

Children's ministry resources & activities for groups & families exploring this week's theme.



God's Creation and Our Rule

stbartskids.org

Creation Care / Genesis 1:26-31

God's Creation and Our Rule

Genesis 1:26-31





THIS SUNDAY **RUNSHEET** 21st September 2025 **BIBLE FOCUS** Genesis 1:26-31 THEME

God's Creation and Our Rule

WEEK

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

This resource has been written and produced by St Bart's Kids and we're delighted to be able to share this curriculum with you. We pray that it would be an amazing tool to aid teaching and learning occurring either at home or within your children's ministry setting.

This package is part of a mini series based on Creation Care. The items within this package all pertain to one session.

The tabs on this document will help guide the main sections that should be incorporated within a session. Within each section you will find modifications for different age/learning levels - look for the tags Early Childhood, Lower Primary, Middle Primary, and Upper Primary.

All of the items within If you have any questions or would like to know more about St Bart's Kids resources, please contact

TIMING

Welcome and play 15mins

Teaching Time (includes morning tea for Early Childhood)

15mins

Game (Kindy - Year 6 only) 10mins

Small Groups/Activities 20mins

Worship 10mins

Check-out

MATERIALS

Felt Story Set of Creation

Felt Board

Stuffed toy animals

Chalkboards

Chalk

Pieces of Rubbish

Bin

Binoculars or large telescope tubes (cardboard tubes)

Kids on Stage Charades Card

Game

Watering cans

Access to water

Bin or bags to hold rubbish

Soap/hand washing facilities

Clipboards with paintcard swatches attached.

Worksheet #1

Clipboards

Pencils

Score chart

Clipboard

 \Box Pen

ADDITIONAL INFO

This resource is the first in a three week series based on Creation Care



SESSION OUTLINE

THIS SUNDAY

21st September 2025

BIBLE FOCUS

Genesis 1:26-31

THEME

God's Creation and Our Rule

WEEK

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

God made people in his image to take care of the world and look after everything he created.

SERIES OVERVIEW

Creation Care

The Scriptures—and especially the Psalms—repeatedly and emphatically declare the wonders and beauty of God's creation. The Earth is the Lord's! (Psalm 24) The heavens declare the glory of God! (Psalm 19) How many are your works, Lord! (Psalm 104) Creating humankind in his image, God entrusted us to wisely steward his rule, yet our relationship with God's world is distorted and damaged. This three-part series will explore the goodness of God's creation and our rule, the problem and impact of sin, and how we are to live in anticipation of New Creation.

MULTIMEDIA

- 1. SBK Kids Talk
- 2. Creation (Genesis 1-2) (Saddleback Kids)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Here are some resources we recommend for helping teach the Gospel to kids.

- God's Very Colourful Creation by Tim Thornborough and Jennifer Davison
- 2. <u>Creation (Big Theology for Little Hearts Series) by Devon and</u>
 Jessica Provencher

SONGS

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- 1. He's God the Whole World in His Hands
- 2. I Am a Child of God
- 3. Creation Song (Early Childhood Worship)

SONGS

PRIMARY

- 1. He's God the Whole World in His Hands
- 2. Children of God
- 3. <u>Creation Song (Early Childhood Worship)</u>



OVERVIEW

ALL-IN TEACHING

WARM-UPS

- ☐ What are some things that you have seen (or touched or enjoyed) this morning that God created?
- What is the most unusual thing vou think God created?

TEACHING TIME

God's Creation and Our Rule

In the beginning, God made everything (out of nothing no less!), declared it very good, and set it apart to declare his glory.

In the Bible, it tells us that humans were one of the last things that God made. BUT it also tells us that they are special. Why? Because they were uniquely made in God's image AND entrusted with special responsibility to 'rule' in cooperation with God.

When you hear the word 'rule' what do you think of?

- A measurement ruler?
- A king or queen?
- A dictator? Other?

Some people think 'rule' to mean that humans have the freedom to dominate and do whatever they like with the earth.

But the meaning of the word rule is richer. To rule (in this context) means that we are given responsibility to act responsibly to care for God's creation just as God would.

Throughout this series, we will look at how it is good for us to delight and enjoy the beauty of creation (and all that God made).

That doesn't mean we are to worship creation, but instead be directed back to the Creator in praise.

As rulers over creation (but answerable to God), our role is to work and take care of creation, not abuse it.

Some describe our role a bit like a gardener - one who lovingly cares for, tends, looks after, fixes, maintains, and repairs. It is an active and intentional role.

As we care for creation, we are constantly being reminded that we can delight in the goodness of God and be faithful stewards of all he has created.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Early Childhood

What is your favourite animal that God created?

2. Lower Primary

Which is your favourite part of creation that you like to take care of?

3. Middle Primary

How do you think humans could rule over creation better?

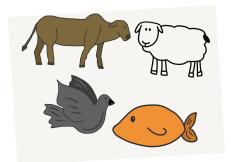
4. Upper Primary

How does it make you feel to know that you have been created in God's image?

Genesis 1:26-31

God's Creation and Our Rule

God's Creation and Our Rule



God said, "Let's make people, like us. They will look after the fish, the birds and all the animals."



So God made people to be like him. God made a man and a woman.



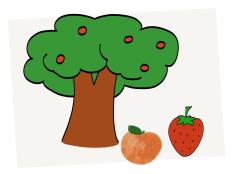
God blessed them and said, "Have children. Fill the earth. Take care of it."



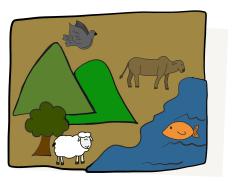


Early Childhood

BIBLE READING



God said, "I give you plants and fruit for you and the animals to eat."

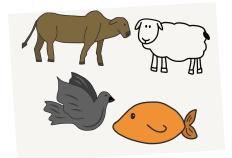


And it all happened, just as God said. God looked at everything he had made. And it was very good.



Lower Primary

God's Creation and Our Rule



26 God said, "Let's make people so they are like us. Let them care for the fish, the birds, the animals, and all God's creatures."

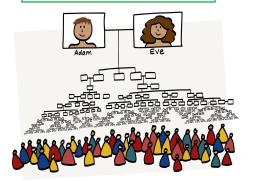


27 So God created people to be like him. He created them as male and female.

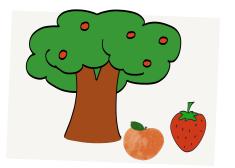




BIBLE READING

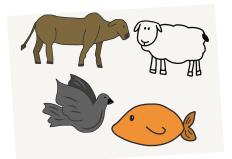


28 God blessed them and said to them, "Have children. Fill the earth and bring it under your care and control."



29-31 Then God said, "I am giving you all sorts of plants and fruit trees for you and the animals to eat." And that's exactly what happened. God saw everything he had made. And it was very good.

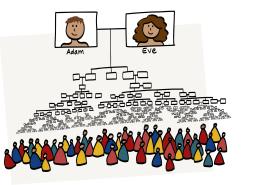




26 Then God said, "Let's make people so that they are like us. Let them tend and care for the fish, the birds, the animals, and all God's creatures."



27 So God created human beings in his own likeness. He created them to be like himself. He created them as male and female.



28 God blessed them and said to them, "Have children so that there will be many of you. Fill the earth and bring it under your care and control."



BIBLE FOCUS

THEME

God's Creation and Our Rule

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Middle Primary



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29-30 Then God said, "I am giving you all sorts of plants and fruit trees for you and the animals to eat. And that's exactly what happened.

31 God saw everything he had made. And it was very good. There was evening, and there was morning. It was day six.



BLE FOCUS

THEME

od's Creation and Our Rule

1

FOCUS

God made people in his image to take care of the world and look after everything he created.

Early Childhood

PRAYER

Dear God,

THANK YOU for making the world.

THANK YOU for making animals, birds and fish.

THANK YOU for making people and THANK YOU for making me.

HELP ME to care for your world every day.

Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

View SBK ebook: God's Creation and Our Rule (Genesis 1:26-31)

- What did God make?
 Everything! God made everything on heaven and earth.
- Is creation good or is it bad?
 Creation is perfectly good. It is created by God, and he is pleased with it.
- 3. What did God create last of all?
 After 5 days, humans are created.
- 4. What is special about humans?

We are created in the image of God. Both boys and girls are created to reflect God.

5. How should we look after God's creation?

We are to look after it carefully. God has given us the special job of caring and ruling over the earth, in God's way.

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals,[a] and over all the creatures that move along the ground". Genesis 1:26



Genesis 1:26-31

THEME

od's Creation and Our Rule

1

FOCUS

God made people in his image to take care of the world and look after everything he created.

Lower Primary

PRAYER

Dear God.

Thank you for making this beautiful world. Thank you for trusting us to take care of it.

Help us to be kind to animals, plants, and each other. Show us ways we can love your creation every day.

Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Genesis 1:26-31 (from SBK Lower Primary Scripture)

1. What did God create?

Everything! He created everything we can see and everything we can't see, just by speaking. He made everything on heaven and earth.

- 2. How did God create everything?
 - a. Very randomly like a messy room, where everything is thrown around.
 - **b.** Carefully so everything is in its right place. God created everything carefully. Answer = b.
- 3. When God created everything, was it good or bad? Was it perfect or imperfect?

Creation is perfectly good. It is created by God, and he is pleased with it.

- 4. What is your favourite part of creation?
- What did God create last of all? After 5 days, humans are created.
- 6. What is special about humans?
 We are created in the image of God. Both boys and girls are created to reflect God.

7. How should we look after God's creation?

We are to look after it carefully. God has given us the special job of caring and ruling over the earth, in God's way.

8. What are some practical things you could do to help look after God's creation?

You might like to offer some suggestions to get the discussion going, if needed - pick up rubbish; recycle and reuse where possible; grow own plants; protect native animals; weed gardens; turn off lights when not in room; hang clothes in sun; take shorter showers; etc).



OVERVIEW

21st Sentember 2025

Genesis 1:26-31

THEME

iod's Creation and Our Rule

1

FOCUS

God made people in his image to take care of the world and look after everything he created.

Middle Primary

PRAYER

Dear God.

Thank you for making this beautiful world. Thank you for trusting us to take care of it.

Help us to be kind to animals, plants, and each other. Show us ways we can love your creation every day.

Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Genesis 1:26-31 (from SBK Middle Primary Scripture)

- What part of creation most fills you with awe and wonder?
- 2. What does the Bible say that God made? Everything! He created everything we can see and everything we can't see, just by speaking. He made everything on heaven and earth.
- 3. What is the last thing God created? After 5 days, humans are created.
- 4. What is special about humans?

We are created in the image of God. We have been created to reflect God and bring glory to him. God loves us very much and wants us to be in relationship with him.

- 5. What special role are given to humans?

 Both men and women are given a special role to care and rule over the earth, in God's way. We are the 'homekeepers' or 'caretakers', responsible for looking after Jesus' inheritance until he returns
- 6. In Verse 26 it says: God said, "Let's make people so they are like us. Let them care for the fish, the birds, the animals, and all God's creatures." This means God gave humans the authority to rule over God's creation. What does it mean to 'rule'?

To rule means to look after and care for. It is like being a guardian and having responsibility over the earth. But this doesn't have to be in a bossy way.

- 7. Think of all the parts of creation. What part are you most thankful for?
- 8. What do you think humans have cared well for?
- 9. What parts do you think humans haven't cared for?
- 10. What is one way this week you might show delight and care for God's creation?

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals,[a] and over all the creatures that move along the ground". **Genesis 1:26**

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Genesis 1:26-31

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FOCUS

God made people in his image to take care of the world and look after everything he created.

Upper Primary

PRAYER

Dear God.

Thank you for making this beautiful world. Thank you for trusting us to take care of it.

Help us to be kind to animals, plants, and each other. Show us ways we can love your creation every day.

Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Genesis 1:26-31 (pp.2-3 of NIrV New Adventure Bible)

- 1. What in creation most fills you with awe and wonder?
- 2. What does the Bible say that God made? Everything! He created everything we can see and everything we can't see, just by speaking. He made everything on heaven and earth.
- 3. Why is it good that creation is not random? God created everything, which means everything has a purpose and a meaning. We can enjoy discovering the amazing features of God's creation - but we can also enjoy getting to know the very creator of everything!
- 4. What is the last thing God created? And what is unique about them?

After 5 days, humans are created. They are the only part of creation made in God's image. We have been created to reflect God and bring glory to him. God loves us very much and wants us to be in relationship with him.

- 5. What special role are given to humans?

 Both men and women are given a special role to care and rule over the earth, in God's way. We are the 'homekeepers' or 'caretakers', responsible for looking after Jesus' inheritance until he returns.
- 6. What does it mean to rule? What does it not mean?

- 7. Think of all the parts of creation.(a) what part are you most thankful for?(b) what do you think humans have cared well for?(c) what parts do you think humans haven't cared for?
- 8. What is one way in which you can grow in faithful stewardship of God's world in cooperation with him and his purposes?

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals,[a] and over all the creatures that move along the ground". **Genesis 1:26**



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OVERVIEW

OVERVIEW

God made people in his image to take care of the world and look after everything he created.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Dear God,

THANK YOU for making the world.

THANK YOU for making animals, birds and fish.

THANK YOU for making people and THANK YOU for making me.

HELP ME to care for your world every day.

Amen.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Dear God,

Thank you for making this beautiful world. Thank you for trusting us to take care of it.

Help us to be kind to animals, plants, and each other. Show us ways we can love your creation every day.

Amen.

TIPS

Head outdoors and take a walk through an area of nature, exploring and thanking God for all the wonderful things he has made and the detail he puts into each part.



PRAY

Early Childhood

Dear God.

THANK YOU for making the world.

THANK YOU for making animals, birds and fish.

THANK YOU for making people and THANK YOU for making me.

HELP ME to care for your world every day.

Amen.



PRAY

21st September 2025

Genesis 1:26-3

God's Creation and Our Rule

1

Sunday School

Dear God,

Thank you for making this beautiful world. Thank you for trusting us to take care of it.

Help us to be kind to animals, plants, and each other. Show us ways we can love your creation every day.

Amen.



THIS SUNDAY

21st September

BIBLE FOCUS

Genesis 1:26-31

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WEEK

FOCUS

God made people in his image to take care of the world and look after everything he created.

In this section, you'll find activities for Early Childhood and Primary School aged kids. There's a range of crafts, activities and games suitable for both individuals and groups.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- Felt Story
- Caring for Creatures
- Chalkboard Flowers
- Picking up Rubbish (Kindy)
- Creation Hunt (Kindy)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

- Watering Plants (Prep)
- Emu Parade (Yrs 1-2)
- Colour Match Scavenger Hunt (Yrs 3-4)
- Commitment to Care (Yrs 5-6)

GAMES

- Charades (Kindy)
- Fruit salad (creation style) (Yrs P-6)



BIBLE FOCUS

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THEME

od's Creation and Our Rule

Felt Story

YOU'LL NEED...

- Felt Story Set of Creation
- Felt Board

STEPS

- Have the felt boards and creation felt set on the table for the children to play with.
- Encourage the children to retell the creation story using the felt Adam and Eve, animals, plants, etc. Going through what happened each day.





God is our ultimate creator and Lord. He created light & dark, the sea & sky, trees, birds, fish, animals, and more.



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OVERVIEW

Caring for Creatures

YOU'LL NEED...

• Stuffed toy animals

STEPS

- 1. Place the stuffed animals around the room.
- 2. Have the children walk around the room and see how many they can find.
- 3. Get the children to tell you the types of animals they see and ask them if they have ever seen any of these animals in real life? Ask them if they have ever been to a zoo to see all the different types of animals God has created.
- 4. As you point to the various animals have the children tell you what types of noises the animals make.
- 5. Talk to the children about how they could look after and care for these animals. Ask if they have any pets and how they look after their pets.



God made people in his image to take care of the world and look after everything he created.



OVERVIEW

Chalkboard Flowers

YOU'LL NEED...

- Chalkboards
- Chalk

STEPS

- 1. Encourage the children to draw different flowers using the chalk and chalkboards.
- 2. For younger children draw different types of flowers and get them to colour them in with chalk (daisy, sunflower, tulip, etc).





God made people in his image to take care of the world and look after everything he created.



Picking up Rubbish

YOU'LL NEED...

- Pieces of Rubbish
- Bin

STEPS

- 1. Scatter bits of rubbish of different sizes on the floor.
- 2. Get the children to help pick it up and put it in the bin.
- 3. Talk to the children about how we can take care of God's Creation.





God is the ultimate creator but he has entrusted us to care for his creation. Picking up rubbish is one thing we can do to help care for the environment, protect the waterways and animals, and preserve creation for generations to come.





OVERVIEW

Creation Hunt

YOU'LL NEED...

• Binoculars or large telescope tubes (cardboard tubes)

STEPS

- 1. Give each child a cardboard tube and explain that you are all going on a Creation Hunt.
- 2. Take the children outside and use the 'binoculars/telescopes' to try and spot some things that God has created. You may even like to play a game of I Spy and have the children try and guess what you have found that begins with specific letters of the alphabet.





We are surrounded everyday by things that God has created. What things can you spot?



BIBLE FOCUS

enesis 1:26-31

THEME

God's Creation and Our Rule

1

Watering Plants

YOU'LL NEED...

- Small watering cans
- Access to water

STEPS

 Using the toy watering cans, take the children on a small excursion outside to see the flowers and to water them.



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God created all the plants and animals and has given us the task of taking care of them. Plants need water, pruning, nutrients, and lots of love.



OVERVIEW

Emu Parade

YOU'LL NEED...

- Bin or bags to hold rubbish
- Soap/hand washing facilities

STEPS

1. Take the children outside and hold a small 'emu parade' where they walk along together and look for rubbish to pick up.

IDEA: make it a little competitive by giving a designated number of pieces of rubbish for each child to collect.

SAFETY TIP: ensure you speak to the children about staying out of gardens, not climbing trees or on objects; and not picking up any sharp or dangerous looking objects (but rather to tell the adult so they can be disposed of safely).





God is the ultimate creator but he has entrusted us to care for his creation. Picking up rubbish is one thing we can do to help care for the environment, protect the waterways and animals, and preserve creation for generations to come.



OVERVIEW

Colour Match (scavenger hunt)

YOU'LL NEED...

Clipboards with paintcard swatches attached.

STEPS

- 1. Supply each pair of children (or groups of 3) with a clipboard that has the paint cards attached.
- 2. Take them outside to a designated area (set up boundaries for safety and supervision) and explain that their task is to try and find ONE item outside that matches that exact colour (as best as possible) to each of the colour swatch cards on the clipboard.
- 3. Once an item is found (must be natural), it is attached to the peg.





All of creation sings God's praise - the leaves, the trees, the fields, the stars, the flowers, and the sky. What can you find today that sings Praise to God?



Gonosis 1:26-71

THEME

od's Creation and Our Rule

OVERVIEW

Commitment to Care

YOU'LL NEED...

- Printout of Worksheet #1
- Clipboards
- Pencils

STEPS

- Provide each child with a copy of Worksheet #1. Turn to the side that has the list of Green Promises. Read through these and explain any that need elaboration
- Ask the children if they can think of any other ideas that might be suitable for a child to do in order to help protect and care for creation.
 Add these to the list.
- 3. Next, flip over to the side that says God's Creation. Ask the children to identify up to 8 things from the first page, that they could commitment to, in terms of doing better in caring for creation. Encourage them to choose things that are manageable and to start small. Record these things in the boxes provided and challenge them to commit to it for a week and review





God created people and gave them the role of ruling over creation, in align with God's will. We each need to do our bit to preserve and care for all that God has made.





The printable COMMITMENT TO CARE worksheets can be found on the following pages.



COMMITMENT TO CARE FOR

GOD'S CREATION

My Pledge

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground". Genesis 1:26



CHOOSE FROM THE FOLLOWING

GREEN PROMISES

Examples

- avoid single-use items (straws, plastic cutlery)
- use a reusable water bottle
- pack 'wrapper-free' lunches
- compost food scraps
- fix broken things rather than replace
- take shorter showers
- turn off tap when brushing teeth
- turn off tap when washing hair
- turn off lights when not in the room
- buy second-hand instead of new
- borrow books from library instead of buying
- recycle items in the 'yellow' bin
- put uneaten food in a container for later
- walk or ride instead of using the car
- use both sides of paper
- say no to plastic bags
- plant more trees or plants
- pick up rubbish
- turn off heating and put on a jumper
- turn off air conditioning and open a window
- put a bell on your cat
- re-wear clothes that aren't dirty or smelly
- unplug items when not in use
- enjoy the beauty of creation



GAME: Charades

YOU'LL NEED...

• Kids on Stage Charades Card Game

STEPS

- 1. Use the animal cards from the Kids on Stage Card Game.
- 2. Have the children pick a card and act like that animal while the other children guess what it is.
- 3. Continue until everyone has had a turn.





God is our ultimate creator and Lord. He created everything including birds, fish, animals, and more.

WEEK

GAME: Fruit Salad

YOU'LL NEED...

- Score chart
- Clipboard
- Pen

- 1. This game is played with two teams sitting opposite each other - each child is to have a partner on the opposite team. Children must sit down with leas directly out in front of them, feet touching their partner's feet. Knees must be on the ground, feet together at all times, and hands in laps.
- 2. Each pair are to decide on a playing name related to something that God created. Each pair must choose a different items.
- 3. The leader calls out the names, at random. When a player's item is called, they must stand up, run up the middle (being carefully to stand only in the gap between one pair and the next), then around and down the outside (of their OWN team's side only), then up the middle again, back to their own spot.
- 4. The first person to sit down out of the pair earns a point for their team.
- 5. Continue for as long as desired. The winning team is the team with the most points at the end.



God is our ultimate creator and Lord. He created light & dark, the sea & sky, trees, birds, fish, animals, and more.



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OVERVIEW