God Made the Creatures of the Sea • Lesson 6

God Made the Animals

Bible Verse
God made the animals (adapted from Genesis 1:25).

Growing Closer to Jesus
Children will
- learn that God made all living creatures;
- learn that God made the fish, dolphins, and other creatures of the sea;
  and
- thank God for the creatures of the sea.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis
- God made the creatures of the sea.

Genesis 1:20-25
This week we’re focusing on God’s creation of all the creatures that live in the water. God created special creatures that can breathe in the water. God made each creature especially for its own environment and placed those creatures in the environments where they could flourish. Our God doesn’t make mistakes. Help your children see the wonder of water creatures and the marvel of God’s provision.

Prayer
- Read Psalm 8:4-9.
- Reflect on who we are as human beings in light of these verses. Think about your relationship with God, and with all of his creation. Are you seeking what God would want?
- Pray: God, help me to see humanity from your perspective. Thank you for giving us such a high standing in your creation. Help us to give other parts of your creation the care you would have us to, like…

Before the Lesson
- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.

Hands-On Bible Curriculum—Toddlers & 2s
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*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.*
Arrival Activities

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player

- Play “Sea Sounds #2” (track 13) from the CD as children are arriving.
- Use Cuddles the Lamb to greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
- Tape or pin a name tag to each child’s clothing.
- Say: Today we’re going to learn that God made the animals.
- Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won’t be distracted by him during the next activity.

Option 1: Let’s Go Fishin’

SUPPLIES: construction paper, scissors, large paper clips, dowels, string, magnets, shallow container

Before class, make fishing poles by attaching lengths of string to wooden dowels and tying a magnet to the end of each string. Using construction paper, cut out fish shapes, and attach a large paper clip to each fish. Place the fish in a shallow container on the floor. Give each child a fishing pole. Encourage the children to go “fishing.” Ask questions such as “Do you like to fish?” “Have you ever been fishing before?” and “What did you catch?” Remind children that God made the animals and that God made the fish.

Option 2: Starfish Stick

SUPPLIES: dishpans, sand, construction paper, scissors, glue sticks, wipes, tablecloth

Before this activity, cut out one or two simple starfish shapes from construction paper for each child. Spread a plastic tablecloth on the floor. Set out a few dishpans half-filled with sand. Encourage children to rub glue on the starfish with the glue sticks and then place the starfish into the sand glue-side down. Discuss with the children how starfish have bumpy skin and where starfish come from. Remind children that God made the animals and God made the animals of the sea. Have wipes available to clean the children’s hands.

Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player

As Arrival Activities draw to a close, gently mention that it will soon be time to clean up. Encourage children to help you pick up things in the room as you lead them in singing “Let’s Pick Up All Our Things.” Use the CD (track 3) and sing the song to the tune of “Looby Loo.”
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Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things
And put them all away.
Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Let’s put it all away.

Bible Story Time

**Bible Song**

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, CD player

Say: **Who made the animals?** Genesis 1:25 in the Bible tells us **God made the animals.** Show children the Bible. The Bible is God’s special book. The Bible tells us about God. Let’s sing a song about the Bible.

Using the CD (track 4), lead children in singing “God’s Special Book” to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”

This is God’s special book.
Yes, it’s God’s book you see!
I learn about all God has done,
And his love for me!
(Repeat.)

Bible!

**Bible Story: God Made the Animals**

**SUPPLIES:** CD player, blue construction paper, crayons

Before class begins, please check to make sure the sensory items are still securely attached so the children can touch them without danger of pulling off the items or putting them into their mouths.

Take the *plush heart* from the Learning Lab.
Panel 1

Place the CD player beside you. Hold the folded StoryBoard. Say: We’re going to hear a Bible story about how God made the animals. First, let’s listen to some animals from last week. What animal do you hear? Play the “Sea Sounds #1” segment of the CD (track 9). Help children identify the “whale talk.” Then say: God made whales. What other animals did he make? Let’s see. Unfold Panel 1 of the StoryBoard, which shows birds and butterflies in the sky. Play the “Bird Sounds” (track 12) segment of the CD.

After God made the world, he filled the world with animals and birds. God made the birds to fly in the sky. Birds have feathers to help them fly. Let’s find a bird on our StoryBoard. Hold the StoryBoard so the children can touch the feathers.

Ask: • How do the feathers feel? (Soft; tickly.)
Say: God made the animals. God made the birds. God also made butterflies. Their wings have so many beautiful colors. Let’s find a butterfly on our StoryBoard. Hold the StoryBoard so the children can touch the butterfly.

Ask: • What do its wings feel like? (Smooth; soft.)
Say: God made all the creatures that fly. Wouldn’t it be fun to be a butterfly? Let’s make fluttery little butterflies with our hands. Show children how to hold their thumbs together to make butterfly “bodies” and wiggle their fingers for butterfly “wings.” Encourage children to flutter their “butterflies” up and down. Then say: Let’s see what else God made.

Panel 2

Reveal Panel 2 of the StoryBoard, which shows a whale, fish, and a starfish in the sea. Say: God made the animals. God put fish and other animals in the sea. Let’s find a picture of a whale and feel its skin.

Hold the StoryBoard down for the children to touch the whale.

Say: Did you know that whales make noises? It almost sounds as if they’re talking. Let’s listen to some whale talk. Play the “Sea Sounds #2” segment of the CD (track 13). Pause the CD after the sounds have finished.

God made lots of fish with scales on their sides. Let’s touch the fish in our picture and see how it feels.

Hold the StoryBoard down for the children to touch the fish.

Ask: • How does the fish feel? (Rough; bumpy.)
Say: There’s another kind of sea creature called a starfish. Its body is shaped like a star.

Have children touch the starfish.

Ask: • How does the starfish feel? (Rough; scratchy.)
Bring out the plush heart, blue construction paper, and crayons. Show the children how to trace the plush heart in the center of their papers to form the outline of an angelfish, turning the heart sideways so the bottom point is the fish’s mouth and the humps are the tail. Assist children in coloring an eye, scales, and ocean waves on their fish pictures. Have children hold up their fish. Then say: God made the fish. God made lots of fish. Look at all the fish we have here. Everyone move your picture like your fish is swimming in the water God made.
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Ask: • Where do the fish live? (In a river; in a lake; in water; in an aquarium.)
• What other animals live in the sea? (Whales; dolphins.)
• Who made all the animals in the sea? (God did.)

Say: ➤God made the animals. God made whales and fish and starfish.
What other animals did God make?

Panel 3

Unfold Panel 3 of the StoryBoard, which shows farm, jungle, forest, and domesticated animals. Say: ➤God made the animals. He made animals that live on farms and in the jungle and in our homes. Let’s find the sheep.

Let’s play a fun game. When you hear an animal sound, say the name of that animal. Then we’ll find and touch that animal on the StoryBoard. Play the “Animal Sounds” segment of the CD (track 10). After each animal sound, pause the CD, and let children touch the picture of that animal. Be sure each child has a turn touching at least one animal.

When all the animal sounds have been played, stop the CD. Then encourage children to point to and identify other animals in the picture. If you have older toddlers, let them pretend to be the animals they touch.

Show the children the StoryBoard with all three panels open. Say: ➤God made the animals. He made the birds and butterflies, the fish in the sea, the animals on the farm, the animals in the jungle, the animals in the forest, and even pets because God loves us.

Say: And God sent his Son, Jesus, because he loves us. Thank you, God, for animals! Thank you, God, for Jesus!

Animals Song

SUPPLIES: CD player

Using the CD, lead children in singing “God Made Us All” (track 11) to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.”

God made the big giraffe. (Stick out neck.)
God made the tiny fish. (Put hands together and move back and forth like a fish.)
God made each of us (point to different children)
Just the way he wished. (Point index finger to your temple.)

God made the elephant (swing arm like a trunk)
Look just like it should. (Raise “trunk.”)
God made me the way I am (point to self)
And said, “It is good.” (Point to smile.)

Important: Put away the StoryBoard out of reach of children, and put the plush heart back in the Learning Lab for future lessons.
God Made the Creatures of the Sea

Repetition is an essential tool when teaching young children. When adult teachers begin to get bored or even sick of songs or activities, young children are often just starting to understand them. For the sake of your children, keep teaching with enthusiasm even if you feel a little bored with an activity or song.

Bring out Cuddles the Lamb. Go through the following script, and then put Cuddles away out of sight of the children.

Cuddles: Hi! I am so happy to be here. What did you learn today?
Teacher: We’ve been learning that God made the animals. And we’ve learned about animals that swim.
Cuddles: I like to swim…in the bathtub!
Teacher: (Laughing) You’d make a funny fish, Cuddles. We’ve been learning that God made the fish in the sea.
Cuddles: I like fish. They’re bright and pretty and they go “Glub, blub, glub.”
Teacher: Say, you’re pretty good at fish talk, Cuddles. Are you a good helper, too?
Cuddles: I like to be a helper. What are we going to do?
Teacher: We’re going to have some fun with the animals God has made. Each one of you will get a turn placing a creature of the sea on our bulletin board. Cuddles will help us.

As you hand a sea creature to each child, have Cuddles ask the child what it is. For example: Cuddles: What is that? Child: It’s a dolphin. Cuddles: Who makes dolphins?
Child: God does.

Bible Activities

Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

SUPPLIES: sea-creature patterns (p. 78), construction paper, scissors, tape

Before class, photocopy the sea-creature patterns onto construction paper, and cut them out. Make sure you have enough for each child to have one. You may wish to decorate the figures with markers or crayons.
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**Sing It Out**

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

Using the CD, lead children in singing “God Made Us All” (track 11) to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.” The lyrics are on pages 74-75.

**Bible Craft**

**SUPPLIES:** knife, potatoes, blue construction paper, markers, red paint, shallow pans, plastic forks

Cut several potatoes in half lengthwise, and push a fork into each half to serve as a handle. Place a potato half and a sheet of blue construction paper in front of each child. Write children’s names on their papers. Pour red paint into shallow pans, and place the paint pans between every two children. Have the children dip their potato halves into the paint. Have them then “stamp” their potato halves on paper several times to create fish scenes. Help children draw fins and tails on their potato stamps (see illustration).

Say: We’ve made fish pictures to remind us that God made the creatures of the sea. God made the animals. Set aside the finished pictures to dry. Have children help you clean up the table.

**Bible Game**

**SUPPLIES:** scissors, copies of the sea creatures on p. 78

Before class, make copies of the sea creatures. Cut out the animals, and place pictures of sea creatures around the room on the floor.

Say: We’re going to pretend we’re diving and looking for the different creatures of the sea. Let’s go! Pretend to swim around the room and discover pictures of tropical fish, dolphins, sea horses, and starfish. Ask children each to find one sea creature and bring it to your story area. Help the children identify what they have found. Remind children that God made the animals, including the creatures of the sea.
Closing

■ Go Fish!

**SUPPLIES:** Goldfish crackers, juice in cups, napkins

Gather children at the table.

Ask: **Who made the animals?** (God.)

Say: **We’ve learned that God made the animals.** Let’s thank God for making the animals of the sea. Pray: Thank you, God, for making beautiful creatures of the sea! Amen.

Say: **We’ve listened to fish and seen pictures of fish. Now let’s nibble some delicious pretend fish.**

Help children clean their hands. Give each child some Goldfish crackers on a napkin and a half-filled cup of juice.

As children are leaving, remind them to take home their projects.

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For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ Somethin’s Fishy

Ask a volunteer to bring a bowl of fish or a small aquarium to class so that children may see real creatures of the water. If anyone in your church is a scuba diver or snorkeler, ask him or her to bring diving equipment and interesting things from the sea to share with the class.

■ Splish Splash

Fill a large container with water, and then add windup fish and other sea-creature toys. Children will enjoy playing with them.
Patterns