

# Children's Service

**SETTING THE SCENE:** Place a black cloth on half of the table to depict darkness, and a blue cloth on the other half depicting sea waters. On the black cloth (darkness) place an empty transparent plastic bowl to represent that the earth was empty and dark. On the blue cloth place an empty plastic bowl with a battery candle inside it representing the light (sun, moon, stars) that God created. Place sand on the edge of the blue cloth to show the separation of the sea and the earth. Seeds, flower petals or cut-out flowers, paper cut-outs or toy creatures on the blue cloth and sand, butterflies and birds can be made to hang above or on sticks; all to be placed at the appropriate times during the service.

## WELCOME WORDS

**OPENING PRAYER:** [Two children to come up and say this]

**Together:** Dear Loving Heavenly Father, we want to say thank you for the wonderful world we live in that you have made.

**Child 1:** You made great big animals down to tiny insects.

**Child 2:** You made beautiful flowers in so many bright colours and sea creatures from tiny fish to whales.

**Child 1:** Today we are thinking particularly of the country of **Suriname**, with its monkeys and birds and snakes who live in the rainforests.

**Child 2:** The beautiful waterlilies and orchids; the turtles who live in the sea and lay their eggs on the beaches.

**Together:** Thank you Father, for the thousands of different creatures and plants that you made in different countries throughout the world. Amen.

**HYMN: Chorus: Stand up, clap hands, shout thank you, Lord,  
Thank you for the world I'm in.  
Stand up, clap hands, shout thank you, Lord,  
For happiness and peace within.**

**1.** I look around and the sun's in the sky,  
I look around and then I think oh my!  
The world is such a wonderful place,  
And all because of the good Lord's grace.

**Chorus...**

**2.** I look around and the creatures I see,  
I look around and it amazes me  
That every fox and bird and hare  
Must fit in a special place somewhere:

**Chorus...**

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**BIBLE READING:** [from the Lion First Bible (p10-19)]

**Leader:** Close your eyes tight. Now it's all dark. Cover your ears. Now it's quiet..... [PAUSE]

Long, long ago before the world began, everything was dark, everything was quiet.

No people. No Birds. No animals.

Then God spoke; "Let there be day – let the light shine."

*\*(battery-lit candle brought up and placed inside the empty bowl)*

And the light came. How good the light was!

God kept the dark for night time, he made the moon and stars to shine in the dark. That was good too.

*\*[candle in bowl on black cloth, children bring cut outs of moon and stars and stick or pin onto black cloth]*

**Leader:** God said "Let there be sky and land and sea. And so it was.

But the world was still empty and quiet.

God said "Now we must have plants" and the first green things began to grow.

Soon there were flowers and trees and good things to eat. *\*[bring up flowers, fruits, etc. and place on sand]*

**Leader:** But there were no creatures to enjoy them.

So God spoke again and at God's word the sea was alive with fish and swimming things.

**CONTINUED OVER...**

*\*[bring up photos/pictures of fish, sea creatures and lay on blue cloth]*

**Leader:** The sky was bright with the flash of wings and from the earth came every kind of animal.

Now it wasn't quiet anymore! *\*[play tape of bird or animal noises if possible, while children bring toy animals, birds]*

'Chirrup Chirrup, Cheepie cheep!'

The birds sang for joy.

The animals tried out their voices. Everyone was different. "Ee-aw!" That was the donkey.

"Woof-woof, Grr-oof" That was the dog.

But still God had not finished... *\*[boy and girl come to the front]*

God's beautiful world needed people to look after it, people to enjoy it. People who could think and feel, like God, and make things too. So God made the first man and the first woman to love God. The man was called Adam and the woman Eve. In the beginning, when the world was new, everything was good...and God was very pleased.

After all that work, God took a rest, to enjoy what he had made.

**The two children together say:** God made the sky above and the earth below, God's love is forever. God made the sun for the day and the moon and stars for the night. God's love is forever.

The earth and everything in it, the world and all its creatures belong to God, because God made them.

**All Children:** We thank God for our wonderful world.

**Leader:** But unfortunately we do not always take care of it and we spoil God's beautiful creation.

**Child 1:** We drop litter on the ground and throw rubbish around.

**Child 2:** We spoil our beautiful countryside by digging mines and drilling the land and sea for oil.

**Child 3:** We pollute the rivers and seas with chemicals and rubbish.

**Child 4:** Our cars and planes spoil our clean air.

**SONG :**

1. Milk bottle tops and paper bags,  
Iron bedsteads, dirty old rags,  
Litter on the pavement, paper in the park,  
Is this what we  
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP  
Really want to see?  
CLAP CLAP CLAP-CLAP CLAP  
NO! NO! NO!

2. Old plastic bottles, silver foil,  
Chocolate wrapping, engine oil,  
Rubbish in the gutter,  
Junk upon the beach,  
Is this what we  
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP  
Really want to see?  
CLAP CLAP CLAP-CLAP CLAP  
NO! NO! NO!

3. Help us, Lord, to find each day  
Ways to help keep away  
That litter off the pavement,  
That rubbish off beach  
For this is what we  
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP  
Really want to see.  
CLAP CLAP CLAP-CLAP CLAP  
YES! YES! YES!

Permission sought

**PRAYER:** Lord God, we thank you for the beautiful earth you have given us. Forgive us when we do not properly take care of it and when we do not care for all that God has created. Help us to try harder to show more care and to encourage our friends to do the same. Amen

**HYMN:** I look around at all the joy I've had,  
I look around and then it makes me glad  
That I can offer thanks and praise  
To Him who guides me through my days:

**Chorus:** Stand up, clap hands, shout thank you, Lord,  
Thank you for the world I'm in.  
Stand up, clap hands, shout thank you, Lord,  
For happiness and peace within.