



God Created the World



This Week's Scripture Story

reminds us that God created the universe and all its wonders, and that God blessed all Creation.

The Story of Creation

When God created the world, the earth was shapeless and dark, with a mighty wind sweeping over the land.

God said, "Let there be light." He saw how good the light was. Then he separated the light from the darkness and created day and night.

God created the sky. Then he collected all the water and created seas and oceans, and separated it from the dry land. On the dry land he created trees, grasses, and plants of every kind.

God said, "Let there be different lights in the sky—for day and for night." He made the two great lights, the sun for day and the moon for night. He set them in the sky.

God then said, "I will fill the earth with countless creatures." He created all the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, and the animals on dry land.

God saw how good all his Creation was and blessed it.

Based on Genesis 1:1–22



Sharing Faith at Home Share the Scripture with your child by reading it aloud at bedtime and talking about its meaning.
Discussion starter: What is your favorite image on this page? Why?

Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 1, Ages 4–5



Through the Week

Pay attention to things in nature you sometimes take for granted, such as a beautiful flower, the color of a leaf, the falling rain, or a sunny sky.



Ask Me!

Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. *(If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)*

1. Who made everything in nature? *(God did.)*
2. What are the four seasons God made? *(spring, summer, fall, and winter)*
3. What is one thing you especially love in God's Creation?



Setting the

Thankful

Draw a blue circle around for in winter. **Draw** a green circle around for in summer. **Draw** a red circle around for in the spring. **Draw** a yellow circle around for in the fall. **Draw** a picture of how you can thank God for in the spring.



Family Table

Am All Year

nd what you are thankful
en circle around what you
pring. In the center, **draw** a
ank God in prayer all year.



Mealtime Prayer

Blessed are you,
God of all Creation,
for giving us the gifts of
spring, summer, autumn,
and winter!
Amen.

Pray this prayer as a family.

Saint of the Week

Columba of Iona
(521–597)

Feast Day: June 9

Did you know?

Saint Columba is known as one of the “Twelve Apostles of Ireland.” He founded many monasteries in Ireland, an achievement that strengthened Christianity in Western Europe after the fall of the Roman Empire in the West.

**Saint Columba,
pray for us!**





Parent Notes

In this week's lesson your child learned

- God made everything in nature.
- God made the seasons: spring, summer, fall, and winter.



It Helps to Know

Scripture tells us that

- God created all the universe and all living things, and gave it to us to enjoy and care for. (See Genesis 1:26–30.)

The *Catechism* teaches us that

- God made the world and everything in it (CCC, 198). The beauty of God's Creation calls us to respect the Creator and follow his will.
- by examining God's Creation, we discover the laws of nature (CCC, 341), which we are able to apply to our own lives.

Keep It Simple

- Talk about the changing of the seasons and about how seasons are part of God's wonderful Creation.
- Spend time in seasonal activities, such as finding colorful leaves in fall, planting flowers in spring, and so forth.

How Four- and Five-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.

Four- and five-year-olds often understand how the weather and natural surroundings change with the seasons, particularly if they live in a climate that has pronounced seasonal changes. They become excited about finding colorful leaves, playing in snow, and swimming or playing in water when it's hot outside. Children who live in climates with less pronounced seasonal changes may still understand the seasons from books and videos, as well as the holidays they celebrate at various times of the year.

God Made Me Special



This Week's Scripture Story

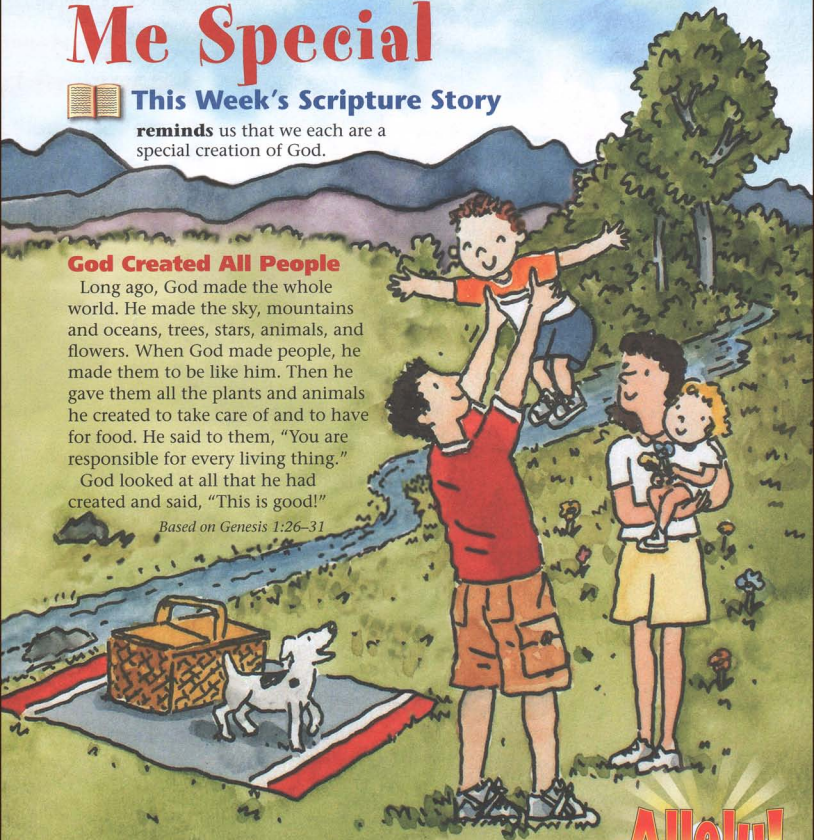
reminds us that we each are a special creation of God.

God Created All People

Long ago, God made the whole world. He made the sky, mountains and oceans, trees, stars, animals, and flowers. When God made people, he made them to be like him. Then he gave them all the plants and animals he created to take care of and to have for food. He said to them, "You are responsible for every living thing."

God looked at all that he had created and said, "This is good!"

Based on Genesis 1:26-31



Sharing Faith at Home Share the story with your child by talking about events in the story or reading it aloud at bedtime.

Discussion starter: Name one way you care for God's creation.

Allelu!
Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 2, Ages 4-5



Through the Week

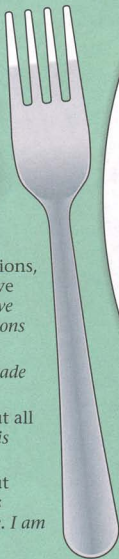
Make an extra effort to pray a prayer of thanks to God before each meal.



Ask Me!

Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. *(If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)*

1. Who made you? *(God made me.)*
2. How does God feel about all that he created? *(that it is good)*
3. How does God feel about you? *(God loves me. He is happy with what he made. I am very special to him.)*



Setting the

God Cr Beautiful W

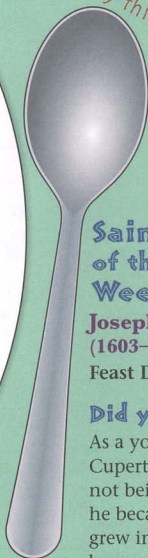
Circle the beautiful
Draw or **paste** a p
enjoying Go



Family Table

Created a World for Me

things God made.
picture of your family
d's Creation.



Mealtime Prayer

Dear God,
our Creator,
we thank you for making us.
We praise you because you
made us to be like you.
We thank you that
we are wonderful!
Amen.

Pray this prayer as a family.

Saint of the Week



Joseph of Cupertino
(1603–1663)

Feast Day: September 18

Did you know?

As a young man, Joseph of Cupertino was known for not being very clever. When he became a Franciscan, he grew in his love for God and became known for the many miracles God worked through him.

Saint Joseph,
pray for us!



Parent Notes

In this week's lesson your child learned

- God made each of us and loves us.
- God is really happy with how he made us. We are very special to him.

It Helps to Know

Scripture tells us that

- after God created people, he looked upon his creation "and saw that it was very good" (Genesis 1:31).

The *Catechism* teaches us that

- although we might understand the biology of life, we cannot fully comprehend its mystery—how a new soul comes into being out of nothing. This is a mystery of the divine work of Creation. (CCC, 297)
- God created us to do good things, to show love to him and to others.
- Adam and Eve transmitted to all people their own first sin, known as Original Sin. We are therefore deprived of original holiness and justice. (CCC, 417)



Keep It Simple

- With your child, read the story of Creation in the Bible. Explain that God is the author of the Bible, which is the holy book of the Church.
- Make handprints using finger paints, clay, or some other medium that will show the small lines of the hands and fingers. Explain that each finger print is unique and special. Tell your child that in the same way, there is no one exactly like him or her.

How Four- and Five-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.

Most four- and five-year-olds know very little about how they came into being, and many have not even begun asking this question. It is possible, however, for them to learn that God made the world and everything in it, including people. Equally important is for children to begin to understand that God knows them personally, and that he is pleased with how he made them. He loves them just the way they are, and will help them become all that he made them to be.