

[A Godly Play Style Story of Creation](#)

This *Godly Play*™ styled story can help your entire congregation relate to how our creation story reminds us to care for the earth and all living creatures.

There are several possibilities for using this creation story with your congregation

- In a Sunday School Circle
- As a homily during worship for the whole congregation
- For a study series. It might be particularly helpful during the Season of Creation, giving participants time to wonder about each day
- With youth, young adults or adults during small-group studies
- As a theme for a church dinner or other evening gathering
- As a way to celebrate Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday, by connecting the story to the work of the organization

If you have never told a *Godly Play*™ style story before, we invite you to [experience](#) the Creation Story as it is told in the original materials.

MATERIALS

1. You need the images for the tiles for each day. A digital copy of the Creation tiles (shown here) for you to print is available for free by clicking [this link](#) or going to the website godlyplayfoundation.org. Under their “Resources” go to “Equity Audit Toolkits” then “Creation.” You may also make your own, or purchase a [pre-made kit](#) from Godly Play.
2. There is a sheet of photographs at the end of the story for you to use on the seventh day of the story.



THE PRESENTATION

The size of the group in the circle or space may affect the presentation style:

- Small: use the *Godly Play*™ materials for Creation Story
- Larger: create poster-board size pictures of each of the 7 Days of Creation
- Large with projector: Use original tiles for each day, projected on a screen

DURATION

Over Several Sundays: You may wish to spread the story out and explore a day or two of creation each week. Start with the introduction every week. As you lay out the preceding days and remind the circle of their story, place them next to each other on the underlay. Then, share the expanded stories for each day of Creation & Creation Care.

All at one time: Simply read the story script for each day, but skip the daily wondering questions. We have provided a list of wondering questions for the entire story at the end of the one-day-at-a-time script.

LET'S BEGIN

To share the story, gather your seven tiles of creation and put them in a wooden tray or basket on the floor (or table) next to you. If you would like to use an underlay, we recommend a 60" x 8" piece of black felt. As you tell the story of each day, place the tile or image in front of you, starting to your far right on the floor or underlay. Place the tiles in a neat row, one at a time, so that the participants see them "right side up" and touching each other. After you tell the story of the day, pause before adding another or going into the wondering time of that day. When you have finished with the wondering time, pick up the tiles in reverse order and place them back in the tray.

INTRODUCTION FOR EVERY WEEK

As we think about all the things that are going wrong on this "fragile earth, our island home," we need to remember that God gifted us with everything and that because God has trusted us with all of these gifts, we need to turn away from worry and fear, and instead, hold God's trust that we can make it better. We need to nurture life and beauty. So, let's go back to the very beginning:

DAY 1: SHOW THE FIRST TILE

Say: In the beginning, there was nothing but the quiet stillness of the darkness, full of God's dream and what was to come...

And then on the very first day, God gave us the gift of light, so there wasn't only darkness but darkness AND light.

I'm not just talking about the lights in this room or the car lights or lights at your house, but all of the light that is light, the light that ALL light comes from... And God saw the darkness and the light and God said, "It is good." And that was the end of the first day.

DAY 1

These are the wondering questions. (If you're telling the entire Creation story in one sitting, skip this section; the wondering questions for that approach are found at the end of Day 7).

Say: Sometimes, we think of light when we understand something—when we SEE it for the first time. We often say that someone or something “shed light” on something. Perhaps the light is shining right now on how much we need to help this beautiful planet, this “fragile earth, our island home.”

WONDER TOGETHER

I wonder:

- What makes you smile when you think about light and dark...
- What you love about light, or what light you like the most...
- What you love about darkness... I wonder how darkness can be helpful...
- If there is something about our environment that you have noticed needs our help...what would be the most important...
- How you might help...
- What makes you smile when you think about all of this...
- Where you go to experience the beauty of creation...
- What you can do to care for life and beauty...

DAY 2

Say: On the second day of creation, God gave us the gift of water. I don’t just mean the water we drink from a cup or we use to wash our bodies or swim in. I don’t even mean just the water in a river or a lake, or the oceans, 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 of the water comes from. And God separated the waters above from the waters below.

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

WONDER TOGETHER

I wonder:

- When you think about water, what makes you smile...
- What water is near you...
- What water you like the best...
- What is most important about water...
- How it would feel to be very thirsty and have no water...

- How it would feel if someone then came and gave you a big glass of fresh water... In some places, people don't have clean water—or there have been floods and there is way too much water, so they have no place to live. In other places, people have found ways to nurture life by using flowing water to light houses and cook food and make it warm in winter. And lots of people do things to make sure they don't waste water and to make sure the water stays clean. They nurture—care for—life!

I wonder:

- How we can nurture life with water...
- What we can do to NOT waste water...
- How we can make our water the cleanest it can be...

DAY 3

Say: On the third day of creation, God gave us the gift of the dry land, separate from the water, and all of the green and growing things...so many!

WONDER TOGETHER

I wonder:

- Where you go on the land that is beautiful...
- What are some of your favorite “green and growing things” (plants, flower, trees)...
- If you have ever planted any...

We all live on some kind of land. But some people live on good land, and some people live on land that has been poisoned with chemicals or on the soil that is too thin. And some people live where there isn't enough water to grow anything.

The good part is that we know there are ways to make it better.

Some dairy farmers move their cows from one pasture to another, which allows the grass to grow back and the land to be healthy.

Some places are planting lots and lots of trees, which help to clean the air.

Farmers are growing food organically, and people are letting their lawns go back to their wildness for the bees and butterflies.

I wonder:

- Which green and growing things do you think are the most important...
- If we could leave out any of these growing things—and still have everything we need...

DAY 4

Say: On the fourth day of creation, God gave us the gift of the lights that guide us— the sun that guides us during the day and the moon and the stars that guide us at night.

Maybe you've been lucky enough to be outside somewhere at night where you can look up and see a sky full of stars...and the beautiful moon. And you know the sun. Sometimes, it can feel very hot, and sometimes it just feels good.

WONDER TOGETHER

I wonder:

- If there is a place you can go to see the stars at night...
- If you have ever driven by a solar farm...

One of the things we're learning is that the sun can give us energy for things like lighting our homes, making them warm in winter and cool in summer. This is called solar power.

I wonder:

- If you have anything that is powered by the sun (a lantern, solar panels, lights along a walkway)...
- If you have learned something that makes you want to do more to care for our planet...
- How light helps you...
- When light helps you...

DAY 5

Say: On the fifth day of creation, God gave us the gift of all the creatures that swim in the waters and all of those that fly.

WONDER TOGETHER

I wonder:

- If you've ever had a bird come close to you or sing near you...
- What that was like...
- If you've ever seen a fish jump out of the water or a turtle dive in...

Birds are a great example of how we need each other. They eat lots of insects that we don't want around, and they spread seeds so that more plants can grow in new places.

We are not alone on this beautiful planet. There are so many other creatures that live here, too. We need to take care that we live with all the other creatures, making sure that they live beautiful lives, too!

Sometimes, we forget that we all need each other!

I wonder:

- If you know anyone who has helped any birds or creatures who live in the water...

DAY 6

Say: On the sixth day of creation, God gave us the gift of all the creatures that live on the land: the people and all the animals. When God saw the gift of all the people and creatures that live on the earth, God said "It is very good."

WONDER TOGETHER

I wonder:

- What animal you like best...
- What creature you think is most important...
- How many creatures we need or if there are any we could leave out...

God gave us freedom, and we know that while we are not perfect, we can do better. We are learning that we all need each other. And we need to do our part to make sure that all of God's creatures live the best lives that God dreamed for them! Maybe God knew that we could make things better, especially when we all work together.

I wonder:

- How we could do that...

DAY 7

Say: On the seventh day of creation, God rested and gave us the gift of a day to rest and to remember the gifts of all the other days. God gave us freedom. God created us for one another, and God trusts us to care for all of it—and not just for us but for all the children and grandchildren and all who will come after us.

And God smiled.

These 7 days of creation are all gifts God has given to us, and they are all so beautiful and important.

Think about looking up into the night sky from a place where there are no city lights. The sky is filled with the star lights, like glitter!

Think about how it feels to drink a cool glass of water when you are very hot from being outside playing or working in the sun.

Think about the delicious food that you eat, like a ripe, juicy strawberry, or the satisfying feeling when you take a big gulp of milk after eating a warm cookie.

Think about the feeling you get when you pet your dog or cat or when you watch a squirrel in your yard, being still and quiet and looking so soft or when you are outside, and the songs of the birds make you want to sit and listen.

These are the gifts we have all been given. And these are the gifts we are meant to take care of, so that everyone can have them, enjoy them and pass them on.

But we haven't been doing a very good job of taking care of these beautiful gifts. We have to do better.

And if every single one of us helps, we can make it better. Please listen to that: we can make it better. We all can do something. We can't fix everything by ourselves. But we can help.

And someday we will so happy because we will know that together, we did it. So, let's talk about things we can do.

We have friends in an organization called Episcopal Relief & Development. When we visit people in their villages and towns, we learn how conditions in their communities are changing. We partner with them to find new ways to support the reliance on the earth's resources in responsible ways. Securing clean drinking water and having enough to care for food crops is essential, and through solar power and other means we are finding ways to have access to both. We are invited to join them in this work by learning more about how they do it. We will do that on Episcopal Relief and Development Sunday (or any Sunday!) this year and maybe even buy someone a goat!

I wonder:

- If you have any ideas about what we can do to make this earth more clean and beautiful...

WONDER TOGETHER (if the story is told at the same time)

I wonder:

- Where all of the light comes from...
- Which part of this story you like the best...
- Which part is the most important...
- Which part is about you, or where you see yourself...
- If there is any part we could leave out...
- If there is something you hope we can help with...What would be most important...
- If there is something you can do for our earth that might make God smile...
- If there is something we can do together...
- Where you go on this earth that you find to be beautiful...
- How you can care for life and beauty right where you live...

(Adopted and contributed by Kim McPherson, Godly Play™ Foundation Trainer Emeritus, and the Rev. Tom Blackmon. Additional support and guidance from Kathleen Capcara, Godly Play™ Foundation Trainer and consultant.

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