


**FAITH
FOCUS**

We celebrate
God's creation.

God made plants

Genesis 1:11-12

Faith formation for twos

The world is full of beautiful plants with rich colors, textures, tastes, and smells. For twos, this provides a wonderful way to experience the goodness of God's creation with all their senses.

Preparation

- Place a bookmark in your Bible at Genesis 1.
- For the "Exploring nature" Gather option, make a nature tray. Arrange leaves, pinecones, evergreen branches, acorns, shells, flowers, or other local nature items on a tray. Be sure to provide adequate supervision as children explore the items.
- Collect leaves, flowers, and evergreen branches for telling the Bible story. If you do not have access to real plants, make plant sticks: copy and color the plant images from page 257. Attach them to craft sticks. You will place these in the soil in the storytelling tray.
- Practice telling the Bible story using the storytelling tray.
- Prepare a healthy snack: Offer cut-up fruits and vegetables. Avoid grapes or other foods that may pose a choking hazard.
- Prepare activity cards.
- Gather supplies for Responsive play.

Environment for twos

When telling the story, insert the names of local plants and trees, if desired.

It is important for children to touch items from the natural world. Nature provides textures, smells, and sensations not found in plastic toys! Use care as you choose items. Pick smooth pieces of wood to avoid splinters. Be aware of items that may break into small pieces and become a choking hazard. Be aware of any plant allergies children may have.

AT A GLANCE

Gather

- Welcome
- Snack or "Exploring nature" activity
- Song ("I am special")

Share the Bible story

- Creation finger play
- Song with the Bible ("Jesus loves me")
- Story (Genesis 1:11-12)
- Circle prayer
- Song with motions ("I am special")
- Activity card: "God made plants"

Responsive play

Sending

SUPPLIES

- *Wee Wonder* CD
- CD player
- Bible
- Snack
- For "Exploring nature" Gather option: tray, plant items (leaves, pinecones, evergreen branches, flowers, etc.)
- 2 pieces of cloth: 1 blue, 1 brown (11 x 15 in. / 28 x 38 cm)
- Storytelling tray
- For telling story: leaves, flowers, evergreen branches OR plant images on craft sticks (p. 257)
- For activity card: washable ink pad or tempera paint, wipes or damp paper towels
- Responsive play materials (see p. 54)

Gather

1. Welcome children by name. Invite them to join your gathering activity.
2. Choose one of these options for children to do as they enter the room:
 - Option 1: Snack**—If you do not offer snack right now, plan to serve it just *before* Responsive play.
 - Option 2: Activity, “Exploring nature”**—Set out a tray of items related to plants: leaves, pinecones, evergreen branches, pine needles, sturdy small sticks, flowers. (*Add these materials to the Explore area during Responsive play.*)
3. When you are ready to share the Bible story, play “I am special” from the *Wee Wonder* CD. Walk to the story area as you enjoy the music.



track 2

Share the Bible story

1. Do the following action rhyme together, using blue and brown cloth.

God made brown earth

(Place brown cloth on floor, smoothing it flat. Invite children to make smooth, flat motion with hands.)

God made blue water

(Bunch blue cloth on floor, next to brown cloth. Invite children to make bumpy, up-and-down motions like waves.)

God made light (hold hands high and pretend they are stars)

God made trees (extend arms out and up like branches)

God said, “It is good!” (make ASL sign for “good”)

2. Remove the pieces of brown and blue cloth. Sing “Jesus loves me” along with the *Wee Wonder* CD. (See words on p. 271.)



track 1

Jesus loves me, this I know
for the Bible tells me so . . .

Hold up the Bible, with today’s story marked. Say,

“This is the Bible.”

Open the Bible to the story and point to the words.

“Here is the story.”

Carefully set the open Bible to the side.

3. Share the Bible story.

Props: storytelling tray, real plants or images of plants attached to craft sticks (from p. 257)

Set the scene: Place a towel under the tray if you want children to help with the story. You or the children will poke plants into the soil as indicated.

Tell the story.

4. Hold hands in a circle as you pray. When you say “great,” raise arms high.

“God, you are great! Amen.”

BIBLE STORY: Genesis 1:11-12

(For "Grow," draw shape of a tree with hands—close together at bottom like a trunk, then spreading wide at top like branches.)

In the beginning, God made the earth. (Point to storytelling tray.)
There was land and water.

Then God said, "Grow!"
A seed grew up, up, up.
Look—a flower! (Poke flower into soil.)

"Grow!" said God.
A seed grew up, up, up.
Look—a maple tree! (Poke leaf into soil.)

"Grow!" said God.
A seed grew up, up, up.
Look—a bush! (Poke small evergreen branches into soil.)

The earth was full of plants.
God smiled. "It is good." (Make ASL sign for "good.")

5. Stand up to sing "I am special" with new verses and simple motions:

I am special, yes, very, very special (cross arms over chest)
'cause **God made me.** (reach both hands toward sky and then toward self)

Trees are special, yes, very, very special
'cause **God made trees.** (crouch down; slowly uncurl till arms are outstretched)

Flowers are special, yes, very, very special
'cause **God made flowers.** (use "grow" motion from Bible story)

6. Activity card: "God made plants." Sit at a low table. Give each child a card and invite children to decorate the tree and flowers with their fingerprints. Press finger on washable ink pad and then onto the card. *Alternative: press pencil eraser into ink and then dot the tree.*

Offer snack now, if you did not at the beginning of the session.

Responsive play (See p. 54.)

Using the suggestions, set up areas for "free play" around the room. After Share the Bible story provide ample time for children to play alone or with others in the areas they choose.

Sending

Kneel down at child's level and say to each one,

"God made the earth and God made you!"

Option: Sing "Holding hands together" from the Wee Wonder CD, while holding hands.

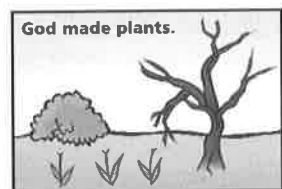
MODULE 2 THEME SONG

I am special

I am special, yes,
very, very special
'cause God made me.



track 2



track 13

Responsive play

CONNECT

Provide materials that help children celebrate and care for God's creation. Today, care for plants.

Faith Link: "We can take care of plants. Plants need water, soil, and sunshine. We can be gentle."

Supplies: blue, yellow, and brown cloth; garden care items (plastic flowerpots, silk flowers, watering can, plastic gardening tools; clear, sealed container of seeds)

Tip: Place pieces of brown cloth inside the pots to make "soil." Be sure the seed container is tightly sealed, so children can shake it freely.

BUILD

Turn several of your regular blocks into "nature blocks" by taping magazine pictures to sides. Today, include pictures of plants and trees.

Faith Link: "God made plants. God made flowers and trees. They are beautiful!"

Supplies: wooden or cardboard blocks, blocks with nature pictures

Tip: Point to the block a child has chosen. Name the picture—"Flower. Red flower." Invite older twos to point to a tree or flower.

TELL-IT-AGAIN

Set out the day's story items for children to retell the story in their own way.

Props: craft sticks with images of plants attached (*copy from p. 257*), storytelling tray (*with careful supervision*)

EXPLORE

Open the sand tub. Encourage children to explore various types of plants.

Faith Link: "God made plants. God made flowers. We can care for plants."

Supplies: tub of sand, bark, leaves, pinecones, silk flowers

Tip: When using nature items, be aware of broken pieces that could become a choking hazard. Join children in play to ensure their safety.

CREATE

Make creation prints. Use plant parts (*pinecones, bark, leaves*). Press them onto a paint-soaked sponge and then onto paper.

Faith Link: "The world is full of beautiful plants for us to enjoy."

Supplies: plant parts, sponges, washable tempera paint, paper, smocks

Tip: Make leaf stamps ahead of time. Glue the top of a leaf to a piece of cardboard or an old block of smooth wood. This stamp will be easier for small hands to use. Press it onto the sponge and then onto paper.

READ

Include books about plants, animals, children, children's faces, night and day.

God Created by Mark Francisco Bozzuti-Jones

God's Wonder World by Donna Scorer

This is the Earth that God Made by Lynn Downey

Touch-and-See Bible illustrated by Eileen Hine