

PREPARE FOR THE WORLD WEEKEND OF PRAYER, 3-4 JUNE 2023

A weekly resource to share: study, reflect, worship and pray. Choose 1 or 2 of the numbered sections for a weekly study or take one each day.

For children use some of the many activities suggested in the main prayer resource: go to www.worldweekendofprayer.com



WEEK 1: FROM SATURDAY 6 MAY. **GOD CREATES THE WORLD**

DAY 1

Bible verse

Genesis 1:1-5

Big picture story

And God said...Light —Day and Night.

We exist on Earth due to an amazing combination of six finely balanced factors.. Our sun is a stable and long-lasting star. We're at just the right distance from the sun. Earth is made of things that enable life to exist. A big moon stabilises our axial wobble. The ozone layer blocks harmful rays. As Christians, we believe that God designed the universe and spoke it into being out of nothing. He existed before time and is beyond time. He has no beginning and no end. He didn't need us but chose to create us within a beautiful universe.

Reflection

What does it mean to you today to know that God created the heavens and the earth? How does this make you feel? How could you share this amazing news with your family and friends?

Video

Where are we in the universe? www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYUoOjm2QzU (3:18)

Worship

www.youtube.com/watch?v=dXYT6cEATtc (4:03)

Prayer

*Thank you God for the light of the day and night.
Thank you God for electric lights at night time.*

DAY 2

Bible verse

Genesis 1:6-8

Big picture story

And God said...Waters —Earth and Heaven.

How much water can you hold in your hands? How can you contain water without a container? We read that the earth was formless and empty, with darkness over the surface, with the Spirit of God hovering over the waters. Then God spoke and a space separated the waters of the heavens from the waters of the earth. Whatever knowledge we have of this time, we are confident that by God's all-powerful word He separated earth and sky. How did He do that? Earth is the only planet known to have stable bodies of liquid water on its surface, and all life depends on it.

Reflection

The presence of water on the surface of Earth is a product of its atmospheric pressure and the stable orbit of the Sun. for those who do not believe in God, the origin of Earth's water is a mystery. What is water? Why is H₂O so critical for life?

Video

Reveal Earth's Atmosphere National Geographic www.youtube.com/watch?v=1YAOT92wuD8 (04:56—Stop at 3:08)

Worship

www.youtube.com/watch?v=OUgKvONLh88 (05:12)

Prayer

Thank you God for the gift of rain that waters the earth Please send rain to those who need it most.

DAY 3

Bible verse

Genesis 1:9-13

Big picture story

And God said...Land, Sea and Vegetation.

With the waters of the earth contained into the waters below and the waters above, we then read that God spoke the word that instructed the waters below to be gathered up so that land could appear. And with light, water and land in place, vegetation then began to grow. Botanists have counted at least 435,000 unique land plant species on Earth. Plants absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen from their leaves, which humans and animals need to breathe. Psalm 104:14-17 tells us that plants provide us with all sorts of foods: roots, fruits, nuts and vegetables. Plants also give us cosmetics and medicines!

Reflection

Plants contain all the essential vitamins and minerals our bodies need as well as carbohydrates, fats and proteins. How could you use plants to strengthen your health and wellbeing? Look at the trees and plants around you. What do they provide you? Why are they good for you? How can you protect the biodiversity around you?

Video

Let Dry Ground Appear www.youtube.com/watch?v=YYtZoEqmLog (00:28-02:30)

Worship

www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTXBLspw_Z0 (5:03)

Prayer

Thank you God for all the plants that you have provided that give me food and shelter.



DAY 4

Bible verse

Genesis 1:14-19

Big picture story

And God said...Lights, Stars and Planets

“He also made the stars.” Is this the biggest under-statement of all times? God spoke and created the sun and the moon to give us day and night and seasons, and so the earth was set to beat to a rhythm. And as an aside, “He also made the stars.” A dark, clear night away from the city looking up to the stars puts us in our place. When we begin to see the details from the Hubble Telescope, words run out!

The universe is infinitely big. The current width of the observable universe is about 90 billion light years. So who is God? The one who made it all and is beyond it all.

Reflection

Our God also made the stars! Is there anything that you are facing that you cannot bring to your Creator who breathed stars into being? Surely we can be confident that if He can create the universe, He can also help me to find light in my darkest days?

Video

Be inspired by this reflection on The Creator! www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRiIWL04po8 (07:49)

Worship

Indescribable www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4-tGQD6sUA (04:59)

Prayer

Thank God for the beautiful lights in the universe.

DAY 5

Bible verse

Genesis 1:20-23

Big picture story

And God said...Sea and Sky Creatures

So here is God having fun creating the universe. He speaks the word and the universe comes into being. He gathers the waters, He makes vegetation grow on the land. And then on Day 5, He decides to fill the seas! And they are full! Now take a look at this as Louis Giglio helps us to imagine Whales and Stars singing in worship to their God. www.youtube.com/watch?v=helxFeG-0n0 (08:49)

Reflection

What does it mean to you today to know that God created the heavens and the earth? How does this make you feel? How could you share this amazing news with your family and friends?

Video

Take a dip in the Oceans with this clip https://youtu.be/_38JDGnr0vA (5:05)

Worship

www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHAZGXsVF1k (05:50)

Prayer

Thank you God for the variety, colour and beauty you have created in animals, birds and fish.



DAY 6

Bible verse

Genesis 1:24-31

Big picture story

And God said...Land Animals and Humans

Finally God creates all sorts of land animals and then He creates humans in his own image.

How did He do this? Some of us struggle to reconcile the Biblical account of creation with scientific theories. Their processes and timeframes seem to collide...or do they? If we begin with a belief that this world is simply too complex to be by chance, that there must be a designer, a creator behind it, then we can begin to appreciate the complexity and magnificence of creation for what it is and for the Creator God for who He is: He made the universe. And within the universe He placed the image of himself, his nature, into humanity. We are uniquely loved by God. We have his breath in us. He knows us. We are infinitely precious to him.

Reflection

Take some time to think about the incredible variety within the animal kingdom. Think about how each person is unique. Reflect on Psalm 139 which tells us that God saw us being created in the womb. What questions do you want to bring to the Lord? What worship can you bring to him?

Video

This clip "Louie Giglio DNA and Laminin" will blow your mind away of how fearfully and wonderfully made you are. https://youtu.be/QSR8z_0uW5E (5:45)

Worship

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ore7feFfD40 (05:19)

Prayer

*Thank you God for making me in your image.
Thank you for giving me a good mind and body.*

Bible verse

Genesis 2:1-3

Big picture story**And God rested**

God rested. The Master who designed and spoke the world into being took a day off! Did He need to? No. But He had finished what He wanted to do, so He stopped. God stopped. God rested.

And so He designed us in such a way that we must also rest. He set a rhythm to life, and rest is a part of it. We must follow this rhythm if we want to live healthy lives. Exodus 20:11 reminds us that in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it.

Some may have moved far away from this rhythm. How can we recover it? What do we need to change?

Reflection

God made creation with a rhythm and a beat. A part of that rhythm is to rest from all labour for one day a week. How good are you at taking that day of rest?

Sunday is a day that traditionally is dedicated to rest and worship. God deserves our worship every day. How can you worship every day, and rest and worship every Sunday?

Video

Enjoy this snapshot of God's amazing creation www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8aFchFu8QM (02:46)

Worship

www.youtube.com/watch?v=FA4Vayl8G74 (7:02)

Prayer

Almighty Creator God, you are so powerful. Thank you that you made the world and you made me.

STILL TO COME...

WEEK 2 – from Saturday 13 May
‘Our home gets broken’

WEEK 3 – from Saturday 20 May
‘Jesus rebuilds’

WEEK 4 – from Saturday 27 May
‘God’s world, our home restored’

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This resource is adapted from the 28-day prayer guide by the Viva Partner Network in Uganda, CRANE, “Paradise Created, Lost, Redeemed and Restored: Stewarding our world,” 2021 edited by Mim Friday.

Illustrations by children from around the world