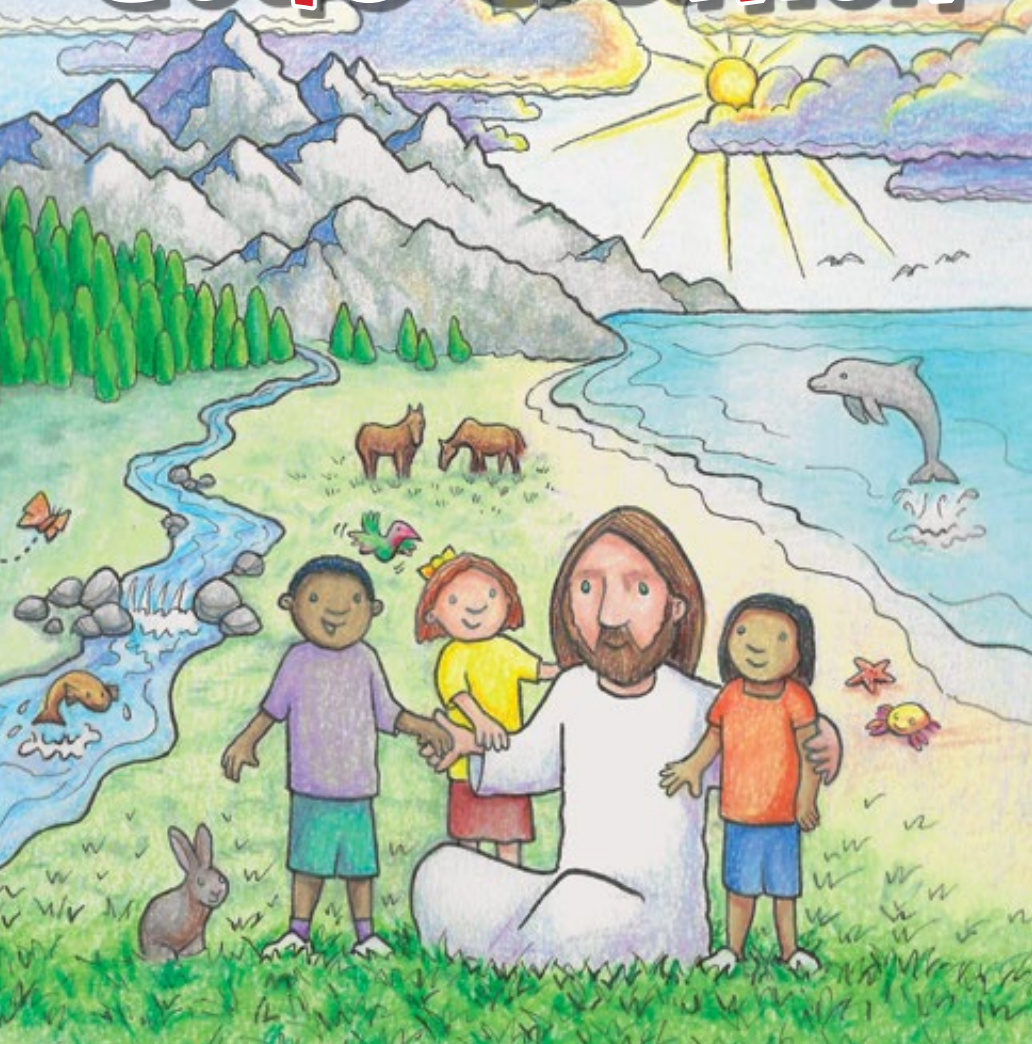


Living Faith Kids

We Love God's Creation



Celebrating God's Gift of the Earth

"In the beginning..." Genesis 1:1

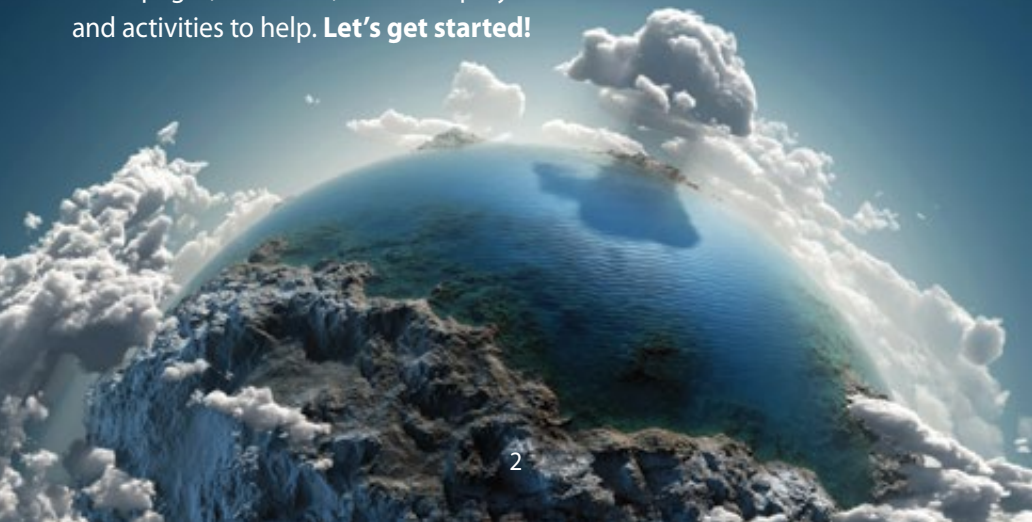
You're sitting under a shady tree on a summer day, feeling the cool grass beneath your toes. Or maybe you're sledding down a snowy hill. Or laughing as a puppy licks your nose.



What do all these things share in common? They are all part of God's Creation, and they are gifts God has given you. OK, maybe there's no snow where you live, and you don't have a puppy. Maybe you're cooped up inside right now. Still, everything God has created is a **gift** of his great love for you that touches you at every moment of your **life**, whether you're indoors or out. That's one reason to love God's Creation. Here's another: Did you know that God speaks to you through his Creation? It's true! You might not see words printed across a sunset or hear a voice in the sound of thunder, but God has a lot to say. To understand, we need to go back to the very beginning.

"In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth..."

Recognize those words? They're the first words of the Bible, from the book of Genesis. They tell the Creation story. Each of the seven days of Creation, as told in the Bible, tells us a lot about God and what God is saying to us. On these pages, we'll read, think and pray about it all. You can use the stickers and activities to help. **Let's get started!**



When you walk into a dark room, what's the first thing you do? You look for a light, right? You need to see what's in front of you, so you don't stumble in the darkness. That's why, at the very beginning of the Bible, we read, "And the earth was without form or shape, with darkness... Then God said: **Let there be light, and there was light**" (Genesis 1:2-3).



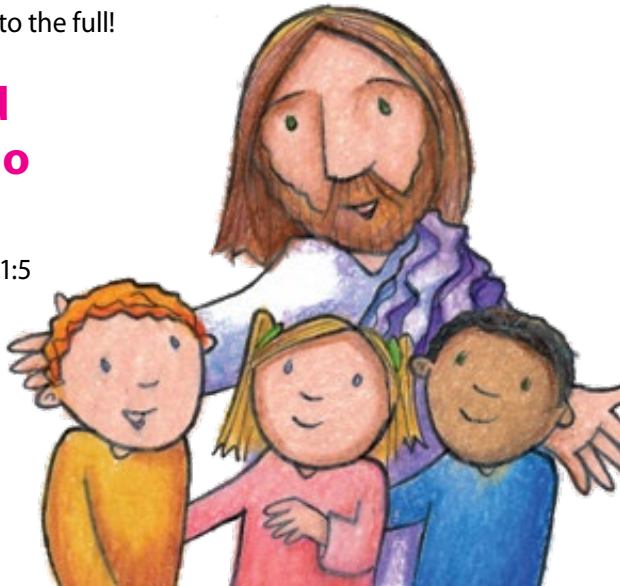
Use a sticker to turn on the lights!

This Scripture passage tells us that from the very beginning, God brings light to the darkness. All Creation—life itself—begins with God and his light. In fact, all God has to do is say the word and it happens! But God didn't just turn on the lights and walk away. God has given us his own light to be our life and our guide. Can you guess how? Here's a hint from the Bible: **"I am the light of the world."** Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

Of course! God's **light** brings life to the world, and God's light continues to shine for us through his Son Jesus. What does this have to do with Creation? Everything! Jesus tells us that by following him we will have the light of *life*. God alone gives life to the world. And Jesus, through his own life, death and resurrection, helps us live life to the full!

God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:5



"God called the dome 'sky.'" Genesis 1:8

Place and overlap the white circle stickers to create clouds in the sky, what do you see in the clouds?

There are stars to make constellations too!

On the second day of Creation, we read that God created a dome for the sky. What a wonder! But let's talk for a moment about another message God gives us in the Creation story. For that, we need to go back to that first day again. The Bible says, "God called the light 'day,' and the darkness he called 'night.' Evening came, and morning followed—the first day" (Genesis 1:5).

Reading this, you might wonder, did all this really happen in one day? Did God create everything in seven days? Well, we've seen how powerful God is. So for God, we know that anything is possible.



But dates and times aren't really the point of the Creation story that the Bible reveals. God has a much bigger message he wants to share with us. Just as days and months and years follow each other, God has a **plan** for his Creation. And God's plan, as we see in the Bible, has been around as long as God has been around—and that's forever! Throughout the Bible, we see God's plan in action. And guess what? God's plan for his Creation is still unfolding, even today. How is this possible? Here's a way to understand that. For this, you'll need a calendar, some pencils and crayons—and a tree!

God has a plan for all of creation.

First, take a look at a tree. Any tree will do. In Box 1, below, write today's date and draw what your tree looks like right now. Now look at the calendar and count four months from today. In Box 2, write that date. Now think about what your tree will probably look like on that date. (It will probably be a different season.) Draw what your tree will look like in Box 2. Next, count eight months from today. Write that date in Box 3. What do you expect your tree will look like on that date? Draw it in Box 3.

<div>1</div> <div>Date: _____ Today</div>	<div>2</div> <div>Date: _____ 4 months from today</div>	<div>3</div> <div>Date: _____ 8 months from today</div>
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Now, if you chose a leaf bearing tree like an elm or a maple, your tree will look very different. But maybe you chose a pine or a palm tree. In four or eight months, your tree won't have changed much, other than growing a little taller. Still, you know what to expect because of God's great plan for all of Creation that keeps unfolding, even now. Even for one little tree.

That also reminds us that God has a plan for each of us. We may not know what it is, but we do know that everything and every person in God's plan is important. That includes you! Keep looking at the world around you. You'll be amazed when you see God's plan unfolding, right before your very eyes.

**Thus says the LORD...
I know well the plans
I have in mind for you.**

Jeremiah 29:10-11

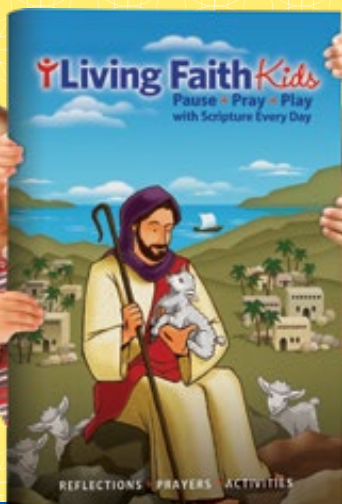
We Love God's Creation

unpacks the powerful story of God's love for us as it's revealed in the Creation all around us. Everything God has made shows us something about God's loving care for us—the sun, the moon, the water, the mountains, the flowers, the trees, the fish, the animals, the people and more. What wonderful gifts from God!

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