



## Bible Story

### The Creation Story

Genesis 1:1–2:9

## Pathfinder

Arise! Shine with Love!

## Materials

### Imagination Station

- ☞ Artificial flowers
- ☞ Couple of plastic vases
- ☞ Ribbon

### Exploration Station

- ☞ Large cardboard building blocks
- ☞ Pictures of lighthouses

### Wonder Station

- ☞ Sturdy gallon storage bags
- ☞ Clear hair gel (16 oz.)
- ☞ Star-shaped confetti
- ☞ Glow-in-the-dark constellation cards
- ☞ Black posterboard
- ☞ Tape
- ☞ Scissors (for adult use)

### Island Manipulatives

- ☞ See list in text.

# Bible Beginnings

## Imagination Station

To reinforce the daily Pathfinder phrase, encourage Explorers to work together to arrange flowers to share with others. Set out a couple of plastic vases for the Explorers to use. Have a variety of artificial flowers to choose from. Encourage the Explorers to add the flowers to the vases. Talk about how they are showing their love for others as they prepare their flower arrangements. Have the Explorers repeat the Pathfinder phrase several times. SAY: **Imagine how others are going to feel when they receive this beautiful vase of flowers!** Allow time for them to respond.

## Exploration Station

Gather several large cardboard building blocks. Show the Explorers pictures of lighthouses. Talk about the importance of lighthouses for all who use the waterways. SAY: **Let's explore ways we can create our own lighthouses!** Repeat the Signal Verse as the Explorers build their lighthouse structures. Praise them for their efforts.

## Wonder Station

Before the Explorers arrive, cut the black posterboard to match the size of the gallon storage bags. To create your constellation, add the hair gel to a sturdy gallon storage bag. Toss in the star confetti. Place your bag on a flat surface. Try to release as much air as possible, then seal it shut. Tape the bag onto the black posterboard. To enhance this activity for your older preschoolers, place the glow-in-the-dark constellation cards under the bag. Make several bags so all Explorers can have an opportunity to do this activity. Repeat this phrase and allow Explorers time to respond.

SAY: **Explorers, what does this activity make you wonder? I**

\_\_\_\_\_, **that's what I wonder!**

## Island Manipulatives

During each session, set out one or two of these items as optional ideas for the Explorers to use:

- ☞ Wooden or foam puzzles
- ☞ Large floor puzzles
- ☞ Lacing cards
- ☞ Plastic interlocking blocks
- ☞ Matching card games/activities

# Gathering Time

Keeper: Hello, Explorers! I'm the new lighthouse keeper on Adventure Island. You can call me \_\_\_\_\_. I'm glad you're here! I need you to help me find five very special lanterns, called Infinity Lanterns. Infinity means forever. These lanterns shine forever. These lanterns are hidden all over Adventure Island. With your help, I'm sure we'll find them.

(puffin puppet pops up)

Beacon: Hello.

Keeper: What? You're talking...are you a talking bird?

Beacon: Absolutely! I am a puffin.

Keeper: You're a muffin?

Beacon: It's puffin. But, you can call me Beacon.

Keeper: Bacon is a strange name for a bird.

Beacon: That's Beacon.

Keeper: Do you know about the Infinity Lanterns?

Beacon: I sure do. The lights in each of the lanterns are special ways God shines light into the world and they also show us how we can shine God's light into the world.

Keeper: So, any ideas on how we start?

Beacon: Start at the beginning.

Keeper: The beginning of what?

Beacon: The beginning of the world!

Keeper: Of course! The first story in the Bible tells about God creating the world! Okay, Explorers, let's go!

Beacon: Wait a minute! Before starting out on this great adventure, you must first recite the island's Signal Verse. It comes from Isaiah, chapter 60, verse one: "Arise! Shine! Your light has come; the LORD's glory has shone upon you."

Keeper: Explorers, learn it with me: "Arise! Shine! Your light has come; the LORD's glory has shone upon you." Great! So, we have our Signal Verse. Let's go!

Beacon: Hold on, our Explorers need to know which lantern we're looking for. We're looking for the Infinity Lantern with the Light of Love. To find it, we all need to learn the Pathfinder. The Pathfinder tells us what path to take. The Pathfinder to the Light of Love is, "Arise! Shine with Love!"

Keeper: Explorers, say the pathfinder with me: 'Arise! Shine with Love!' OK, let's add some motions so we won't forget it. When we say 'Arise', everyone stand up. When we say 'shine,' everyone stretch your arms over your heads and bring them down to your side. (in a rainbow arch) And, when we say, 'Love,' everyone wrap your arms around your chest. Are you ready to begin exploring?

Beacon: Yes! Explorers, follow your Island Guides as we begin our first adventure.



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## Bible Story

### The Creation Story

Genesis 1:1–2:9

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## Materials

- ☉ Heart-shaped template (2 shapes needed per Explorer)
- ☉ Colorful construction paper
- ☉ Glue sticks
- ☉ Masking tape
- ☉ Colorful crepe paper
- ☉ Streamers
- ☉ Scissors (for teacher)
- ☉ Marker (for teacher)

# Music Time

## Before You Teach

Select the number of songs and activities that will best meet your time span. Gather supplies for Music Time.

## Suggested Songs

- ☉ Arise and Shine
- ☉ Discovery on Adventure Island
- ☉ Creator of the Universe

## Fun with Music

Shine with love streamers.

## Leaders and Explorers

Pre-cut the streamers to 2 ½" long segments. Pre-cut small heart shapes from construction paper. Help Explorers create a handle for their streamers from the heart shape by adding some masking tape to one end of the crepe paper. Write names of Explorers on the streamer.

Explorers add glue to the heart shapes, then glue them front and back to the crepe paper.

## Rhythm Activity

Direct Explorers to stand in a circle.

**SAY: To help us discover each other's names, we're going to stomp out the beats of our names. Let's practice by stomping out the word ISLAND (with Explorers do two stomps).**

**SAY: Some of our names will be short, some long. Let's see if any of our names have a similar pattern.**

Go around the circle, giving everyone an opportunity to say their names and stomp out the syllables.

# Mission Time

Mission Time will feature hands-on ideas. There are several options. Look in the Mission Leader book and select the options that best fit the needs of your church.

# Experience the Bible Story

## Transition to the Bible Story

Invite the Explorers to stop their current activity and prepare for the Bible story by joining in this action rhyme.

**We're on a quest,**  
(March in place.)

**We're on a journey.**  
(March in place.)

**Don't stand still,**  
(Stand straight without moving;  
shake head no.)

**We're in a hurry.**  
(Run in place.)

**We're looking for**  
(Hold hand above eyes. Look one  
way and then another.)

**A special light.**  
(Bring both hands up in front of the  
body with fingers spread out. Move  
hands up and away from each other.)

**It shines by day,**  
(Make a circle over your head.)

**it shines by night.**  
(Put hands under chin as if sleeping.)

**So come with us,**  
(Motion, "come here.")

**to God's Great Light!**  
(Hold arms above head, sway arms  
back and forth.)

**Arise and shine!**  
(Squat down and jump up with arms  
above head.)

**Arise and shine!**  
(Squat down and jump up with arms  
above head.)

**Arise and shine**  
(Squat down and jump up with arms  
above head.)

**with Love!**  
(Cross hands over heart.)

## Get Ready

- ☛ Have the Explorers stand still.
- ☛ Turn off the lights in the room and turn on a flashlight.
- ☛ Invite the Explorers to move to wherever you shine the light. You might shine the light in each corner of the room and have them move to each corner to be in the light.
- ☛ Or have the Explorers follow you as you hold the flashlight in a "Follow the Leader" type game.
- ☛ Shine the flashlight in the Bible story area or lead them to the Bible story area.
- ☛ Have the Explorers sit down.

**ASK: Do you know that in the very beginning of the world there was nothing but darkness?** (Turn off the flashlight.)

**SAY: Then God started making the world. God made the sun for light during the day** (Turn on the flashlight.) **and the moon and the stars for light during the night.** (Flash the flashlight around the ceiling.) **God saw how good the light was.**

- ☛ Turn on the room lights.



**Bible Story**  
**The Creation Story**  
Genesis 1:1–2:9

**Pathfinder**  
Arise! Shine with Love!

**Materials**  
☛ Flashlight



## Bible Story

### The Creation Story

Genesis 1:1–2:9

## Pathfinder

Arise! Shine with Love!

# Tell the Bible Story

**SAY:** Today our Bible story is about the beginning of the world. It's found in the very first book in our Bible and in the very first chapter. The book of the Bible is called Genesis. Genesis means beginning.

Open the Bible to Genesis. Place the Bible in your lap or on a table. Encourage the Explorers to do the motions with you as you tell the following story.

**In the beginning, there was nothing. No sun. No moon. No stars. No flowers. No plants. No trees. No birds. No fish. No animals.** (*Shake head no.*) **Nothing.**

**The earth had no shape. The deep sea was dark. Then God's wind swept over the waters. Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!** (*Swish your arms back and forth.*)

**God said, "Let there be light." And light appeared.** (*Flick your hands above your head.*) **God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day. God called the darkness Night.** (*Flick one hand above your head. Flick the other hand above your head.*)

**And that all happened on day number one.** (*Hold up one finger.*)

**On day number two** (*Hold up two fingers.*), **God made the sky.** (*Sweep one arm over your head.*)

**On day number three** (*Hold up three fingers.*), **God divided the land and the water. God called the land Earth. God called the water seas.** (*Hold both palms together, palms flat. Separate your hands to*

*either side.*) **Then God made seeds and plants and trees.** (*Sway your arms back and forth like a tree in the wind.*)

**On day number four** (*Hold up four fingers.*), **God made the sun and the moon and the stars.** (*Make a circle over your head.*)

**On day number five** (*Hold up five fingers.*), **God made fish to swim in the seas** (*Hold palms together like a fish. Wiggle your hands.*) **and birds to fly in the sky.** (*Flap your arms like wings.*)

**On day number six** (*Hold up six fingers.*), **God made animals— animals that give us milk and wool like cows and goats and sheep,** (*Say, "moo," "maa," and "baa."*) **animals that crawl like lizards and snakes and alligators, (crawl) and animals that live in the wild like tigers and lions and bears.** (*growl*)

**And on day number six** (*Hold up six fingers*), **God made something else— God made people!** (*Wiggle your whole body.*) **God made people in the image of God. That means that all people have some things that are like God. All people have hearts to love** (*Cross hands over heart.*) **and brains to think.** (*Point to head.*) **All people can take care of the earth** (*Make a large circle with your arms.*) **and take care of each other.** (*Hug yourself.*)

**God looked around at everything God had made,** (*Look around.*) **and God knew that everything was very good.** (*Nod head yes.*)

**Then on day number seven** (*Hold up seven fingers.*), **God rested.** (*Put your hands in your lap.*)

# Respond to the Bible Story

## Response Prayer

Repeat after me.

**Thank you, God, for showing us love by making the world and everything in it. Thank you for loving us. Amen.**

## Response Activity

**SAY: My young Explorers, this Bible story helps us find the lantern with the Light of Love. It's a different kind of light. One way we see the Light of Love is when we see someone do something to care for the earth.**

**ASK: What are some ways we can show love by caring for the earth?** *(Recycle, turn off lights, turn off water when you brush your teeth, plant trees, care for animals, and so forth.)*

- 🕒 Sing the song, "This Is the Way We Show Love to the Earth" to the tune of "This Is the Way." Encourage the Explorers to do the motions.

**This is the way we plant our seeds,**  
*(Kneel down and pretend to plant seeds.)*

**Plant our seeds, plant our seeds.  
This is the way we plant our seeds.  
To show love to the earth.**  
*(Cross hands over your heart.)*

**This is the way we pick up trash,**  
*(Stand, then bend over and pretend to pick up trash.)*

**Pick up trash, pick up trash.  
This is the way we pick up trash  
To show love to the earth.**  
*(Cross hands over your heart.)*

**This is the way we feed the birds,**  
*(Flap your arms like wings.)*  
**Feed the birds, feed the birds.  
This is the way we feed the birds.  
To show love to the earth.**  
*(Cross hands over your heart.)*

**This is the way we pray our thanks,**  
*(Fold hands in prayer.)*  
**Pray our thanks, pray our thanks.  
This is the way we pray our thanks.  
For God's great Light of Love.**  
*(Cross hands over your heart.)*

## Banner Verse

**SAY: Let's play a game. Walk around the room. When you see me flash the light around the floor, stop walking. We'll say our Bible verse together.**

- 🕒 Let the Explorers start walking. After a few minutes, shine the flashlight on the floor.
- 🕒 Have them stop walking. When all the Explorers have stopped, say the Bible verse together.
- 🕒 Repeat the game several times.



## Bible Story

**The Creation Story**  
Genesis 1:1–2:9

## Pathfinder

Arise! Shine with Love!

## Materials

- 🔦 Flashlight



## Bible Story

### The Creation Story

Genesis 1:1–2:9

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Arise! Shine with Love!

## Materials

### Island Hopping

- 🕒 Sidewalk chalk
- 🎧 CD player
- 🎧 **Complete Music CD**

### What Animal?

- 📄 Slips of paper
- 🖋 Pen
- 🧺 Basket or bowl
- 🐾 Small animal figures (optional)

## Large Church Adaptation

Have teams find a spot in a large play area. Have the Island Guide stand a distance away with the animals in the basket or bowl. Have each team send a representative to the Island Guide in each round. Pick an animal. All of the representatives must go back to their team and act like the animal that was chosen. Play continues with new representatives each round.

# Preschool Recreation

## Island Hopping

### Preparation

Designate a place outside on a concrete surface. Create a number of islands by drawing large shapes throughout the play area using sidewalk chalk. Create five islands. On each island, write one of the following words: love, trust, joy, faith, and hope. The spaces in between the islands are considered the ocean. For larger churches, make duplicates of each island.

### Let's Play!

1. Gesture to the play area and point out the islands and the ocean in between.
2. Begin the game by playing music from the CD.
3. Have the Explorers fly around the play area with arms outstretched like airplanes. When you pause the music, have the Explorers land their planes on an island.

### Bible Tie-in

Gather the Explorers together in a circle on the ground near the play area.

**SAY: When we read about Creation in the Book of Genesis, we hear that God made the sea and the dry land. That's a lot like the game we played. We had areas of ocean and islands of dry land.**

**The names of our islands are important words that we will hear at Discovery on Adventure Island this week!**

## What Animal?

### Preparation

On the slips of paper, write the names of different animals such as: tiger, elephant, cow, rooster, dog, cat, and so forth, or collect several small animal figures. Place the animals in a basket or bowl.

### Let's Play!

1. Have Explorers sit down in the play area.
2. Call on an Explorer and ask them to pull a slip of paper or animal figure from the basket or bowl. (Preschoolers are not likely to be readers, so have the Explorer hand the slip to you or to an Island Guide.) Whisper the name of the animal in the Explorer's ear.
3. Allow the Explorer to act like the animal. They should feel free to crawl on the floor, wave their arms like wings, and so forth. The Explorer can also make noises like the animal. Invite the other Explorers to guess the animal being imitated.
4. If the Explorers guess correctly, play continues by having a new player pull an animal from the basket or bowl.

### Bible Tie-in

**SAY: In today's Bible story, God created the world and all the animals. Genesis 1 describes animals that fly in the sky, swim in the sea, and creep or crawl on the ground.**

**Everything God created was perfect. We'll explore more of God's wonderful creation this week!**

# Cokesbury Craft

## Suncatcher Windchimes

### Purpose

Explorers will have a reminder of God's light when creating this suncatcher windchime. Whenever they hear the chimes, they can remember God's love.

### Ages

Appropriate for all ages.

### Preparation

Open packages, one kit per Explorer.

### Directions



**Step 1:** Explorers will decorate the suncatcher with markers as desired.



**Step 2:** Explorers will write their names on the back of the suncatcher.



**Step 3:** Hang windchimes where they will best catch light to display.



### Bible Story

The Creation Story

Genesis 1:1–2:9

### Pathfinder

Arise! Shine with Love!

### Materials

- ① Suncatcher Windchime Kit
- ① Discovery on Adventure Island Tablecloth
- ① Markers

# SESSION 1

## Bible Story

### The Creation Story

Genesis 1:1-2:9

## Pathfinder

Arise! Shine with Love!

## Materials

- ① 10" posterboard circle, one per Explorer
- ① Blue and green tissue paper
- ① Glue sticks
- ① Scissors
- ① 3" tall numbers 1-7, either stickers or cut from posterboard, one set per Explorer
- ① Black and blue construction paper
- ① Markers
- ① Flower and leaf stickers
- ① Sun, moon, and star stickers
- ① Fish stickers
- ① Feathers
- ① Animal stickers
- ① Any 2 colors of felt
- ① **Craft Theme Stickers**
- ① **Discovery on Adventure Island Tablecloth**

## Teacher Tip

Young Explorers can color on the numbers instead of gluing the rectangles.

# Make-It-And-Take-It Bible Craft

## Creation Craft

### Purpose

Explorers will create a keepsake to remember the creation story.

### Ages

Appropriate for all ages. Young Explorers will need assistance.

### Preparation

Cut tissue paper into eight 2" x 12" strips. Cut out a 1" x 1.5" rectangle from black construction paper. Cut out a 1" x 2" rectangle from blue construction paper.

### Directions



**Step 1:** Layer blue and green tissue paper on white circle. Trim off excess and glue down.



**Step 2:** Glue black rectangle onto bottom half of the number 1.



**Step 3:** Glue blue rectangle onto bottom half of the number 2. Draw blue clouds on the top half.



**Step 4:** Decorate number 3 with leaf and flower stickers.



# SESSION 1



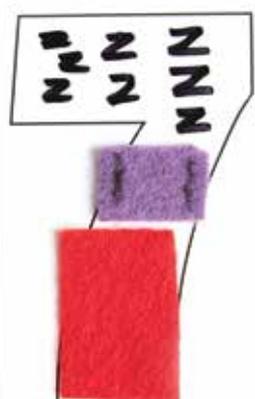
**Step 5:** Decorate number 4 with sun, moon and star stickers.



**Step 6:** Decorate number 5 with fish stickers and feathers.



**Step 7:** Decorate number 6 with animal stickers. Also draw two faces, a boy and girl.



**Step 8:** Glue felt pieces on number 7 to create a pillow and blanket. Decorate to depict "resting."



**Step 9:** Glue all numbers in correct order onto white circle.

**Bible Tie-in**  
In our Bible story today, we learned about all the elements of creation. By seeing how much thought and care went into creation, we know that God loves each of us and delights in God's creation.

Think about a time you created something you loved, or you accomplished something that made you proud.



## Bible Story

### The Creation Story

Genesis 1:1–2:9

## Pathfinder

Arise! Shine with Love!

## Materials

- ☉ Black posterboard
- ☉ Laundry soap
- ☉ White poster paint
- ☉ Shallow containers
- ☉ Several 3" paintbrushes
- ☉ Crayons (including white crayons)
- ☉ Markers
- ☉ Highlighters
- ☉ Glow-in-the-dark markers (if available)
- ☉ Copy paper
- ☉ Construction paper (variety of colors)
- ☉ Hand-held ultraviolet lights

**Note:** The Session 5 experiment “Capillary Actions and Reactions” calls for advance preparation. Review this experiment for potential inclusion in your Session 1 setup.

# Take a Look at Invisible Light!

## Discovery Experiment

### I. Preparation

Mix equal amounts of laundry soap and white poster paint in a shallow container. Dip the paintbrush in the mixture. Shake the paintbrush one time to remove excess paint. Hold the paintbrush over the posterboard. Skim your finger across the bristles to create a starry pattern on the posterboard.

### II. Observation

Hold up the starry poster you created earlier.

**ASK: When we talk about the beginning of the universe, what do you think about?**

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE: One of the most interesting things that we hear about in Genesis 1 is how God made light!**

**ASK: What is light?**

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE: We usually think of light as something we can see. But some light is actually invisible. Let’s do an experiment to show what I mean.**

### III. Question & Hypothesis

Turn the room lights off. Shine an ultraviolet light on the poster.

**ASK: Why do you think these stars are shining more brightly now?**

### IV. Experiment

**Step 1:** Allow the Explorers to select different writing instruments and different papers. Invite them to prepare three different papers. For example, highlighter on white construction paper, white crayon on black construction paper, and so forth. Encourage the Explorers to choose different combinations of materials from one another. That way, the whole group will see more differences between materials.

**Step 2:** On each paper, ask the Explorers to create a picture or design. Some possibilities include writing the words: God said, “Let there be light!” Explorers could also draw pictures from creation. For example, different kinds of animals, planets, stars, the moon, and so forth. Ask the Explorers to put their names on each paper they create.

**Step 3:** Encourage the Explorers to make predictions about which materials will glow most brightly. Invite them to arrange their papers in order from what they predict will glow the most to what they predict will glow the least. (Step 3 not pictured.)

**Step 4:** Have the Explorers use the hand-held ultraviolet lights to test their pictures. Were their predictions correct? Invite them to change the order of their papers based on their observations. Finally, invite the whole group to put all of the papers into

three groups: glows the most, glows a little, doesn't glow much at all.

## V. Analyze & Apply

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: **Ultraviolet light is invisible. Some things shine very brightly under ultraviolet light. Some of the materials (crayons, markers) we used have something in them called "phosphors."**

Have the Explorers repeat the word: "phosphors."

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: **Phosphors soak up light. When we turned off the lights and used the ultraviolet lights, we energized that light stored**

**in the materials. That made our papers glow in beautiful ways!**

ASK: **When God made the universe and our world, what did God make?**

Invite the Explorers to share different things made by God in creation.

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: **We can't see God, but we can know a lot about God by looking at the world God made. We can shine God's Light of Love on all creation!**

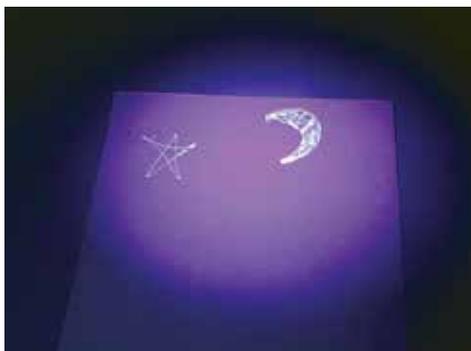
Step 1



Step 2



Step 4





## Bible Story

### The Creation Story

Genesis 1:1–2:9

## Pathfinder

Arise! Shine with Love!

## Materials

- ☉ Light-colored paper
- ☉ Small blocks
- ☉ Flashlights
- ☉ Crayons or markers

# Light and Fire

## Preschool Science

### Preparation

Give each Explorer several small blocks. Have them build something with the blocks. It can be anything.

Place a light-colored piece of paper in front of each Explorer's block structure.

### Experiment

Shine a flashlight at the front of the structure so that the shadow falls on the paper.

Encourage the Explorers to use crayons or markers to trace the shadows.

If you have enough flashlights for each Explorer, let them shine the flashlight themselves. Have them shine the lights close to the blocks and then step back to shine the light farther away from the blocks.

**ASK: How do the shadows change when you move the light?**

The Explorers can also shine the light, notice the shadow and then move something from the structure and shine the light again to see the shadow change.

**SAY: In our Bible story today, God made light to shine on the earth. We can see the light of the sun and the moon with our eyes. We can feel the light of the sun warming our skin. The light of the sun is important to help things grow. We also talked about the Light of Love. That's a different kind of light. We see the Light of**

**Love when we see someone do something to care for the earth or care for each other. We also feel the Light of Love when we get a warm feeling inside our bodies. Like you feel when someone gives you a really nice hug. Let's thank God for light.**

**PRAY: Thank you, God, for the light of the sun and the moon and the stars. Thank you for the light of your love. Amen.**

# Reflection Time

## Prayer

Repeat after me.

Thank you, God, for making light  
to shine on us each day.

Help us to show the Light of Love  
in all we do and say.

Amen.

## Reflection Time Activity

**We looked and looked**

*(Hold hand above eyes. Look one  
way and then another.)*

**for God's great light.**

*(Bring both hands up in front of the  
body with fingers spread out. Move  
hands up and away from each other.)*

**And this is what we found:**

*(Put hands on hips.)*

**the Light of Love**

*(Cross hands over heart.)*

**That's come to us,**

*(Point to self.)*

**Shines brightly all around.**

*(Hold arms out to the sides and twirl  
around.)*

**Arise and shine!**

*(Squat down and jump up with arms  
above head.)*

**Arise and shine!**

*(Squat down and jump up with arms  
above head.)*

**Arise and shine**

*(Squat down and jump up with arms  
above head.)*

**with Love!**

*(Cross hands over heart.)*



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**The Creation Story**

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