

GOD'S MASTERPIECE – THE WORLD AROUND US

The Creation Story (Genesis 1)

In the beginning God created the world...and the world was good. God was happy with what he created, he spent a lot of time making sure everything was just right and made the way that it should be. He also made every person on this planet and has a plan for them. He knows us and he is proud of us. Not only has God made humans, but he made them all unique and wonderful. Not one person is the same and in our communities we can see just how different we all are to each other. This is something that should be celebrated and we should take the time to learn about those around us who are different and those who are from other countries and cultures, celebrating their differences rather than judge them.

Below you will find a set of activities that are designed with friendship in mind to run either on their own or as a full night session based on the story of the Creation story with your group.

All the resources below can also be found on the resource area as individual activities. Please also see activities based on The Good Samaritan (Friendship) and David and Goliath (All about me) to get the full God's Masterpiece experience.

Crepes



Anchors/Juniors



15 minutes (Anchors)

30 – 45 minutes (Juniors)



The World Around Us



Baking

WHAT YOU NEED

- Aprons
- Paper Plates
- Cut up pieces of fruit
- Sweet sauces
- Butter
- Lemon
- 140g plain flour
- 200ml whole milk
- Two eggs
- 25g unsalted butter, plus a little extra
- Printed out recipes (see below)

We are so lucky to live in a world that is full of exciting countries and cultures. This activity will allow the young people to take a minute to discover what it might be like to live in a different country and sample a tasty treat that they may have never had the experience to try.

Crepes for example come from France, someone originally first discovered them by accidentally dropping porridge on a flat cooktop. These date back to the 13th century and represent the sun, signalling the end of winter and the start of spring.

This activity promotes the world around us to allow the young people to explore a new culture to learn something new, promote conversations and working together to complete the task and will get something rewarding from it.

INSTRUCTIONS

Anchors

1. Introduce to the young people that in our world there are a variety of diverse cultures, there may even be someone in your company from a different country or culture.
2. Encourage the young people to wash their hands and put on aprons.
3. Use pre-made crepes, which can be bought from Tesco or Sainsbury's.
4. Allow them to decorate their crepes using pre-prepared ingredients.
5. Roll them up and enjoy!

Juniors

1. Introduce to the young people that in our world there are a variety of diverse cultures, there may even be someone in your company from a different country or culture.
2. Encourage the young people to wash their hands and put on aprons.
3. Work together to make the batter, depending on how many are in the group you may want to double it so everyone can get at least one crepe.
4. See the recipe card attached for making the crepes.
5. Have a leader cook the crepes, and then put them out for the young people around a table so they can decorate them.
6. Roll them up and enjoy!

Crepes - France

A classic French dessert that is enjoyed with a variety of different fillings whether that is sweet or savoury.

Method

- STEP 1

Sift the flour with a pinch of salt into a medium-size bowl and make a well in the middle. Mix the milk and 100ml of water together. Break the eggs into the well and start whisking slowly. Add the milk and water in a steady stream, whisking constantly and gradually incorporating the flour as you do so.

- STEP 2

Whisk until the batter is smooth and all the flour has been incorporated. Set the batter aside to rest for 30 mins, then whisk the melted butter into the batter.

- STEP 3

Heat the pan over a medium heat. Very lightly grease the pan with melted butter. Using a ladle, pour 2 tbsp of batter into the pan and swirl it around so the bottom of the pan is evenly coated. You want to use just enough batter to make a delicate, lacy pancake. Cook the pancake for about forty-five secs on one side until golden and then using a palette knife or fish slice, flip the pancake over and cook the other side for about thirty secs until it freckles.

- STEP 4

Slide the pancake out of the pan and either serve immediately or stack on a plate with baking parchment in between. Continue until all the batter is used up.

Recipe taken from BBC Good Food.

Salt Dough Creations



Anchors/Juniors



20 – 30 minutes



The World Around Us



Craft

WHAT YOU NEED

- Large bowls
- Wooden spoons
- 500g plain flour
- 250g table salt
- 125g warm water
- Rolling pins
- Protective sheet or newspaper for tables

Keep extra ingredients in case you need to make more dough if there are large numbers.

When God created the world, he took great care in putting everything together and in his eyes it was good. This activity will allow the young people to take time to create something that they too can be proud of. This is a good opening to discussing the creation story and how God took the time to create them too.

Allow the young people time to create what they want; leaders can join in as well and it is a good bonding exercise together opening a path for discussion about what they are making.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Let the young people help weigh out the dry ingredients, then put them into a bowl and mix.
2. Slowly add the warm water, stirring at the same time.
3. When it comes together put the dough out on a floured surface.
4. Let the young people take turns to knead it for a few minutes until smooth.
5. Distribute the dough out to the young people, you may need to make more depending on the size of the group.
6. Let the young people make their creations and then get an adult to place them in the oven at 150C for an hour – this can be done after the children leave.
7. At the next session allow the young people to paint and decorate their creations.

CREATION: THE WORLD AND ME



Juniors



30 minutes



The World Around Us



Craft

WHAT YOU NEED

- Copy of sheet below
- Pencils
- Crayons
- Colouring pencils
- Colouring pens

In the beginning God created the world...this may be a familiar story to the young people within your BB company. God spent seven days creating the world making it perfect, He also made everyone in it, spending time making them just the way they are meant to be, and He says that we are "fearfully and wonderfully made." This activity is an interactive story that will include actions to encourage participation and listening. Following on from the story, there is a storyboard for the young people to draw out the creation themselves and allows for discussions that can be held to think about the world around them and where everything comes from - it can all be linked back to God.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Put the young people into teams and ask them if they can remember the order of how God created the world. Give them some time to do this.
2. After looking at the answers, go over the story of Creation together using the actions in the printable interactive story below.
3. Then fill in the table for each day drawing in what God made each day.
4. For a fun activity, give the children a blank table template and ask them if they were able to make the world in six days, what would they make each day?

Interactive Creation Story:

Italics are actions that the young people do.

In the beginning, when God created the world, it was very dark [*Put your hands over your eyes to make it dark*]

But God was there, and He was moving over the water, then He said "Let there be light" [*remove your hands*]

God was pleased with what He saw [*give a big thumbs up*]

He separated the light from the darkness and named the light; day, and the darkness; night [*make a sun using your hands above your head shining down for day and pretend to sleep for night*]

Evening passed and morning came, that was the first day [*put one finger up*]

Then God divided the water from the space above it [*making waves with your arms*]

He named the space above the water, sky [*Open hands above head in an arch*]

Evening passed and morning came, that was the second day [*put two fingers up*]

Then God made the land, and He called it earth [*using your hands, make a circle in front of you to make the earth*] and he named the water sea [*make waves with your hands*]

God was pleased with what He saw [*give a big thumbs up*]

Then He made plants and trees that made fruit [*pick an apple off a tree*]

God was very pleased with what He saw [*give a big thumbs up*]

Evening passed and morning came, that was the third day [*put up three fingers*]

Then God made lights appear in the sky, one was the sun, and one was the moon. Then He made the stars [*use hands and open and close them to make stars*]

God was pleased with what He saw [*give a thumbs up*]

Evening passed and morning came, that was the fourth day [*put up four fingers*]

Then God made all types of fish to live in the water [*use hands to make fish swimming in the sea*] and put birds in the sky [*use hands to make birds flying*]

God was pleased with what He saw [*give a thumbs up*]

Evening passed and morning came, that was the fifth day [*put up five fingers*]

God made all the animals big and small *[make an animal noise and do an action for that animal]*

God was pleased with what He saw *[give a thumbs up]*

Then God made human beings *[point to yourself]*, and they would oversee the earth and all the animals. He made them male and female, He blessed them and was VERY pleased with what He made *[give two big thumbs up]*

Evening passed and morning came, that was the sixth day *[put up six fingers]*

Then God looked at everything He made, and He was pleased *[give a thumbs up]*

Then on the seventh day, God rested after all His hard work *[Go to sleep]*

DAYS OF CREATION

Draw in what God created each day in the boxes below.

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3

Day 4	Day 5	Day 6

Sensory Games



Juniors/Company/Seniors



15 - 30 minutes



The World Around Us



Game

WHAT YOU NEED

- Blindfolds
- Spoons
- Food assortment
- Tables
- Chairs
- Headphones

These games allow young people to see what it is like to live in someone else's shoes for a short period of time. This will encourage clear communication between the young people, trusting in each other and listening for instructions. In the Bible Jesus was loving and kind to all regardless of who they were. We should learn to treat others the same as Jesus did. While these short games will cause a lot of laughs it will be important to remind the young people that this is a normal day to day for a lot of people that they have never met.

These games could also lead on to having visitors in from charities such as the Guide Dogs.

Sensory racing - INSTRUCTIONS

8. Put the young people into teams and prepare an obstacle course using chairs, tables and anything else you think will be useful in your church hall.
9. Allow the young people to run the course as they normally would and see who wins, if they want to go again that's fine.
10. Now get the team to nominate someone to run the race again, only this time they will be blindfolded, and they can pick someone to guide them. This one will not be a race but for an opportunity for the young people to communicate and trust each other.
11. Talk to the young people about the challenges certain people may face by not being able to see that well.

Food tasting - INSTRUCTIONS

1. Put the young people into teams and prepare small samples of food for the young people to try – please be mindful of allergies!
2. Blindfold a member of the group, one at a time and get them to taste a food, if they can guess it, they will get a point.
3. An alternative version of this game is using baby food and seeing if they can guess what the meal is instead of whole foods.

Lip reading challenge - INSTRUCTIONS

1. Put the young people into pairs and ask one of them to wear headphones.
2. The other young person (who can hear) will be given words to try and tell their partner, who must repeat it back to them.
3. For every right word they will get a point.
4. Allow each pair 2 or 3 minutes each so everyone to have a turn.
5. The team with the most correctly guessed words wins.

