

# God Created Plants and Trees

## Objective



To help each child understand that God created all of the plants and trees in the world and to encourage him to thank God for them.

## Scripture



Genesis 1:1-13  
(God created the world)

## Memory Verse



Genesis 1:1

## Planning Tips



Make a world visual to use during this unit. Follow the instructions at the beginning of "Listen to the Bible Story" and the diagram on *Bible Teaching Resources* sheet 1. Cut out the Dog, Tree, Children, Fish, and Birds visuals from sheets 1 and 3, and cover them with clear self-stick plastic (optional). Cut an extra set of Bible Words shapes and print the words on them to match those on sheet 1. Send a note home asking the children to bring pictures of their pets and a T-shirt to decorate (optional) for Meeting 2.



## What You'll Need

- Honeybees Bible Corner* for Meeting 1 for each child
- Bible Happenings* for Meeting 1 for each child

### LEARNING CENTERS

- Home Living Center: raw apples, cooked apples, pans, peeler, paring knife, potato masher or wooden spoon
- Art Center: 12 x 3-inch strip of construction paper and four 18-inch strings for each child, hole punch, plant samples, stapler, tape, glue
- God's Wonderful World Center: leaves, flowers



## Pre-Session

(Allow 10-20 minutes)

Follow your regular opening ceremonies: all-ages rally, attendance, award checking and presentation, offering, and announcements. (See page 4 at the beginning of this book for the scheduled features.) If some children arrive early, have them begin the learning center activities. Take this time to get to know each of your twos and threes personally.



## Learning Centers

- Home Living Center: Help the children make applesauce. Before the class, peel and cook as many apples as you have groups of children. Each group will use a small pan of apples. Peel and slice some of the same type of apples in front of the children. Let each child have a taste. (Do not force any child to do this). Explain that you have already cooked

### GETTING STARTED

- Happy Honeybee & Lacey Ladybug Puppets*, hive

### BIBLE STORY

- Bible Teaching Resources* sheet 1
- Bible
- Cardboard
- Brown or green construction paper
- Paper fasteners
- Flowers, leaves, seeds
- Small box with a lid
- Clear self-stick plastic (optional)
- Glue and scissors

### BIBLE APPLICATION

- Poster board or construction paper in four colors
- Bible Words shapes
- Stop & Stretch: water, applesauce from Home Living Center, crackers, plastic spoons, napkins, paper cups

### BIBLE LEARNING

- Tissue paper, glue, scissors

## What You'll Need OPTIONS

- Bible Happenings* for Meeting 1 for each child
- Student Award Book* for each child
- All the Best Songs for Kids* Songbook & Early Childhood CDs, CD player
- Happy Honeybee & Lacey Ladybug Puppets*
- Bible Story: Bible, *Bible Teaching Resources* sheets 1 and 3, seeds, pictures of flowers and plants
- Snack: water, applesauce from Home Living Center, pretzels, plastic spoons, napkins, paper cups
- Craft: paper, glue sticks, pictures of flowers and trees
- Game: flowerpot, lots of pictures of flowers and trees



## Learning Centers (Cont.)

some apples like these. Let the children mash the apples with a potato masher or wooden spoon until they are of applesauce consistency. Say, **God created many types of fruit trees. God created apple trees. We use apples in many ways. Thank You, God, for apples.** Save the apples for Stop and Stretch Time.

Art Center: Before the meeting, cut a 12 x 3-inch strip of construction paper for each child. Print the memory verse on one side and punch four holes at even intervals along the top of the paper strip. Tie four 18-inch strings to the holes, one string per hole. If possible, take the children outside during the meeting to collect many types of plant samples. (Make sure none of the samples are poisonous.) Cover the blank side of the paper with glue and let the children place the things they have collected on top of the glue. As the children work say, **God created many types of plants.** Point out the different plants and leaves that were collected. Say, [Susan] has a red leaf, [Robbie] has a yellow flower, etc. Continue until each child has been named. When the glue is dry, bend the construction paper to form a ring so the memory verse is on the inside and staple the ends together. Place tape on the staples to prevent scratching. Tie the four loose ends of string together in a knot for a hanger.

God's Wonderful World Center: Bring several large leaves and flowers. Point out the parts of each. Say, **God created many trees with leaves. He created many different flowers. God gave each type of leaf and flower many tiny parts. Each part has a job to do. God placed seeds in plants so more and more plants would grow from them.**

### ★ Easy-Trac™ First Meeting of the Week ★



## Getting Started

(Allow 10-20 minutes)

### Let's Talk to God

Remind the children to begin cleaning up their learning centers. Begin singing the HONEYBEES TRANSITION SONG (see page 4) and lead them to the Honeybees rug. Encourage the children to do the HONEYBEES PRAYER RHYME (see page 4) with you. Then say the following prayer. Remind the children to bow their heads, fold their hands, and pray each line after you. If possible, have a co-worker respond with the children.

Dear God,  
Thank You for the trees.  
Thank You for the flowers.  
Thank You for Your love.  
In Jesus' name  
We pray, amen.

### A Visit from Happy and Lacey

Use Happy Honeybee and Lacey Ladybug in a conversation with the leader to introduce the theme of this meeting. Happy comes out humming.

LACEY: Hi, Happy! You really live up to your name today.  
You sound very happy.

HAPPY: Oh, I am!

LEADER: And why is that?

HAPPY: Haven't you been outside? It is a beautiful day.

LEADER: Yes it is.

HAPPY: I have been visiting all the beautiful plants and flowers. You know I love flowers.

### ★ Second Meeting Options ★

#### 1. Getting Started OPTIONS

##### Song Time

Encourage the children to begin cleaning up their learning centers. Then sing GOD MADE OUR WONDERFUL WORLD, IF I WERE THE WIND, GOD MADE EVERYTHING, and WONDER SONG from *All the Best Songs for Kids*.

#### 2. Bible Story OPTIONS

##### Listen to the Bible Story

You will need a picture of the world, flowers, fruit trees, and grass (or use the World visual with the trees and bushes in it from the First Meeting of the Week). Also use the Tree, Dog, Birds, Fish, and Children visuals from *Honeybees Bible Teaching Resources* sheets 1 and 3. Set them in front of you. Bring some seeds and pictures of what the seeds will grow into.

Have the children sit around you in a half-circle. Hold an open Bible on your lap. Explain that this is a true story from the Bible. Tell the children that the Bible is how God in heaven talks to us today so it is very important that they sit still during the Bible lesson and listen. As you mention each item laying in front of you, pick up its picture, hold it up briefly, and then put it behind your back.

#### GOD CREATED PLANTS AND TREES

A long, long time ago, before you or I were born, in the beginning, there were no flowers or

# Easy-Trac™ First Meeting of the Week



## Getting Started (Cont.)

LACEY: (Laughing) Yes, we know. Most honeybees love flowers.

HAPPY: Well, I was just visiting the flowers and thinking about how good God was to make so many kinds. He made spring flowers and summer flowers and fall flowers and red flowers and pink flowers and yellow flowers ...

LEADER: Whoa! Excuse me, Happy. But I think we understand. God made all flowers.

HAPPY: God was good to make so many beautiful flowers.

LACEY: Yes, God made the world beautiful with *many* kinds of plants.



## Bible Story

(Allow 15-20 minutes)



### Listen to the Bible Story

Have the children sit in a circle. Pass around a tray or box filled with leaves and/or flowers. (Make sure none are poisonous.) Let each child choose one. Tell him the name of what he chose. Say, [Ernie], **I would like for you to share one of God's creations with the other members of our group.** Allow each child to show his item and tell its name. Be prepared to help anyone who has forgotten. Say, **I am glad God created so many beautiful plants and flowers.**

Before the meeting, make a world by cutting two 10-inch (diameter) circles, one from cardboard and one from brown or green construction paper. Cut both circles in half. Glue a cardboard half circle to a construction paper half circle. Cut three 1 1/8-inch long slits along the straight side of the remaining paper circle (make sure the slits are about an inch below the straight edge of the half circle) as shown on sheet 1 of *Bible Teaching Resources*. Glue this half circle to the remaining cardboard, placing glue only around the edges, so the slits are not glued to the cardboard. Cut the taller tree, a leafy bush, and the smaller flowering bush from page 3 of an extra *Bible Corner Classroom Activity Sheet* for Meeting 1. Cut a 1-inch wide tab at the bottom of each tree and bush. Place these in the cut slits on the half circle, placing the tree in the middle. Tape the tree on the back to hold it in place.

Attach the top of the world to the bottom with a paper fastener and close it over the tree, flowers, and bush. Since you will be using the world pieces during this entire unit, you may wish to cover them with clear self-stick plastic. Hold your Bible open on your lap.

### GOD GAVE US PLANTS AND TREES

(Genesis 1:1-13)

When God created the world, it must have looked pretty plain. There was night and day. There was water. There was dry land. Then

# Second Meeting Options

## 2. Bible Story (Cont.) OPTIONS

trees, no grass or fruit trees, no doggies or fish or birds, not even the earth to put them on. (Hold up each picture briefly, then put it behind you.)

Then God decided to make our world. (Show world picture.) But the world was very dark. (Have children shut their eyes tightly.) God is so powerful. He only spoke and said, "Let there be light," and there was light. (Have children open their eyes. Repeat this several times, having children shut and open their eyes and saying with you, "Let there be light.")

God made the day and night, the water, the sky (point up), and dry land. He called the dry land earth. Then God made grass and flowers and plants and trees with fruit. (Show each picture.) And God saw that everything He made was good.

God gave each plant and tree the ability to make more plants and trees. (Show seeds. Tell what each seed is and show a picture of what will grow from it. Say, when we plant [a sunflower seed] a [tall sunflower] will grow, etc.)

Let's thank God for making our beautiful world and giving us growing things to enjoy. (Lead the children in saying, "Thank You, God.")

### Learn from the Bible Story

If possible, take the children outside for a walk. Point to the sky and ask, **Who made the sky?** Have children respond, "God did." Ask, **What color is the sky?** (*blue*)

Ask the same question many times, substituting a different item (grass, tree, flower, etc.) with children responding "God did" every time, and telling its color. If you can't go outside, look through a window, or show pictures. Lead the children in saying, "Thank You, God."

You may want to read the Bible story from page 3 of *Bible Happenings Take-Home Papers* at this time. Show the picture as you tell the story. Then hand out crayons and let the children complete the activity. Talk about the Bible lesson as they work.

### Bible Words Game

Have the children say the Bible Words with you, stretching tall on tip-toes and pointing upward for the word "heaven" and stooping down, patting the ground, when you say "earth."

## Easy-Trac™ First Meeting of the Week



### Bible Story (Cont.)



on the third day, God really started to dress up His world. (Open the world).

God created plants. There were small plants and large plants. There were skinny plants and fat plants. There were plants without flowers and plants with many flowers. God made trees. God made many kinds of trees. There were trees with fruit and trees without fruit. There were tall trees and short trees.

God did something very special when He made plants and trees. God gave each one some type of seed. God wanted the plants and trees He made to go on and on. He planned it so we can have trees today. The seeds made new plants and trees. Those plants and trees had seeds. Those seeds made other new plants and trees. On and on, God's plan has worked. When God had finished making the plants and trees, God saw that it was good. On the third day of creation, God gave us plants and trees.

#### Learn from the Bible Story

Place some seeds in a box; then close the box. Shake it and let the children guess what is inside. Remove the seeds, one at a time, and tell what grows from that seed. If possible, match some of the seeds with the leaves or flowers handed out earlier. For example, if there was an oak leaf, be sure to have an acorn. Say, **Here is an acorn. Does anyone have a leaf from an oak tree? [Bonnie] has that leaf. An oak tree can be a very large tree. God put the power to grow an oak tree inside this little acorn. God wanted us to have oak trees.** Continue in this way with each of the leaves and/or flowers.

#### Bible Words Memory Time

Genesis 1:1 — “[In the beginning,] God created the heaven and the earth.” (KJV)

“[In the beginning,] God created the heavens and the earth.” (NIV)

If you have younger children in your group, feel free to have your class learn just the Bible Words outside the brackets. A class of older children may learn the entire verse. Cut the Bible Words shapes from *Bible Teaching Resources* sheet 1. On a sheet of construction paper or poster board, trace around each shape. Make each traced shape a different color, but similar to the color of its corresponding shape from the *Bible Teaching Resources*. Cover the shapes with clear self-stick plastic, if you wish. Let the children take turns matching the corresponding shapes. When they have finished, help them “read” the words. Say the words together several times. Then say the words, leaving out “heaven” or “earth.” Let the children complete the verse with the correct word. (Have a leader say the verse with the children.)

## Second Meeting Options

### 2. Bible Story (Cont.) OPTIONS

Repeat several times. Then lead the children in saying, “Thank You, God,” and clapping their hands.

### 3. Bible Application OPTIONS



#### A Visit from Happy & Lacey

Use Happy Honeybee and Lacey Ladybug in a conversation with the leader to introduce the theme of this meeting.

HAPPY: (Looking at the flower and tree pictures used in the Bible story) BZZZZ, bzzzzz. I love flowerzzzz. I love fruit treezzzz, especially when they have flowerzzzz on them.

LACEY: And I love plants, too. Happy, where do you think all these beautiful trees and flowers and plants came from?

HAPPY: I know where they came from. But [teacher's name], do you think the boys and girls can help answer Lacey's question?

LEADER: Boys and girls, Who made the plants and flowers and trees? (*God did.*)

#### Let's Read a Fiction Story

You may want to read the fiction story from today's *Bible Happenings Take-Home Papers*. Show the pictures as you tell the story. Then talk about the questions. Remind the children that they will be able to complete the remaining activities at home. Encourage them to have someone at home read the story to them again.

#### Snack Time

Serve the applesauce made in the Home Living Center with pretzels and water. After the children wash their hands, lead them in praying the THANKFUL RHYME (see page 5). Ask, **Do you remember where this applesauce came from?** Pause for responses. Then say, **I am glad God created fruit trees and fruit such as apples.**

## Easy-Trac™ First Meeting of the Week



### Bible Application

(Allow 10-20 minutes)



Let the children smell some fall flowers before you read **FABULOUS FALL FLOWERS** from page 1 of the *Honeybees Bible Corner Classroom Activity Sheet* for Meeting 1. Ask, **Who created the fall flowers that Happy liked so much?** Pause for responses. Then say, **I am glad God created flowers.**

Give each child page 2 from *Bible Corner* for Meeting 1. Hand out crayons and let the children scribble-color the flowers. As they work, mention each child by name. Say, **[Julia], God created many beautiful flowers and trees.**

#### Stop and Stretch Time

Serve the applesauce made in the Home Living Center with crackers and water. After the children wash their hands, lead them in praying the **THANKFUL RHYME** (see page 5) before they eat. Ask, **Do you remember where this applesauce came from?** Pause for responses. Then say, **I am glad God created apple trees.**

If you have time, read the fiction story from *Bible Happenings Take-Home Papers*. Show the pictures as you tell the story.



### Bible Learning

(Allow 10-15 minutes)



#### Happy's Bible Activity

Before the meeting, cut along the solid lines on page 3 of each *Bible Corner Classroom Activity Sheet*. Fold the trees and bushes forward and then back so they lie flat. Cut small pieces of colorful tissue paper. Spread glue on the trees, bushes, and flowers on pages 3 and 4. Let the children add the tissue paper. Show the children how to bend each item forward to make a stand-up picture. As they work, say, **God created beautiful trees, bushes, and flowers. I'm glad God gave us such a wonderful world to live in.**



### Closing

(Allow 5-10 minutes)



After a brief closing prayer, lead the children in singing **GOOD-BYE, FRIENDS**. (See page 8.) At the close of the First Meeting of the Week, remind the children to bring their award books to the second meeting. Hand out *Bible Corner*, today's craft, and *Bible Happenings Take-Home Papers* to each child. Since this is the first meeting of the quarter, hand out the *Cubby's Connection Newsletter* from the back of *Bible Happenings* to parents as they arrive. Also send home a note asking the children to bring pictures of their pets and a T-shirt to decorate (optional) to Meeting 2. Encourage the parents to read *Bible Happenings* with their child during the week.

## Second Meeting Options

### 4. Bible Learning OPTIONS

#### Craft Time

Provide construction paper and glue. Have the children glue the tree and flower pictures to their papers to make a colorful garden. Say, **God made the most beautiful garden of all when He created the world. Let's say, "Thank You, God" and clap our hands in praise to Him.** Be sure to print the children's names on their papers.

#### Trees and Flowers

Before the meeting cut lots of pictures of flowers and trees from garden magazines. You will also need a large flowerpot.

Have the children cover their eyes as you spread (don't hide) the pictures all over the room. On your signal, have the children quickly find the pictures and place them in the flowerpot.

Next let the children take turns picking a picture from the flowerpot. Have the group tell you if it is a flower or a tree. Then ask, **Who made this [flower]? (God did.)**

#### Leader Tip

#### Bible Background

During the first three days of creation, God formed the earth; then during the second three days, He filled what He had formed. On Day 1, God created day and separated it from night. Later, on Day 4, He created the sun, moon, and stars that shine by day and by night. On Day 2, God made the sky by separating surface water from clouds. Then on Day 5, God created the sea creatures that live in the water and the birds that live in the sky. On Day 3, God separated dry ground and surface water, making land and seas. He also made vegetation. On Day 6, God created animals and humans, both of which live on land and eat vegetation.