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Introduction

Children learn by doing. A craft project following a Bible story can help to reinforce the words a child has just heard and provide a visual reminder of God's continuing love and care.

The easy-to-do projects in this book, all using readily available paper plates and simple craft materials, are designed to help young children grow in the knowledge and love of God.

Any size paper plate can be used for the projects, although younger children may find it easier to work on larger plates. Unless specified, the plates should be

paper, not polystyrene. Paper plates are cheap, sturdy and easy to colour with crayons or felt-tipped pens.

Read through the instructions given with each project, but feel free to make changes as you see fit. Illustrations accompanying the text are for reference only: encourage the children to make projects that are unique, not imitations of the book, the teacher, or each other. Let the infinite variety that God shows in the way he creates be our guide to releasing the children's own creativity.

The heavens and the earth

Bible story: Genesis 1:1

Activity: A picture

You will need:

- One paper plate per child
- Coloured crayons or felt-tipped pens
- Sticky-backed stars (optional)
- Hole punch
- World atlas (for reference)



Instructions

Draw a circle around the inside of the plate's rim. Draw lines to divide the circle into continents and oceans of the world. Draw mountains, cities and familiar landmarks.

Colour in the land and the water. Around the rim of the plate write the words from Genesis 1:1: 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.'

Draw in and colour a sun, moon, stars and comets on the remaining space around the plate rim. Add sticky-backed stars if you wish.

Punch a hole in the top of the paper plate. Hang the finished plate up as a reminder that God made our wonderful world.

Talk about

Talk about the wonderful world that God has made.

Other ideas

- Torn card or tissue paper could also be used to make land and water.
- Instead of Genesis 1:1, write 'He's got the whole world in his hands' around the plate.

Lights in the sky

Bible story: Genesis 1:14–18

Activity: A wall-hanging

You will need:

- Three 20cm paper plates per child
- Yellow, tan and orange wool
- Scissors
- Glue
- Ribbon (75cm length per child)
- Hole punch

Instructions

Cut four pieces of yellow wool to 20cm lengths and glue to the centre of one plate as shown. Glue an X shape first and then add one horizontal and one vertical length to form a star.

On a second plate, coil orange and/or yellow wool around the centre section of the plate. Cut orange and yellow wool into pieces the width of the plate rim. Glue the wool around the rim for the sun's rays.

On a third plate, glue coiled circles of yellow and/or tan wool to make craters on the moon. If you wish, cut out a section of the plate to make a crescent shape.

Glue all three plates down on the ribbon, about 3cm apart. Punch a hole in the top of the uppermost plate and tie a piece of wool through it to form a loop. Hang the wall-hanging up to show the lights that God placed in the sky.

Talk about

Talk about how the sun, moon and stars separate day from night and show the time of the seasons, special days and years.

Other ideas

- Instead of using wool, colour in the sun, moon and star with felt-tipped pens.
- Allow each child to choose and make just one plate picture.
- Invite the children to put their plates on a display board as part of a creation project.
- Use the plates to illustrate other Bible passages about God's creation of lights in the sky, such as Psalm 136:7–9.
- Use the star plate on its own for the star of Bethlehem.

