to help you spread it out evenly. This will get them up and about and encourage them to sit together, closer to you so that they can hear you clearly and see the pictures you will use during the lesson.

Some teachers might want to use a small snack while they teach the lesson. This seems to settle the children and help them concentrate so they are not distracted by other things. Be aware of possible food allergies. Get the children to say, “Thank you” when they receive their biscuit.

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We sing the following song before handing out biscuits:

*Open, shut them. Open, shut them,*
(opening and shutting hands)

*Give a little clap.*
(clap twice)

*Open, shut them. Open, shut them,*
(opening and shutting hands)

*Lay them in your lap.*
(place hands in lap)

*Creep them, creep them,*
(walking fingers up over the stomach to chin)

*Creep them, creep them,*

*Right up to your chin.*

*Open wide your little mouth*  
(point to mouth)

*and pop your biscuit in, yum yum!*  
(eat biscuits together!)  

8. **Craft Activity** – Enjoy helping the children to make their craft, reminding them of the story while they are busy. Let the child do as much for themselves as possible. You will need to gauge how much time you want to allow for craft. The less time you have, the more preparation you will need to have done before the lesson. Because of their age you will probably have to do all the cutting out for them. They will also be careless with felt tip markers so it’s best to use wax crayons.

9. **Game** – This is a fun activity to reinforce the lesson content. What we have supplied is just an idea. Adapt it if necessary, but have fun!

10. **Prayer Time** – It is good to model simple prayers and to encourage the children to pray from a young age. We have given some ideas as to what this might look like with this age group.

11. **Filling Time** – It’s sometimes hard to gauge how long a lesson will take and the church service might overrun. It’s always good to have something for the children to do if you have to fill time. Play dough, building blocks, a soft ball or wooden train sets are always helpful. Try to use these to reinforce what you have taught e.g. comment on thanking God for our hands as we use them to play with play dough.

You could also use more songs to fill time productively, but monitor the children’s energy levels to see if they are able to sing another song or two. Just before parents collect the children, sing a goodbye song.

**A note about songs** – We sing exactly the same songs for six months, then change a few of them for the following six months. Certain songs are a permanent feature e.g. welcome, prayer, Bible, biscuit, goodbye songs.

If we are learning about creation in the first six months of the year, we will include e.g. *If I were a butterfly* every week.

Children this age have limited vocabularies. Choose songs carefully and be aware that certain words or concepts will need to be explained to the children. Singing is a wonderful way of imparting spiritual truth that really sticks with the children. Parents will often comment to us that their children sing these songs throughout the week. Make the most of songs!

Remember to smile and maintain eye contact with the children as much as possible while singing – if you are having fun, they will too.

Here is a list of some of the songs that we use with this age group:

- *I will sing a song unto the Lord*
- *All things bright and beautiful*
- *If I were a butterfly*
- *Be careful little eyes what you see*
- *Jesus loves the little children*
- *He made the stars to shine*
- *He’s got the whole world in his hands*
- *Wide as the oceans*
- *In the beginning (when it was dark)*
- *Jesus loves me, this I know*
God Made – Week 1: Today your child learned that God made the sky and birds.
To reinforce this lesson this week:
1. Go for a walk with your child and look at the sky. What can you see? Do the same at night, looking out of a window. Ask your child "Who made the sky? Who made all of the things in it?"
2. Make a collage of the sky using cut outs from a magazine. What belongs in the sky? Who made it?

God Made – Week 2: Today your child learned that God made the sea and fish.
To reinforce this lesson this week:
1. Make a collage of the sea using pictures cut from a magazine. Ask your child who made the sea.
2. At bath time, demonstrate the action of the sea using toy boats and making waves etc. Ask "Who made the sea?"

God Made – Week 3: Today your child learned that God made the earth and flowers.
To reinforce this lesson this week:
1. Place a plastic container of soil on a newspaper on the table. Empty some of the soil onto the newspaper. Feel it in your fingers and move it around. What do you find? Encourage your child to do the same, asking "Who made the earth? What grows in the soil?" Show your child some seeds and bulbs. Use the soil to make a 'hill' and then a 'mountain.' Ask "Who made the hills?" etc.
2. Plant seeds or bulbs with your child in pots (sunflower seeds work well indoors if you don’t have a garden). Watch as they grow over a period of time. Ask "Who made the earth? Who made the flowers and helps them grow?"

God Made – Week 4: Today your child learned that God made the earth and trees.
To reinforce this lesson this week:
1. Go for a walk with your child and look at the different trees. Can they see any that look the same? Do any of them still have fruit/flowers/leaves? Ask your child “Who made the earth and trees?”
2. Collect different leaves from a garden or park area. At home, draw an outline of a tree trunk and branches on a large piece of paper. Help your child to glue the leaves to the page to cover the tree with leaves. Who made the trees? Who helps them to grow?
God Made – Week 5: Today your child learned that God made the animals and insects.

To reinforce this lesson this week:
1. Go on a ‘bug hunt’ with your child. Take a magnifying glass with you and look around a garden or park area to see how many types of insects you can find. Ask your child what they can see. How many legs? What colours are they? Are they different or the same? Remind your child that God made the insects and all the animals.

God Made – Week 6: Today your child learned that God made wild animals.

To reinforce this lesson this week:
1. Look at some pictures of different wild animals with your child. Can they name the different animals? Ask “Who made this animal? Who looks after it?”
2. Pretend to be different wild animals (use actions and sounds), and ask your child to guess which one you are. Ask “Who made the...?”

God Made – Week 7: Today your child learned that God made domestic animals.

To reinforce this lesson this week:
1. Does your family own any pets? Talk to your child about their pets. Remind them that God made their pets. How do they think God wants them to treat their pets?
2. Show your child pictures of domestic animals and explain what they do for us. Do they provide milk or eggs? Do they help to pull carriages or other heavy items? How do these animals help us? Remind your child that God made all these animals to help us.

God Made – Week 8: Today your child learned that God made them.

To reinforce this lesson this week:
1. Show your child photographs of themselves at different ages. Make a collage out of the photographs with your child’s name and “God Made Me” written in the middle.
2. Ask your child to draw a self-portrait. Using paint, help them make a hand print next to the picture. Write their name and “God Made Me” underneath.

God Made – Week 9: Today your child revised what they have learned over the past 8 weeks.

To reinforce this series of lessons this week:
1. Think back over everything they have learned. Ask “Who made that?”
2. Encourage your child to think of the most beautiful thing that God has made. Ask them to pray, thanking God for the wonderful world he made for us to live in.
God Made the Sky and Birds

Aim: To teach that God made the sky and birds.

Preparation
Read Psalms 8 and 19:1-6.

Answer the following questions:
• What do you learn from Psalm 8 about God? (Psalm 8:1-9)
• What does Psalm 8 teach about man? (Psalm 8:4-8)
• How does the sky reveal God’s glory? (Psalm 19:1-6)

Think about the wonderful world God has made and the importance of teaching this to the children. Pray for each child you teach, that God will open their eyes to the glory of his creation.

Visual Aids
Before your lesson, gather the following visual aids:
• A large sheet of pale blue paper for the sky.
• Cut out pictures of clouds, sun, rainbow, stars, moon, rain, aeroplanes, lightning, wind, snow, hailstones and birds.
• Feathers (you could stick these onto a picture of a bird for the children to touch).

Keep this entire picture for the next lesson.

Lesson
Show the children the big sky background. Talk to the children about the sky.
• What colour is the sky?
• Is it always blue?
• Why is it different colours?

Ask the children to name some things that you see in the sky. Use Blu-Tack to stick pictures of each item mentioned on the sky background as you talk about them.

Show the children the feathers. Where do these come from?

Get the children to come up and point to the different things. Talk about each thing that God made. Is there anything in your picture that God didn’t make?

Activity
Choose either Activity A (page 13), or Activity B (pages 14 and 15).

Activity A – Make a tube owl. Before the lesson, paint cardboard toilet tubes in bright colours, one for each child.

Cut a pair of wings from cloth or coloured paper and a small triangle of yellow paper to be the beak for each tube.

Help the children fold the top of one end of the tube into itself to form the ears. The children glue on wings, beak and googly eyes.

Alternatively if you don’t have toilet rolls, print page 13 onto coloured card and cut沿 the bold lines. The children decorate the owls. Then help them glue the ends to form a tube.

Activity B – Print page 14 onto paper for each child and page 15 also onto paper (one copy for every six children).

Before cutting out the shapes on page 15 colour the suns yellow, but leave the moons white. Fold along the line before cutting to cut two of each item out at a time.

Also supply the children with cotton wool balls and sticky stars or sequins to be used as stars. Place a set of all these items together in an envelope for each child (it’s always good to have a spare set).

Help the children to decide which side of their page will be night and which day. The children paste the various items on the page. For each item ask, “Can you see this at night or in the day?”

You could also help the children to add a rainbow using paints and thick brushes.
Game Idea

Where do I belong? Have the children sit in a circle and place two sheets of paper in the middle – one pale blue (sky) and one brown (ground). Have pictures of various items that you would find in the sky, e.g. clouds, birds, rainbow, helicopter, and some items you would not find there, e.g. bus, car, house, flower, etc.

Round 1: give a picture to each child and ask them to place it in the right place. Continue until all the pictures are in their correct place.

Round 2: ask the children to close their eyes. While they are not looking, swap a few of the pictures around. The children must open their eyes, look for the mistakes and correct them.

Prayer

Thank you, God, for making the sky and the birds. Amen.

You could also encourage the children to pray. They must think of one thing in the sky and simply say, “Thank you God for...”

Tip: Write the children’s names on every craft activity. This saves time (and tears), at the end of each lesson!
God made the sky and birds – Genesis 1
Since 1993 TnT Ministries has been resourcing and equipping people to teach the Bible to children and teenagers more faithfully, more creatively and more effectively.

Our comprehensive range of printed material covers the entire 18 month to 18 year age range. It is used right around the world in over 27 countries and has been translated in part or in whole into twelve different languages.

We have conducted live children’s ministry training throughout the United Kingdom, South Africa, Singapore, Dubai, Hong Kong Ethiopia, Uganda, Norway and Germany.

**Mustard Seeds** is our new range of electronic material and will ultimately be a comprehensive four year syllabus for 3 to 11 year olds.

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**We firmly believe** that the Bible is God's word to mankind and that it contains everything we need to know in order to be reconciled with God through faith in Jesus Christ and live in a way that is pleasing to him. Therefore, we believe it is vital to teach the Bible accurately to children, being careful to teach each passage’s true meaning in an age-appropriate manner, rather than selecting a 'children's message' from a Biblical passage.

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