

FOUNDATION STAGE 2/UNIT F1

GOD/ CREATION

WHY IS THE WORD 'GOD' SO
IMPORTANT TO CHRISTIANS?



Note: in EYFS, the **Making Connections** element of the approach is woven throughout all activities.



MAKING SENSE OF THE TEXT

KEY INFORMATION FOR THE TEACHER

This section looks at what the Bible says about God.

For the majority of children entering school the word 'God' is an interjection, or swear word.

Religious Education gives them another use of the word, one which is not only important to all people of faith, but also in work they will ultimately cover in history and other curricular areas.

For Christians the word 'God' is important as the name of someone very important: the Creator of

the universe and all that is in it, including people and animals. It is important to draw inferences from the story as to what God is like.

Use the words 'create', 'creation', 'creator' and 'creative' often in class so that pupils become familiar with them.

The work draws on 'Why did God make jellyfish?' By Kathy Bigio (Spring 2006), in *REtoday* magazine.

KEY SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHER-LED ACTIVITIES

Teacher's note: Tom and Tessa learn about God from the Bible at church and at home. No one has ever seen God, but Christians believe he is behind all there is in the world; he is the Creator and giver of life. Christians believe his ways and thoughts are infinitely greater than ours.

This unit introduces the ideas using Tom and Tessa, two imaginary Christian children – you might use persona dolls to bring these characters into the classroom as part of the children's learning.

Tom and Tessa have brought their treasure box! From the box take lots of jelly, some books, pictures of jellyfish, Bible storybook. Tom and Tessa were at home with Grandad, making jelly for tea. Tessa loves jelly! Tom loves jellyfish! He wondered if he could make a jellyfish out of jelly. What do you think?

Explore pictures of jellyfish using descriptive words. Wonder at the differences between jelly we eat and jellyfish. Focus on the idea of 'life'. Find out more about jellyfish: use words like: 'dangerous', 'sting'.

While the jelly was setting, Grandad read them a story from their Bible storybook, about God creating the world. 'Which day did God make jellyfish, Tom?' asked Grandad. Tom knew the answer. Tessa said, 'God is an amazing Creator, Grandad, but why did he make jellyfish? We can't eat them and they might sting us.' I wonder what Grandad thought. Tom said, 'I think he just liked the idea. After tea, I'm going to make a jellyfish, just like God.'

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

- Talk about the meaning of 'VIP'. Who do you know who is a VIP? God is a VIP for Christians.
- Create jellyfish with collage material, playdough or jelly. Discuss results. Was it easy to create a jellyfish? Was it alive when you had finished? Why not? Explore the idea that Christians (Tom and Tessa's family) believe **God is the giver of life**, giving life even to jellyfish.
- A few people at Tom and Tessa's church believe that God made everything in six days; some say it took longer, that it all began with a bang, but God started it all. Revisit the story, including hand signals and sound effects as appropriate! Record your story, if possible.
- What does the story tell Christians about God? What was it like on the day the oceans teemed with fish ... and jellyfish? Try painting the scene.
- Enjoy this CBeebies song together, maybe whilst painting, or playing in the listening corner: www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/ask-anything/songs/ask-anything-are-jellyfish-made-of-jelly.



KEY SUGGESTIONS FOR ENHANCED CLASSROOM PROVISION

- **Book area** Simple Bible story books with creation story open
- **Malleable** Making playdough animal figures for the story of creation
- **Investigative area** Books and pictures for finding out about jellyfish
- **Small world play** Builder's tray to re-enact creation story
- **Cookery area** Packets of jelly to explore with the senses, including taste
- **Creative area** Collage materials to make jellyfish or other animals
- **Listening corner** Songs about our world/creation; jellyfish song from CBeebies; story of creation – recorded by the class.



UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT

KEY INFORMATION FOR THE TEACHER

Christians show that God is important to them in church when they gather together to pray to God and to sing his praise. A church is a Christian place of worship. Worship is about people showing how much God is worth to them.

Many Christians, including those in the Church of England, say or sing the Creed together as part of a worship service. The creed is a list of beliefs and begins, 'I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth'.

Harvest festival is an enjoyable though not major festival in the church calendar. It is an opportunity to give thanks to God the creator and provider. It is an acknowledgement of dependence on God as the source of life. Harvest has its own special songs and hymns

and is often a time for sharing with those less fortunate, both locally and in other countries.

Messy Church is a national movement. Many churches hold regular Messy Church events for children of foundation age and above, as an opportunity for children and parents to do craft activities, hear a Bible story, worship and eat together. You can find out what children might do at Harvest Messy Church at: <http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.co.uk/2012/09/harvest-messy-church-creation-story.html>.

Produce from gardens may be used to decorate a church, including a traditional harvest loaf. It is more common now in many churches to gather food for a local food bank, and to raise money for projects overseas.

KEY SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHER-LED ACTIVITIES

Teacher's note: At Tom and Tessa's church, they use the name 'God' a lot. They say and sing words of praise and worship to God. They thank God for all he does and all he has made. Harvest festival is a time to celebrate God's goodness and to help others. Tom and Tessa enjoy 'Messy Church' where they do lots of crafts and activities, as well as hearing Bible stories and joining in worship before eating with everyone.

At Tom and Tessa's church they are getting ready for a harvest service. A 'service' is when all the Christians at church get together, usually on a Sunday, to sing and pray to God and learn from the Bible together. The twins will take tomatoes and carrots they have grown in the garden for the big harvest display. Everyone in church will remember God is the maker of the world and say thank you to him for their food. Mum says there will be Harvest Messy Church in the afternoon, which Tom and Tessa love.

Tom and Tessa need to choose a song about God to sing at the service with the other children. Listen/clap along to several songs suitable for church, i.e. they must mention the name 'God'. Help the twins choose.

Listen to some possible songs from 'Combined Harvest' (Out of the Ark) - 'We thank you'; 'Thank you God for the harvest'; 'Sing a song of harvest'; 'Everybody praise him'.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

- Read *A Wet and Windy Harvest for Puddles* and talk about the harvest festival at this church. Paint Puddles the cat at the church harvest.
- Perform your song at a school harvest festival. Or you could go and look at a church decorated for harvest and try singing your song there to see what it sounds like.
- Invite a local church minister to visit and explain what happens at a church harvest festival in your area. Find out what happens to the produce that is collected, e.g. it may be taken to a local food bank.
- Find out what happens at a Harvest Messy Church and plan some activities that Tom and Tessa will enjoy.



KEY SUGGESTIONS FOR ENHANCED CLASSROOM PROVISION

- **Book area** *A Wet and Windy Harvest for Puddles* (plus a toy cat to read to)
- **Writing/mark-making** Invitations to a school harvest festival
- **Investigative area** Fruit and vegetables to peel, cut, smell, print with, etc.
- **Role play** Creating a harvest display using boxes and tins of food - pictures from the internet of harvest displays in schools/churches
- **Cookery area** Mini-harvest loaves, vegetable soup
- **Construction area** Making a church out of boxes etc. in outdoor area
- **Listening corner** Harvest songs, plus percussion to play along with songs.



→ UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT

KEY INFORMATION FOR THE TEACHER

Christians are taught to respect God's name and use it with love and care because God is holy and great. In the Lord's Prayer, which Jesus taught his followers, the second line says, 'Hallowed be thy name' ('Honoured be your name'/'Holy is your name').

The Ten Commandments also require people to honour God's name and to treat it as holy (Exodus 20:7). Holy is about being 'separate' or out of the ordinary. God's name is treated as holy by Christians (and Jewish people) not only by refraining from using it as a swear word, but also when they behave in a loving and

forgiving way. It is a bit like giving the school a good name by behaving well on a school trip.

The Lord's Prayer can be found in Matthew 6:9-13 in the Bible. It is the most well-known prayer in the Christian community worldwide.

For Christians, Jesus makes God visible, shows them what God is like (John 14:9). He also taught people about God. He taught them that finding God was worth more than anything else in the world, like finding the most precious pearl imaginable.

KEY SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHER-LED ACTIVITIES

Teacher's Note: Learning from the Bible and praying are important parts of Christian living. Tom and Tessa are taught that God is the King of the world and that they must use the name 'God' with care, like looking after something precious. The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:7) and the Lord's Prayer are parts of the Bible that remind Christians to 'honour' God's name, because a name stands for the person.

Tessa found Mum's special pearls. She opened the box and got them out to play with. She was not very careful. When Mum found her, she was cross because the pearls were so special to her. Tessa was very sorry.

At bedtime, Mum brought in the special box with the pearls. 'Open them for me, Tessa, please,' said Mum. Tessa knew now she must be careful. She must do what Mum said. The pearls shone; they were beautiful. Mum told them one of Jesus' stories from the Bible about a really special pearl.

Tell the story or read from a Bible storybook (check it is in whichever copy you are using), or use Butterworth and Inkpen's *The Precious Pearl*.

Tessa said, 'God is special like your pearls and the pearl in the story, isn't he, Mum?' Mum said, 'You're right, and we must be just as careful with God's name as with my pearls. God's name is precious and holy because God is precious and holy. Jesus said that in the special prayer he taught us. Let's say the prayer together.' They said the Lord's Prayer and then Mum gave them both a hug and said, 'Good night, twins. God bless.'

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

- Talk about things we take special care of. Look after something special for the teacher all morning. It has to be held. Pass it between children as needed.
- Sing 'Hallowed be thy name' (Caribbean Lord's Prayer) on 'Lord's Prayer' CD, BBC 'Come and Praise' or internet versions. To 'hallow' means to 'make holy' or 'honour'. 'Hallowed be thy name' is the second line of the Lord's Prayer and repeated all through the song - children can just learn this line.
- Act out the Precious Pearl story using everybody in the class. Dressing-up clothes for all the children can be made easily from pillowcases - cut neck-/arm-holes and use rope for the belt.
- Try this song version by Sheila Hamil - www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyHrIbTbYPg.
- Paint and decorate your own names and then consider a way to make the name God look very special for a Christian. Create a display.



KEY SUGGESTIONS FOR ENHANCED CLASSROOM PROVISION

- **Book area** *Lord's Prayer* or other prayer books/*Precious Pearl* book/find the name 'God' in books/prayers
- **Writing/mark-making** Writing our names or the name 'God' in all sorts of ways: glue/glitter/markers/fingers
- **ICT/technology** Typing 'God' and changing font
- **Role play** *Precious Pearl* story/dressing-up clothes/be a pearl merchant
- **Sand/water/malleable** Hunt for 'pearls' in sand or gloop and pick them out with large tweezers
- **Creative area** Make a special box for some pearls
- **Listening corner** 'Lord's Prayer' song.



MAKING SENSE OF THE TEXT

KEY INFORMATION FOR THE TEACHER

This section looks at what the Bible says about God.

This section complements the 'core learning' section, 'Why is the word "God" so important to Christians?' in which God is introduced as the name of the Creator of the universe, whose name must be respected and kept holy.

In this section, children are introduced to the fact that Christians believe they are called by God to care for the world. For Anglicans, the fifth of the 'Five Marks of Mission' states the importance of treasuring God's world.

SUGGESTION FOR TEACHER-LED ACTIVITIES

Teacher's note: Tom and Tessa learn about God from the Bible at church and home. Christians believe God is behind all there is in the world; he is the Creator and giver of life. God loves the world he has made and has put humans in charge of caring for his creation; it is a big responsibility.

Tom and Tessa got lovely magnifying glasses for their birthday. They have been using them to find and identify bugs (mini-beasts) in Grandad's garden. They have handled the bugs carefully. Look at Tom and Tessa's bug books, collecting box and magnifying glasses. Name some bugs they might have found.

Grandad said, 'Be careful with the bugs because they are part of God's world too, just like you.' Then he sat them under a tree and told them a wonderful story of how God had asked the first human, Adam, to name all the animals (Genesis 2:19-20).

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

- Learn a bug song from *Out of the Ark's Mini-Beasts* song book.
- Look at a picture of Adam naming animals and see if you can name the animals in the picture - lots of pictures on the internet varying from cartoons to icons. Use a selection and see how many animals you recognise. Plan your own scene of Adam naming the bugs/animals and make bugs/animals out of playdough to place round Adam.
- Review the creation story from Genesis - asking children to bring things to the builder's tray to help retell the story. A children's Bible story version will help.
- Look at scenic calendars. Why do people like calendars like this? Go on a 'wonderful world walk' with chunky cameras and magnifying glasses, printing and enlarging photos. Create a wall of wonders.
- Write a 'beasty bugs' prayer. See www.ecocongregationscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Children-and-creation-care.pdf.



KEY SUGGESTIONS FOR ENHANCED CLASSROOM PROVISION

- **Book area** Children's Bible open at creation story or Adam naming the animals
- **Outside/construction** Mini-beast hunts and making mini-beast homes
- **Writing/mark-making** 'Care for a bug' poster/beasty bug prayers
- **ICT/technology** Name labels for playdough animals
- **Role play** Mini-beast exploration centre/being Adam naming animals
- **Sand/water/malleable** Making playdough animals/finding mini-beasts in sand/soil
- **Creative area** Collage mini-beasts for big 'Adam' collage/giant junk model animals
- **Listening corner** 'Out of the Ark' CDs e.g. mini-beasts, Eddie the Penguin saves the World.



UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT

KEY INFORMATION FOR THE TEACHER

Many Christians declare their faith in 'God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth' when they say the creed together at church. Many Christians express their understanding of God as Creator in artwork, banners or stained glass. Many cathedrals have 'creation' windows.

Christians often sing about God the Creator, including children's songs like 'Wiggly waggly worm' or 'He's got the whole world in his hands'.

Many Christians also celebrate harvest, Animal Welfare Sunday or a pet service as a thank-you for God's creation and provision. The earlier unit on Creation explored a harvest service.

Most Christians recognise their responsibility for God's world, given to them in trust; many get actively involved in green issues, e.g. A Rocha, or in animal welfare, e.g. the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals.

SUGGESTION FOR TEACHER-LED ACTIVITIES

Teacher's note: At Tom and Tessa's church, they talk about God a lot. They say and sing words of praise and worship to God who has made all things. They say the Creed together: 'I believe in one God, the maker of heaven and earth'. Some church members work hard to preserve the environment and to ensure that animals and people are looked after too; they believe it is part of the mission of the church to 'treasure' the world God has given to all people.

Tom and Tessa are getting ready for a special service for Animal Welfare Sunday (or a Pet Service). A 'service' is when all the Christians at church get together, usually on Sunday, to sing and pray to God and learn from the Bible together.

*Tom and Tessa are helping to make a big banner for the service. The vicar has given them some special words from the Bible to arrange on the banner. It needs to say: **O LORD, what a variety of things you have made! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your creatures.** (Psalm 104:24 NLT)*

Order the words on whiteboard or on cards. Try to read them together.

The vicar has asked all the children to paint 'creatures' to go on the banner and carry it into church at the start of the special service. They are going to need help with this. They also need to choose a song to teach to the adults in church.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

- Create a big banner with painted or cut-out animals/photos of children's playdough animals. Add the words. 'How can they carry the banner?' See what it feels like to carry the banner, maybe even into a church. Where would you put it so that people can see it?
- Talk about: Why does the vicar want this banner on 'Animal Welfare' Sunday? What is animal welfare? Why would Christians be interested in caring for animals?
- Watch and clap/hum along to at least one song, e.g. 'The Earth is the Lord's' by Graham Kendrick; 'From the Tiny Ant', 'He's got the whole world', 'Our God is a great big God'. Some excellent versions can be downloaded. Tom and Tessa like to make up actions for the songs and teach the other children. Maybe you could help them.
- Why not put together an assembly with your song, banner, and some facts about animal welfare?



KEY SUGGESTIONS FOR ENHANCED CLASSROOM PROVISION

- **Book area** Information books about animals to look at and enjoy
- **Writing/mark-making** Service invitations, e.g. for 'Pet Service'
- **ICT/technology** 'Thank you God for xxx (animal name)' prayers for the church service
- **Role play** Pet shop/Pet service with vicar
- **Sand/water/malleable** Wet sand - creating own landscape with animals
- **Creative area** Junk-modelling of large animals/build a church
- **Listening corner** Christian creation songs, e.g. Doug Horley's 'Lovely Jubbly'.



UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT

KEY INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS

The Church of England proclaims Five Marks of Mission as what the church should be doing:

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom (TELL)
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers (TEACH)
- To respond to human need by loving service (TEND)
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation (TRANSFORM)
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth (TREASURE).

Treasuring creation, the fifth Mark of Mission, is one most Christians support. Some Christians join Christian 'green' or 'eco' organisations that actively promote responsibility for God's world, given to them in trust, and get actively involved in green issues, e.g. A Rocha or Operation Noah.

Some churches work for eco-congregation awards; some support community projects, like litter picks. There are also animal welfare groups, e.g. the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals. Many Anglican churches are linked with parishes or dioceses in other parts of the world and work on projects together.

SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHER-LED ACTIVITIES

Teacher's note: Working together with other Christians to serve the community is an important part of Christian faith. Like many people, Christians are sad when the environment and communities are not as they might be. Tom and Tessa are taught by their church that they must treasure the world God made. They are encouraged to work with others to make the world as God would want it to be.

At Tom and Tessa's church, the vicar and some other adults went to visit Rwanda. Tom and Tessa's Grandad went. They went because their church is linked with a church in Rwanda and they often swap news and pray for each other. They discovered that in Rwanda, in Africa, the whole community get together every month to help take care of the local area and fix problems. This is called 'umuganda'. It has made a real difference in their country.

Tom and Tessa love looking at the pictures and video of people doing Umuganda and they were really pleased when the vicar said their church was going to copy their friends in Rwanda. Once a month, some families get together to help clear up the churchyard, pulling out weeds and litter-picking. Tom and Tessa are helping to put a bug-house in the churchyard. 'It's fun looking after God's world together,' the vicar says.

Other people at church go out to help with a community project, like helping old people with their gardens or tidying up rubbish. Afterwards, everyone comes back to have a picnic lunch together.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

- Find out how Tom and Tessa's Grandad got to Rwanda. Look at pictures of Rwandan people and of Rwandan churches.
- Talk to the caretaker at school. What would school umuganda be like? Would it be a good thing? What would the caretaker ask you to do?
- Walk round the school and find something that needs doing. Write a letter to the school council together to ask them to do something - offer to help, too!
- Make your own book of 'Helping in school' using photos of your class doing things to make the school tidier and cleaner, and showing that you treasure the world.
- Go and see a churchyard. How could it be a better place for animals and mini-beasts? Do you think the people at church know? What could you tell them/help them with?



KEY SUGGESTIONS FOR ENHANCED CLASSROOM PROVISION

- **Book area** Picture books of Rwanda/Africa. Own class book of 'helping'
- **Writing/mark-making** Tidy-up signs
- **ICT/technology** Playing a video of umuganda/ slide show of Rwanda pictures
- **Role play** Being the caretaker
- **Builder's tray** A mess to clear up/ recycling challenge
- **Creative area** Recycling junk into models
- **Outside area** Clean/tidy/rearrange the area.

BACKGROUND FOR TEACHERS

These units for EYFS to explore what Christians believe about God and Creation. In the light of these beliefs, Christians try to live in the way God shows through the Bible. This section describes the core ideas behind this unit.

Christians believe that:

- God is 'the Father almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth', who created the world from nothing. God is eternal and has no beginning and end.
- God's creation is awesome – full of beauty, design, variety and a sense of purpose. The natural world points to God its Creator and calls humans to praise him.
- 'The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it.' God is King of the universe, above all else. His name should be respected and hallowed (kept holy).
- Humans are part of God's creation. Each person is known by God and has a place and purpose in the universe; each has been created to 'know God and enjoy him forever'.
- Humans are called to be caretakers of God's wonderful world; we are responsible as God's co-workers for preserving what God says is 'good'.
- Humans are made in God's image. We can create and be creative like our Maker, but God is the true 'giver of life'. We should give thanks to God for his good gifts; at Harvest, for example.

CORE LEARNING: KEY TEXTS

- In the beginning, God created the universe (Genesis 1:1-2:4 ISV)
- God says, 'You must not use the name of the Lord your God thoughtlessly.' (From the Ten Commandments – Exodus 20:7 ICB)
- No one has seen God because God is spirit (see John 4:24), but Jesus makes him known (see John 1:18)
- The earth and everything in it belong to the Lord. (Psalm 24:1 ICB)
- God is the giver of life and breath (see Acts 17:24-28)
- Jesus' parable of the precious pearl (see Matthew 13:45-46)

DIGGING DEEPER: KEY TEXTS

- In the beginning God created the heavens and earth (Genesis 1:1 NIV)
- God asked Adam to name the animals (see Genesis 2:19-20)
- God looked at everything he had made, and it was very good (Genesis 1:31 NIV)
- God put Adam in charge of the fish, the birds and all the wild animals (see Genesis 1:20)
- O LORD, what a variety of things you have made! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your creatures. (Psalm 104:24 NLT)

RESOURCES

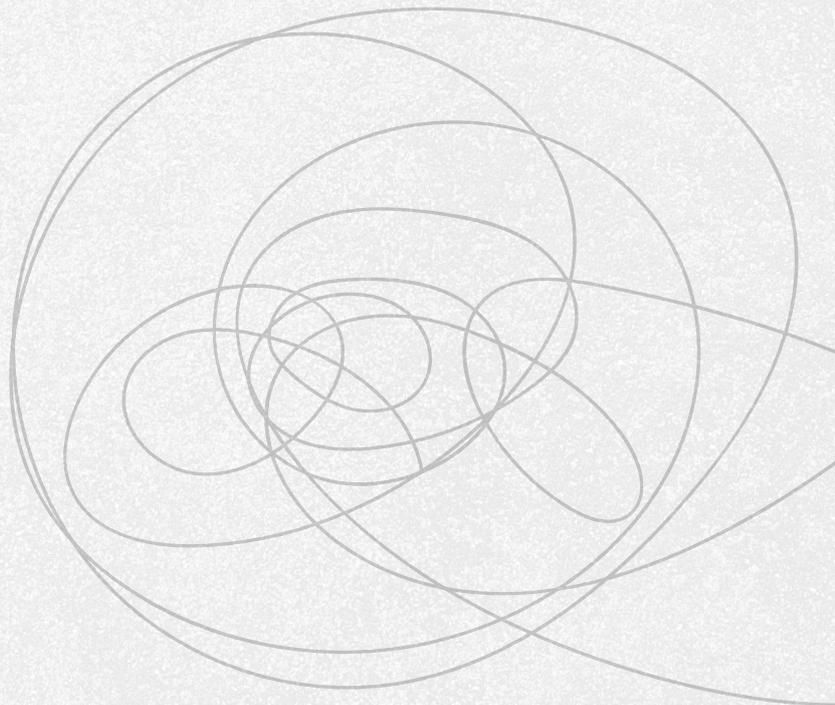
CORE LEARNING:

- The 'Making Sense of the Text' section of Core Learning makes use of 'Why did God make jellyfish?' by Kathy Bigio (Spring 2006) *REtoday* magazine.
- Invite your local 'Open the Book' team to retell the Creation story from the *Lion Storyteller Bible*. If you don't know about Open the Book consult the local church or find out from www.openthebook.net
- Lion First Bible - www.lionhudson.com - for a simple retelling of the Creation story
- Because many schools also celebrate harvest, there are lots of children's harvest songs. Out of the Ark music produce *Combined Harvest* with some songs aimed at 3-7s, and their other publications also contain harvest songs like the popular 'Harvest Samba'. You can listen to clips of songs on their website: www.outoftheark.co.uk
- Julia Plaut's 'Mr Cow' CDs from www.eden.co.uk/shop
- *A Wet and Windy Harvest for Puddles* (Gill Vaisey), big book from www.booksatpress.co.uk
- *Lord's Prayer Project* CD - for good sung recordings of the Lord's Prayer including the Caribbean version. Also includes BSL, so children could learn to sign 'Hallowed be your name'. www.cofesuffolk.org (follow schools and resources)

- *Stories Jesus Told: The Precious Pearl* - Butterworth and Inkpen (Collins)
- Lord's Prayer sung with cartoon pictures - www.youtube.com/watch?v=YdGld-ZJtSU (uses 'debt' and 'debtors' instead of trespasses or sins)
- Several children's books of the Lord's Prayer. See www.lionhudson.com

DIGGING DEEPER:

- *Children's Bible* storybook containing Creation story and Adam naming the animals (check the latter is in your version)
- Out of the Ark music - www.outoftheark.co.uk
- 'Mr Cow' CD by Julia Plaut. Snippets can be heard online.
- Find out about 'umuganda' in Rwanda from the internet, where you can download pictures of people working together and see a video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=1bp5BR4NpxU.





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