

God saw how good it was. (Genesis 1:12c)

God Creates Living Things – Genesis 1:20-25

Prepare to Wonder

The creative Creation story continues. The swarming of the living things is a description of how all creatures inhabit the earth. God divides the animals into three categories—sea animals, sky animals, and land animals. God made a diverse population and demonstrated the importance of all things. God knew that each creature would serve a purpose and be a contributing part of creation. God did not just create one thing; God created many.

God gives a blessing to all living things to reproduce. This is a poetic expression of giving power. It is also important because God sees that all living things are good and God wants to continue creation—bringing forth all of life. There is the continual theme of God calling all of creation good. Diversity of creation is important and good. This is a dynamic of life and blessing. This is the continued creative work of God.

God's creativity has endless possibilities, and there is so much more to come in the marvelous Creation story. God imagined a diverse world where each and every living thing was important. The Creation story shows the goodness of all things, a creative calling of blessing.

All children can also use their imaginations to create. They do this every day through play. Consider the many ways children imagine; begin to see that their imaginations are signs of God's creativity working in the world.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

Imagination is an important part of *creativity*. What kind of world do you imagine for your children? How does this align with God's imagination for the world? This week, watch or read the news. As you do, notice what words are being used. What kinds of things are shown? Then, use your imagination to compare the world God dreams of to the world in our midst. Ask yourself, what can I do to make this dream of a better world come true? Write down one way you can help be an agent of God's creation.

Welcome to Wonder

Prepare Ahead: As a family, create a Wonder Table. Find a small table or area in your home. On the table place a candle, a plant or flower, and any other special items you want to include.

Tip: Use this space while engaging in the lesson.

- Gather together as a family.

WONDER together:

- What is your favorite animal? Why?
- Do you have pets or animals in your family?
- If you could be an animal, what animal would you be?

CONTINUE to Wonder:

- How are animals a part of God's creativity?

PRAY together

- Dear God, thank you for creating every living thing and making it so good. Amen.

SING together

- Use your Annual Music CD or download "Very Good" (<https://www.cokesbury.com/Celebrate-Wonder-Annual-Music>).
- Play "Very Good."
- Sing and celebrate.

Wonder with Me

Supplies: CEB Bible, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Cube (Digital Pack) optional

READ the Bible Story

- Read the Bible story, Genesis 1:20-25, from the CEB Bible or the Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook.
- Roll the Wonder Cube. Take time to answers a few of the questions.

WATCH the Bible Story

- Visit (<https://www.cokesbury.com/Celebrate-Wonder-Video>) to download and watch today's Bible story.

SHARE the Faith Word

Faith Word: CREATIVITY - Creativity is the process of imagining and making something, just like God imagined and created the world.

Nature Walk (Exploration)

Supplies: Clipboards, paper, pens or pencils, brown paper bags, gloves (optional)

- Go outside and observe God's creation.

SAY: I want you to notice all that God has created.

WONDER: What do you see? What do you notice?

- Pick up three items that represent the beauty of God's creation and put them in the bag. Remember to be respectful of the earth.
- After everyone has had a chance to collect their items, go back inside.
- Gather the Wonder Table or a table in your home. Share what you have collected. Then, place the items on the Wonder Table.

SAY: These items show us the beauty of God's creation. Everything on the earth is beautiful and good.

WONDER: How did God create the earth?

Spiritual Practice—Exploring creation through beauty

Supplies: nature sounds (you can find playlists online); cell phone or other electronic device; Celebration Chart (optional), Family Activity Book, (optional)

SAY: God made so many wonderful things and God thinks each and every part of creation is good.

WONDER: What's your favorite part of creation?

SAY: Let's listen to the beautiful sounds of nature. While you listen, figure out what sounds you can identify.

- Close your eyes.
- Play the nature sounds. Let the sounds play for a few minutes. Then, open your eyes.

WONDER: What sounds did you hear?

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for all of your creation. Thank you for the flying birds, the crawling creatures, the swimming fish, and the gigantic and roaring animals. For all creatures great and small we are grateful and we call each of them good. Amen.