

# God Made the World (Genesis 1:1–2:4)

God saw everything he had made: it was supremely good. (Genesis 1:31)



## SETUP: UNIT 1

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### Before You Teach

**T**he young children in your class are learning that God made a good world. This is an important faith foundation—it grounds us in God’s love, it affirms our innate goodness, and it encourages us to see the good in others. The little bitties in your nursery will be told many times this month that God made them and that they are good.

Set up the suggested activity centers to be used the whole month, or set up one each week. These centers will give children time to explore and wonder through play. In the safety of your nursery, create spaces of exploration and wondering for your class to encounter God. It may look like too much fun to be learning, but these activities will help your children practice the skills needed to recognize God in their midst as they continue to grow.

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### Art Activity Center: Day and Night Collages

*Before class: Gather glue sticks and yellow, black, and white construction paper. Cut the yellow and black paper into 1-by-1-inch squares.*

- Help each child sort the yellow and black squares.
- Invite the children to glue some yellow squares to the left side of their white papers and some black squares to the right side.

**SAY:** God made day and night. God made the sun shine during the day and the stars and moon show during the night. God made all the world good! God made you good!

- Set the day and night art somewhere to dry.
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### Pretend Play Activity Center: Zookeepers

*Before class: Gather stuffed animals and blocks for building.*

- Invite the children to pretend to be zookeepers and to build a home for each animal with the blocks.
- Encourage the children to care for each animal. The animals will need food, water, and maybe some zookeeper cuddles!

**SAY:** God made all the animals in our world and asks each person to help care for the animals.

**ASK:** Do you have an animal at home that your family cares for?

**SAY:** God made all the animals good! God made you good!

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## Sensory Activity Center: Playdough “Garden”

*Before class: Gather craft store silk flowers, green chenille stems, and brown playdough. Cut the green chenille stems into 1-inch pieces. Put down a playdough mat or use a tray for a cleaner version of this activity.*

- Encourage the children to smash out the brown playdough “dirt” for their gardens.
- Invite the children to add grass (the chenille stem pieces) and flowers to their gardens.
- Encourage the children to re-create their gardens until you (or they) are ready to move on to the next activity.

**SAY:** God made all the dirt, plants, and trees in our world. We can see the plants and trees grow and bloom flowers or produce fruits and vegetables.

**ASK:** Can you show me how a plant grows? (*Encourage the children to pretend to be seeds that grow into a plant or tree.*)

**SAY:** God made all the plants and trees good! God made you good!

## Sorting Activity Center: Air, Land, and Sea Animals

*Before class: Gather many air, land, and sea toy animals and three bins. (It would be great if you have a white bin for air, a green bin for land, and a blue bin for sea. If you don’t, you could use construction paper in these colors instead.)*

- Encourage the children to sort the animals. Help them put the animals that fly in the white air bin, the animals that walk in the green land bin, and the animals that swim in the blue sea bin.
- If there is an animal that does more than one of these things, talk about how unique God’s creations are. Then let the children decide which bin they would like that animal to be sorted into.

**SAY:** God made all the animals that live in our world! God made animals that fly in the air, that walk on the land, and that swim in the sea.

**ASK:** What is your favorite animal? Where does (*name of the animal child answered*) live?

**SAY:** God made all the animals good! God made you good!

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## SING & MOVE

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### Greeting

*Before class: Display at eye level the "Attendance Chart" (Class Kit—pp. 12-13).*

- Play your favorite children's music as you welcome each child.
  - Help each child put a check mark or a sticker on the Attendance Chart.
  - Invite the children to play in this month's centers (see pp. 1-2).
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### Transition to Explore

*Before class: Display the "Unit 1 Song Poster" (Class Kit—p. 21) where you can see it easily.*

- Invite the children to sit in a circle with you.
- Sing together three times "God Is So Good" (below), or sing it using the song poster.

**SING:** God is so good.

God is so good.

God is so good.

God's so good to me.

## EXPLORE

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### Hear the Bible Story

- Read the following story to the children. Help them do the movements with you.

**SAY:** God planned a beautiful world (*Make a circle with arms overhead.*)

and created it with care— (*Place hands over heart.*)

a glowing sun, a shining moon, (*Make a circle with arms overhead.*)

with light for all to share. (*Open up arms. Sweep hands down to your sides.*)

God planned a beautiful world (*Make a circle with arms overhead.*)

and created it with care— (*Place hands over heart.*)

the water with fish and the land with plants, (*Place palms together. Wiggle hands, as if swimming.*)

with fruit for all to share. (*Pretend to eat an apple.*)

God planned a beautiful world (*Make a circle with arms overhead.*)

and created it with care— (*Place hands over heart.*)

animals of all shapes and sizes, (*Hold hands in front of your body like paws.*)

birds that fly in the air. (*Flap arms.*)

God planned a beautiful world (*Make a circle with arms overhead.*)

and wants us to give it care— (*Place hands over heart.*)

for God created each person (*Point to each child.*)

and gave us the world for all to share. (*Turn palms upward.*)

**SAY:** God created the world good! I wonder what it was like when God made the world. What do you think?

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## CREATE

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### World Spray Bottle Painting

*Before class: Gather white cardstock, two spray bottles, blue and green food coloring, and trays.*

*Copy a "World Reproducible" (Leader Guide—p. 5) onto cardstock for each child. Add water to each spray bottle. Add several drops of blue food coloring to one of the bottles and shake it. Add several drops of green food coloring to the other bottle and shake it. (If you have older children, wait and prepare the spray bottles in class with their help.)*

- Invite the children to take turns making a world painting. Place a child's world paper onto a tray. Help the child spray some blue and some green food coloring onto the paper.
- Set the paintings somewhere to dry.

## PLAY

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### Days of Creation

*Before class: Cut out the cards "Days of Creation" (Class Kit—p. 5) and put them in a basket.*

- Gather the children in a circle. Invite one child at a time to draw a card. Encourage the children to do the motion suggested on the card. Continue playing until everyone has gotten the wiggles out.

## BLESS

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### Blessings

*Before class: Gather a lip balm stick.*

- Gather the children in a circle.
- Invite each child, one at a time, to hold out her or his hand. Use the lip balm to draw a cross on the child's hand.

**SAY:** (*Child's name*), God loves you. God blesses you. God is always with you. Amen.

**PRAY:** Thank you, God, for your good world. Amen.

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### At Home with God

*Before class: Display the "Unit 1 Bible Verse and Prayer Poster" (Class Kit—p. 4) where you can see it easily. Remove the Lesson 1 Bible Story Picture Card and parent article for each child.*

- Show the children the Bible verse poster.
- Read the verse to the children.
- Invite the children to repeat the verse one word at a time.
- Send home with each child Lesson 1 of the Bible Story Picture Cards and the parent article.

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## World Reproducible

