

# Creation

## Background

Focus: the days of creation (Genesis 1:1-2:3)

With this lesson we begin to trace the elusive presence of the mystery of God in the story of God's People. We begin to play hide and seek with the Holy One and to ask, "What can we know of the Giver by the gift?"

## Material

The basket for Creation is on one of the Old Testament shelves.

It contains:

- a black felt underlay
- 7 creation cards

## Movements

*Move with deliberation to the shelf where the material waits.*

*Pick up the basket containing the material and return to the circle.*

*Place the basket beside you and get settled. Look around the circle. You may need to say:*

*Look around the circle. Smile.*

*The children will begin to name things they have received. They may name toys, but they also may name something alive. If so, comment on it by saying:*

## Words

Watch. Watch where I go.

Do you see? Yes.

Everyone needs to be ready.

What is the biggest present you ever got?

Listen. There's something different about that gift. (Wait to see if the children respond by describing that gift as alive. If necessary, describe that difference yourself.) That gift isn't like a bicycle. That gift is alive.

*Approve of each gift named.  
Continue to invite children to  
share until all have had a  
chance.*

*When all who wish to speak  
have, continue.*

*Slowly begin to unroll the black  
felt underlay from your right to  
your left.*

*When the strip is unrolled  
completely, move your hand  
across its surface to show  
“nothing,” smoothing out the felt.*

*Trace a “smile” from the right  
corner closest to you across to  
the left corner closest to you.*

*Wait a moment and then take  
out the first card. This card  
shows the pictures of “light” and  
“dark.”*

*Place the light card on the black  
underlay to your right so that the  
“dark” side of the card is closest  
to the right edge. Turn your  
hand so that the edge of your  
hand is perpendicular to the  
card and move it over the line  
between the light and the dark.  
Move your hand across the  
picture of light as you speak of  
that gift. When you name “light”  
or “dark,” point to each.*

*As you say, “It is good,” place  
your hand flat on the card, as if  
blessing it. Lean back, sit a  
moment, and then begin the  
next day.*

Yes. Yes. That is a wonderful present.

Did you know that there are some presents so big that nobody notices them? They are so huge that they are hard to see. They are so hard to see that the only way to know that they are there is to go clear back to the beginning, or maybe a little before the beginning.

In the beginning... in the beginning there was.... Well, in the beginning there wasn't very much.

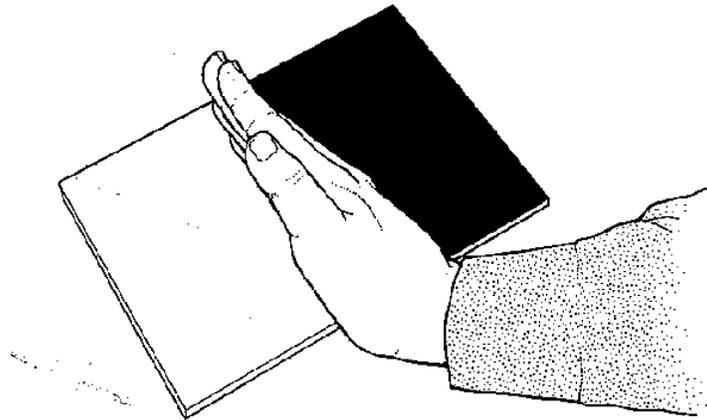
In the beginning there was... nothing.

Except, perhaps, an enormous smile... but there was no one there to see it.

Then on the very first day God gave us the gift of light. So now there is not just darkness, but there is light and dark.

Now, I don't mean just the light in the light bulb or in the car lights at night. I don't mean just this light or that light, but I mean all of the light that is light. God gave us the gift of the light that all light comes from.

When God saw the light, God said, “It is good.” And that was the end of the first day.



**LIGHT AND DARK (STORYTELLER'S PERSPECTIVE)**

*Place the second card to your left of the first day.*

On the second day God gave us the gift of water. Now, I don't mean just the water in a water glass or the water in a bathtub or shower. I don't even mean just the water in a river or lake. I don't even mean just the water in the ocean, or the water that comes down from the sky in rain. I mean all of the water that is water. This is the water that all the rest of the water comes from.

*Move your hand across the card. Trace the thin white arc with your finger.*

This is the firmament. It divides the waters above and the waters below.

*Touch the card like a blessing.*

When God saw the water, God said, "It is good." And that was the end of the second day.

*Take out the third card and place it to your left, so that it touches the second card.*

On the third day God gave us the gift of the dry land. God divided the water and the dry land, and gave us the gift of green and growing things.

*Place the edge of your hand vertically on the card's line that divides the water and land as you say "divide." Move it to the right as you "uncover" the dry land. Point to the "green and growing things" on the card as you speak of them.*

*Put your hand on the card like a blessing. Wait a moment. Enjoy all that was given on the third day.*

When God saw the dry land and the green and growing things, God said, "It is good." And that was the end of the third day.

*Take out the fourth card and place it to your left so that it touches the card for day three.*

*Point to the lights as you speak of them.*

*Touch the card like a blessing. Wait a moment. Enjoy the fourth day.*

*Take out the fifth card and place it to your left, so that it touches the card for day four.*

*As you mention the flying creatures and the swimming ones, touch each figure.*

*Touch the card like a blessing as you say, "It is good."*

*Take out the sixth card and place it to your left of the fifth one.*

*Touch the creatures as you name them.*

*As you say, "all the gifts of the other days," move your right hand over all the cards. Then touch the sixth card like a blessing as you say, "it is very good."*

On the fourth day God gave us the gift of the day and the night. God gave us a way to count our days.

Here is the great light that rules the day, the sun, and here are the lights that rule the night, the moon and stars.

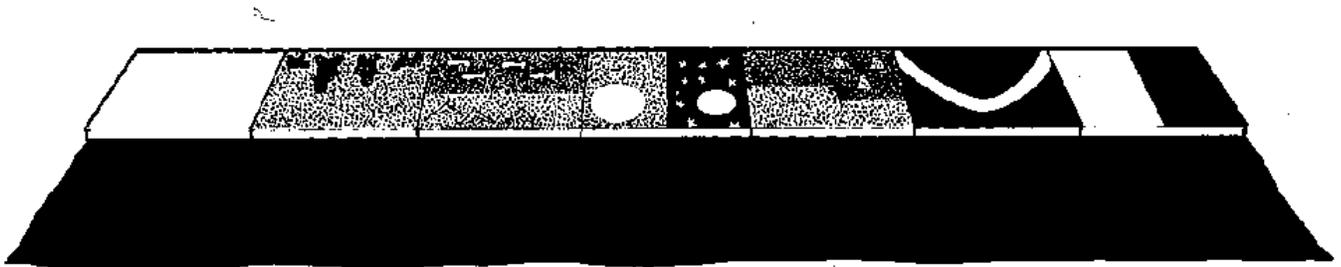
When God saw the day and the night, our way to keep time, God said, "It is good." And that was the end of the fourth day.

On the fifth day, God gave us the gift of all the creatures that fly in the air. Not just the birds but all of the creatures that fly. And all of the creatures that swim in the water. All of them.

When God saw all of the creatures that fly and all of the creatures that swim, God said, "It is good." And that was the end of the fifth day.

On the sixth day God gave us the gift of all the creatures that walk upon the earth: the creatures that walk with two legs, like you and like me, and all the creatures that walk with many legs.

When God saw the creatures that walk with two legs and the creatures that walk with many legs and all of the other days, God said, "It is very good." And that was the end of the sixth day.



**THE SEVEN CARDS (STORYTELLER'S PERSPECTIVE)**

*Take out the seventh card and place it to your left of the sixth one.*

*As you say, "all the other days," sweep your hand across the whole line of cards.*

*Point to the seventh card.*

*As you say, "mark it with a cross," use your finger to trace a cross on the card. As you say, "mark it with a star," use your finger to trace the star of David on the card.*

*Sit for a moment to enjoy all the days, then introduce the wondering questions.*

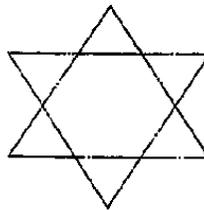
*When the wondering draws to a close, carefully replace the cards and underlay in the basket and return it to its spot on the shelf. Return to the circle and dismiss the children to their work.*

Jerome W. Berryman, *The Complete Guide to Godly Play Volume 2: 14 Presentations for Fall* (2002), pp. 41-48.

On the seventh day, God rested and gave us the gift of a day to rest – and to remember the great gifts of all the other days.

There is nothing here, because people go to different places to remember the great gifts. You can put something there to show your favorite place to remember. It might be in your back yard by a tree, in a church, or in your room. It might be in the mountains or by the ocean or a lake. I don't know where your place is. Only you know.

What I do know is that this day is so special that sometimes the Christian people mark it with a cross and the Jewish people mark it with a star, the star of David.



**STAR OF DAVID**

- I wonder which of these days you like best?
- I wonder which day is most important?
- I wonder which day you are in or which one is especially about you?
- I wonder if we can leave out any one of these days and still have all that we need?