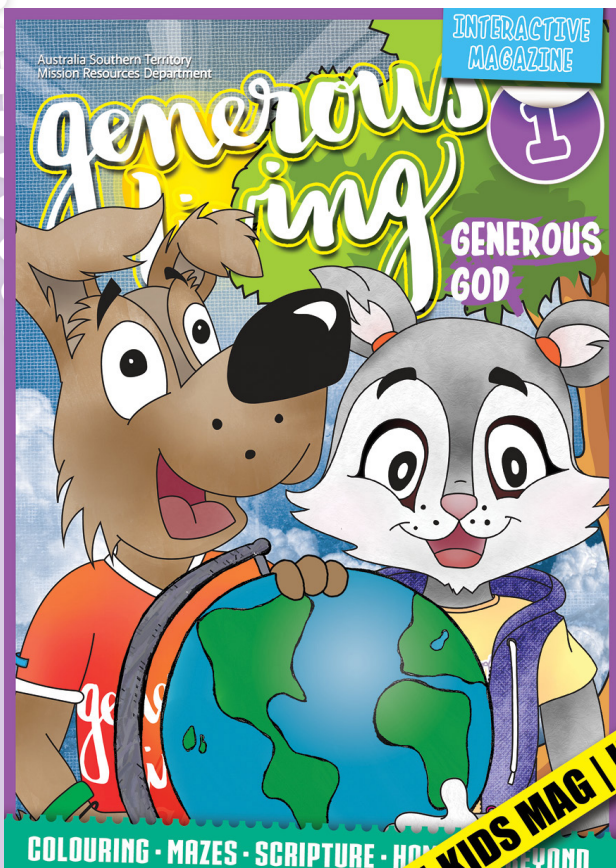


WEEK ONE — GENEROUS GOD

God's provision and generosity through creation.



PURPOSE

For the children to explore and understand how God is generous and provides for us through creation over and over again—continuously.



SCRIPTURE VERSES

'God said, "Look, I have given you all the plants that have grain for seeds. And I have given you all the trees whose fruits have seeds in them. They will be food for you. I have given all the green plants to all the animals to eat. They will be food for every wild animal, every bird of the air and every small crawling animal." And it happened. God looked at everything he had made, and it was very good. Evening passed, and morning came. This was the sixth day.'
Genesis 1:29–31 (ICB)

'Since everything God created is good, we should not reject any of it but receive it with thanks.'
1 Timothy 4:4

CONSIDER AND PREPARE

Read Genesis 1:1–31 (Creation)

In this first week of the teaching, we will:

- Wonder at God's amazing generosity in creation.
- Explore God's continual provision through creation.
- Think about ways we can give back to God for his generosity, such as looking after the environment, looking after people and animals, being a friend to God.

PLAN AHEAD

This week we suggest you take a group photo to include in the visual display celebrating God's creation.

If you choose to do this, ensure you first have a signed permission slip from each child's parents. (Refer to parent's letter #1 included at the end of this guide or simply download from the Generous Living website).

Arrange to print a large copy of the photo and add to your creation display in Week 2.



WELCOME ZONE

Have a leader ready to welcome each child as they enter the room and say that today we're discovering more about God's awesome creation and how generous he is to us! Invite them to explore the room!

- Have some music playing in the background of different sounds of nature (download from the internet or readily available on CD's).

Choose ONE of the following activities to set the scene and introduce the theme for this week:

1. Re-creating God's Creation
2. Sensory Stations

WELCOME-ACTIVITY ①

Re-creating God's Creation

PURPOSE:

Setting the overall theme for this series and making the room look inviting and exciting!

PREPARATION:

Refer to the 'Hall Set Up' ideas, pages 12-13. Depending on what you choose to do, involve the children in creating or adding to the different visual displays.

WELCOME-ACTIVITY ②

Sensory Stations

PURPOSE:

This activity allows children to explore creation using five key-senses. It helps the children to begin thinking about how very generous God is.

PREPARATION:

- Set up five tables or areas (or one large table if space is limited) that can be used as 'sensory stations'. These 'sensory stations' are to represent hearing, sight, smell, taste and touch.
- Have a leader to supervise each station, but allow the children the freedom to explore and chat with other children about the things on each table.

- Below is a list of all the items needed for the suggested sensory stations:

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Tables
- Sea shells
- iPhone or iPod loaded with music of your choice (see 'Hearing' Activity)
- Computer with PowerPoint (see 'Sight' activity)
- Flowers (that have a scent)
- Foods that have a scent—strawberries, lemons, fresh herbs, fish etc.
- A platter of fruit, seeds and vegetables cut in bite size pieces
- Toothpicks
- Salt
- Water
- Bread
- Eggs (hard-boiled!)
- A bowl of sea shells
- If you are able to, arrange for a pet rabbit or guinea pig to visit for the children to pat.
- A bowl of water for the children to swish their hands through
- Rocks
- Plants (with various textures)
- Sand
- Tree bark
- Grass (if you able to, take the children outside and let them run with bare feet on the grass)
- Pack of hand wipes to clean hands afterward

Hearing:

Provide a 'hearing experience' for the children to explore.

- Sea shells—encourage children to hold the shell up to their ears to 'hear' the ocean.
- Provide sounds through an iPhone or iPod such as bird calls/singing, waterfalls, ocean, thunder, wind, rain, people laughing and chatting and animals.
- If you able to, take the children outside to listen for nature sounds.
- Have music playing as a symbol that God created music.

Sight:

Provide a 'seeing experience' for the children to explore.

Using a computer device, set up a PowerPoint of pictures/photos of what God has created. Waterfalls, lakes, oceans, waves, beaches, forests, animals, birds, dolphins, stars, planets, people, sunsets, snow and ice, clouds, flowers.

**Creation PowerPoint available to download from the Generous Living website.

Smell:

Provide a variety of smelling experiences for the children to explore.

- Flowers (that have a scent)
- Foods that have a scent—strawberries, lemons, fresh herbs, fish etc.
- Talk about the smells on a farm with the different animals.
- Talk about the smells of the rainforest etc.

Taste:

Provide a 'tasting experience' for the children to explore.

***For this sensory station you will need to be aware of any allergies amongst your children and leaders.

Provide the following food for the children to taste.
• A platter of fruit, seeds and vegetables cut in bite size pieces (provide toothpicks to encourage hygiene).

- Salt (to represent salt of the ocean)
- Water
- Bread
- Eggs

Touch:

Provide objects that the children can touch that God has created.

- A bowl of sea shells
- If you are able to, arrange for a pet rabbit or guinea pig to visit for the children to pat.
- A bowl of water for the children to swish their hands through.
- Rocks
- Plants
- Sand
- Tree bark
- Grass (if you able to, take the children outside and let them run with bare feet on the grass).



Announce to all the children that you are now going to enter the 'Praise Zone'!

Ask the children to leave the activities they're doing and come to the designated area. Talk to them briefly about the welcome activity and then introduce the 'Praise Zone' as a time to worship God by singing songs of praise and thanks to him.

Introduce the song you've chosen and invite all the leaders and kids to join in singing and dancing. If you usually take up an offering, do this during the song. If not, introduce this after the song, as a way of thanking God for all he has given us.

SUGGESTIONS:

Praise the Lord!

Session 12, Song No. 12

OR

Sing for Joy!

Session 12, Song No. 14

***Both songs available from Generous Living website link to RightNow media Kids' worship resources. 'Seeds of Praise' Video Worship Series, Session 12, Song Nos. 12 & 14.



FUN ZONE-ACTIVITY ③ Multiplication Game

AIM OF THE GAME:

To introduce the idea of 'multiplication'.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Small coloured plastic balls (available from Kmart or Big W for approx. \$10)

HOW TO PLAY:

- Ask the children to sit in a tight circle.
- Once they are in the circle throw one of the balls to a child and ask them to throw it around the circle as quickly as possible, keeping it off the ground.
- As the children continue to throw the ball gradually

add extra balls into the circle until there are lots of balls!

ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTION:

Particularly appropriate for younger children:

Have children sit in a circle around a parachute, once they have each taken the handles, add a few balls to see which ones go highest. Keep on adding balls! You could also do this to music—choose music that has a fast beat then a slow beat. The children need to listen and jiggle the parachute accordingly!



RESOURCES NEEDED:

- Pumpkin seeds
- PowerPoint slides as outlined below. (**Available to download from the Generous Living website).

TEACHING POINTS:

“Did you notice that as the game was played, more and more balls were added into the circle? It was as if the balls kept multiplying! More and more balls just kept on coming!”

Genesis 1:11–12 tells us that God created plants that had their own seeds so that they could keep on reproducing over and over again!”

POWERPOINT SLIDES:

1. *“God’s creation is designed to keep on reproducing and giving, and giving, and giving again!”*
“I wonder if you know what this could mean?”

2. Picture of pumpkin seeds (have some actual seeds to show children as well).

“I wonder if any of you have grown vegetables at home? Or planted fruit trees?”

Seeds come from inside the fruit or vegetable and if you dry these out and plant them in the right conditions they will grow into a new plant!

When God created the flowers, fruits and vegetables he made them with seeds so that those seeds can be planted to grow even more of the same flowers, fruits and vegetables!”

3. *Picture of trees in spring, summer, autumn, winter...spring.*

“I wonder what you think happens when we move into a new season, such as winter to spring?”

New life is born on the tree and the flowers that grow turn into new fruit. The ice from winter snow melts and turns into water that runs down our mountains into our river and lake system. Animals come out of their winter sleep and many new animal babies are born in spring. Birds build new nests and lay eggs.

The change of seasons shows us that creation keeps on going!”

4. *Picture of a baby animal and a human baby.*

“When God made animals and people he made them to be able to keep on reproducing through generations. God didn’t create the world in the beginning and stop there. He wanted the world to continuously reproduce and never stop ending. He was generous with his creation and wants everyone to enjoy his creation every day of our lives.”

5. *God is so very generous!*

GROUP PHOTO: *“Okay everyone, it’s time to celebrate us! We’re all a part of God’s most amazing creation!”*

INTRO. THE NEW KID’S MAGAZINES

- Show PowerPoint slide of Cobie and Charlie.

**A reminder that large banners and A2 posters of Cobie and Charlie are available to order from THQ.

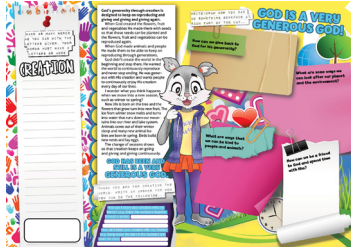
Excitedly introduce Cobie and Charlie and the new Generous Living kids’ magazines. Tell the children they will get a new magazine each week for the next four weeks, to use during the ‘Zone In’ time and then to take home and keep!

Briefly talk about the different sections in the magazine, then ask the children to go to their small groups with their group leader to receive their very first mag!



ZONE IN

'Zone In' leaders, give each child a magazine and ask them to turn to page 5 and think about the first two questions. (You may like to 'brainstorm' ideas first as a group. Children then write in their own answers (or favourite answers):



- How can I share God's creation with my family?
- How can I share God's creation with my friends?

Small Group Leader:

"God is a very generous God, he gave us all these things to enjoy, use and have fun with.

How would you like to have been there when God threw that first sparkle of light out into the blackness of the universe? How would you like to have been there when God threw the stars out into the dark night sky? It would have been like the best fireworks show ever!

Have you ever wondered why God took the trouble and time to create the world? After all, he knew what would happen in it—sin, hatred etc. Why do you think he still went ahead and did it?

Because he was generous, God created a whole universe full of people like us that he could love forever. He wants us to enjoy his creation, he wants us to enjoy his friendship and he wants to enjoy our friendship."

Discuss the following questions with the children and get them to fill in their answers in their mag.

"How can we give back to God for his generosity?" (e.g. Look after God's creation by looking after the planet and the environment, being kind to people and animals that he created, by being his friend and spending time with him.)

"Can you think of some ways we can look after our planet and the environment?" (e.g. Don't litter as rubbish could travel into the waterways. Recycle plastics and glass. Start a compost bin etc.)

"What are some ways that we can be kind to people and animals?" (e.g. Donate clothing, blankets and food to a homeless shelter. Spend time with a lonely person. Share with your friends. Feed and exercise your pet, etc.)

"How can we be a friend to God and spend time with him?"

(e.g. ask Jesus to be your friend, say sorry for the things we have done wrong, read stories in the Bible about Jesus, talk to him, talk to your friends and family about God).

Leader calls children back to the large group teaching area and announces that everyone is now going to enter the 'Word Zone'!



WORD ZONE

PowerPoint slide:

'Since everything God created is good, we should not reject any of it but receive it with thanks.'

1 Timothy 4:4

WORD ZONE-ACTIVITY ④

Gum Tree Words

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Gum leaves or leaf templates provided
- Permanent markers
- Textas/pens
- Bibles
- An interactive magazine for each child

PREPARATION:

- Pre-cut a large gum tree (trunk and branches) out of brown cardboard (or draw on class white-board).
- Cut out 18 leaves (templates provided on page 25) and write the words of 1 Timothy 4:4 on gum leaves with permanent markers (one word per leaf). Laminate and cut around each leaf.

WHAT TO DO:

Read the verse aloud together, then have the children arrange the gum leaves (with blu-tack) on the tree branches in order of the verse. Turn off the PowerPoint slide and take away a leaf one at a time until the children have memorized the verse.

ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTION: Have the leaves already on the tree, all mixed up. Ask one child at a time to pick a leaf from the tree and then the children need to get in the right position in a line until the words are in the right order. Repeat the memory verse several times in different ways (eg. girls vs. boys, loud vs. soft voices, using actions, etc.).



PRAYER

Small group leaders to pray with their group to conclude the lesson.

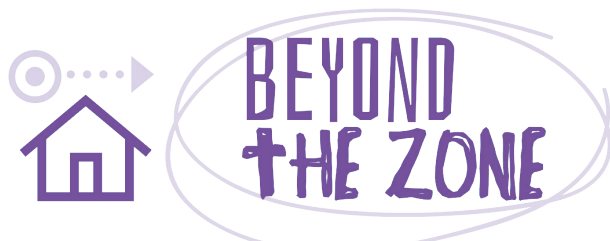
The children return to their small group tables and turn to page 6 in their magazine to complete a puzzle to help commit this verse to memory.



TO BRING NEXT WEEK

If you've chosen to create a visual display of 'God's generous creation', invite the children to bring a picture along next week to add to it.

Colour in page 8 of the magazine and bring it to show next week!



Ask the children to turn to page 7 of their magazine and introduce the 'Beyond the Zone' activities.



• "With your family, make time this week to enjoy the outdoors by going on a picnic or on a bike ride. Chat with your family about all the things that God has created and how generous he has been to us.

• Thinking about how God has been so generous with us with sharing his creation, start thinking about how we can be generous and give back to God.

• Put into practice one of your ideas for looking after our planet and environment. Share this idea with your family."

Encourage the children to complete their magazine at home during the week and memorize the Bible verse, ready to say it to a leader next week (to earn a reward!)

WEEK ONE-ADDITIONAL GAMES AND ACTIVITIES:

BONUS GAME ①

The Taste Test

****You will need to be aware of any allergies amongst your children.**

AIM OF THE GAME:

Fun!

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Blindfolds
- Large garbage bags with pre-cut hole
- Hand wipes
- Large table with chairs for each contestant
- Plastic forks and spoons
- A variety of foods (that may be hard to guess!)

Suggestions: Passionfruit yoghurt, Honey-Soy Chicken chips, fresh raspberries, Top-Deck chocolate (milk & white choc), Feta cheese, spinach leaves, a jar of baby food (eg. Pureed Pear).

HOW TO PLAY:

- Choose a number of contestants.
- Ask each contestant to choose a partner.
- Contestants wear a large garbage bag with a hole pre-cut at top of bag for their head.
- Blind-fold the contestants.
- Their partner feeds them a variety of yummy and not-so-yummy foods!
- The contestant who tastes and names the most foods correctly wins!

*****Be generous in applause!**

BONUS GAME ②

Starry Space Relay

A simple but fun relay race with each team member racing to add stars to the night sky!

MATERIALS NEEDED (per team):

- A large sheet of black cardboard
- A pack of foil stars (available from party shops) or (large) star stickers
- A timer/stop watch (optional)

HOW TO PLAY:

- Children form relay teams at one end of room.
- At the other end of the room, have a table set up

for each team with a sheet of black cardboard and tray of stars (and glue-sticks if necessary).

- When the leader yells "Go!" the first child from each team runs up and sticks one star onto the night sky, then races back, tags the next team member who then does the same and so on.
- The winning team is the one who has put the most stars in the night sky when the leader calls "Time!"

PRIZE: Star-burst lollies!

*******(Idea: Display the finished 'starry night' posters as part of God's creation).

BONUS ACTIVITY

Painting God's Creation

(Appropriate for younger children)

"With just paint and our fingers, we can make pictures of whatever we imagine. With just his voice, God created the world, the sky, the animals, you and me!"

Children can create paintings/finger paintings of God's awesome creation! Individual children could paint one 'day' of God's creation. Paintings can then form a room display under the heading, 'God's Generous Creation' (Genesis 1:1-31, 2:1-3).

The first day: God made the light, the day and the night...

The second day: ...the water and the sky

The third day: God made the land and all the plants that grow in the ground.

The fourth day: Sun, Moon, Stars—God made everything we see in the sky.

The fifth day: Fish, birds, animals—God made every creature that swims in the water and flies in the air and walks on the land.

The sixth day: God made people!

The seventh day: Rest—God made a special day for us to rest and to remember all he has done.



GUM LEAF TEMPLATES:

for 'Word Zone' activity (page 22)—
Photocopy onto green card or paper and laminate.

