



# ALF

ABOUT LIFE & FAITH

HELPING CHILDREN TO DISCOVER JESUS  
AND BECOME HIS FOLLOWERS

# TEACHING GUIDE





# IN THE BEGINNING



**TO HELP THE CHILDREN TO SEE THAT GOD CREATED US AND THE WORLD, AND THAT PEOPLE HAVE TURNED THEIR BACKS ON GOD.**

## INTRODUCTION



Children today may not have seriously thought about where we come from. If we are to help them to think about following Jesus we have to begin at the very beginning and encourage them to consider that life is not an accident but a gift.



### arts and crafts

See Resource Materials page 4

### GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

See Resource Materials page 17

### VIDEO CLIP 1 .....

#### VIDEO: ALF

Creation. ALF tells the story of how God created the world and how the first people He created disobeyed Him.

RUNNING TIME: 3 MINS, 25 SECS



### VIDEO CLIP 2 .....

#### VIDEO: VOX POPS

Children talk about who made the world and what has gone wrong with it.

#### 1 HOW DO YOU THINK THE WORLD BEGAN?

RUNNING TIME: 1 MIN, 35 SECS

#### 2 WHO DO YOU THINK MADE THE WORLD?

RUNNING TIME: 1 MIN, 40 SECS

#### 3 WHAT DO YOU THINK HAS GONE WRONG WITH THE WORLD?

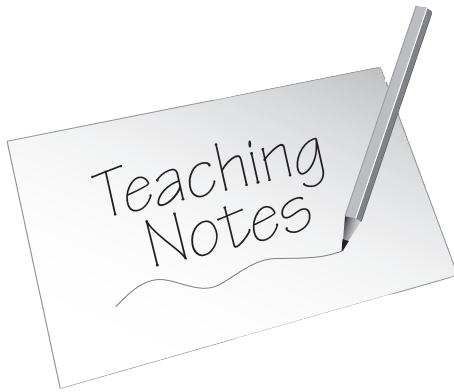
RUNNING TIME: 1 MIN, 24 SECS



1. Do you think the world was made by God or do you think there's another explanation?

2. Why do you think God made the world?

3. Do you think God wants people to be kind or selfish - why?



## 1. GOD MADE US FOR A PURPOSE


- \* God made the world and us. The world did not come about by accident it was created by somebody - God.
- \* God made us for a purpose - to have friendship with Him and one another.

SEE  ON PAGE 24.

## 2. WE OFTEN CHOOSE NOT TO DO WHAT GOD WANTS

- \* God gave Adam & Eve the ability to choose for themselves.
- \* Adam & Eve chose to do what God told them not to because they gave in to temptation.
- \* Remember to point out that the snake in the story represents the devil - it is important that the children don't get the impression that snakes are evil!

CHILDREN MAY FIND THESE POINTS A LITTLE CONFUSING.

SEE  - 'THE QUICK QUICK QUIZ'. THIS WILL HELP THEM TO THINK A LITTLE MORE ABOUT THE STORY - PAGE 24.

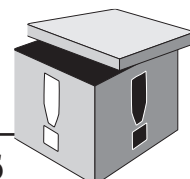
## 3. PEOPLE TODAY ARE STILL THE SAME

- \* People today are still like Adam and Eve - we want to do what we want and not what God wants.
- \* People today still do things wrong and don't listen to God - this is called sin.
- \* Sin separates people from God.

SIN IS AS SIMPLE AS ONE, TWO, THREE.

SIN MEANS PUTTING ME FIRST, OTHER PEOPLE SECOND AND GOD LAST.

SEE  ON PAGE 25.



PSALM 148:5  
ISAIAH 40:26  
ISAIAH 42:5



Point to items in the hall and ask what they are for - For example, point at the ceiling and ask - 'What is it for?', answer - 'To stop the rain coming in'. Point at a chair and ask - 'What is it for?', answer - 'To sit on'. You can do this for lots of things and children will enjoy coming up with answers.

At the end of asking what lots of different things are for ask the children a final question -  
**'WHAT ARE YOU FOR?'**

Children will probably find this question difficult to answer - the point that you want to make is that God made us for a purpose - we can find out what that purpose is. But there is something that gets in the way - sin!



## THE QUICK QUICK QUIZ

Read the following and then ask the questions:

But there was someone who wanted to spoil God's world. One day, as Eve was walking past the special tree of the knowledge of good and evil, she heard the soft hissing voice of the snake. "See how good the fruit is. Doesn't it make your mouth water? Why not try it? The fruit will make you wise. If you eat it you will be as clever as God is."

Eve listened to the snake's soft voice. And she forgot how good and kind God was. She wanted to be as clever as God. She wanted to do as she liked.

Eve stretched out her hand and picked the fruit. She began to eat - and she gave some to Adam.

From that moment things began to go wrong.

(Excerpt taken from The Lion Children's Bible - pg 7, retold by Pat Alexander)  
ISBN 0 7459 1939 1 - Second edition 1991

### Questions:

1. What was the name of the woman in the story?  
EVE
2. What was the name of the special tree?  
THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL
3. Who tried to make Eve eat the fruit?  
THE SNAKE
4. What did Eve forget?  
HOW GOOD AND KIND GOD WAS
5. What did she do?  
SHE ATE THE FRUIT AND GAVE SOME TO ADAM
6. What happened from that moment?  
THINGS BEGAN TO GO WRONG

**3**

You could bring out a beautiful pot/vase and compare it to God's creation. When you get to the 'The Fall' and it's consequence smash the pot/vase into a few pieces (NOT HUNDREDS AS YOU WILL WANT TO REPAIR THIS TO MAKE A POINT IN SESSION 4!!). Or perhaps you could even make a pot out of clay, while you are talking and then get another leader to come and squash it!! This would be a strong visual impression of how something good had been destroyed and if it was going to be used again it would need to be repaired.

**NOTE:** After the session collect up the pieces and later stick the vase back together or re-shape the pot - you may need it again for session 4, to illustrate how God restores us to our original image. If the vase is too smashed up, the repaired item will not represent a beautifully restored image!

## IN CONCLUSION

At the end of the session hold up the **GLOBE**. The **GLOBE** is the key symbol for the session and it relates to the key memory point that is included on the children's **MEMORY CARD**.

**THE KEY MEMORY POINT  
FOR THIS SESSION IS:  
GOD MADE US -  
WE HAVE A PURPOSE**



**Remember to give a MEMORY CARD TO EACH CHILD at the end of the session.**





**GOD MADE US -  
WE HAVE A PURPOSE**



**GOD DOESN'T  
STOP LOVING US**



**GOD BECAME  
ONE OF US**



**JESUS CAME TO  
RESCUE US**



**JESUS WANTS US  
TO FOLLOW HIM**



**BEFORE SAYING 'YES' TO JESUS YOU NEED TO:**

**ADMIT  
BELIEVE  
COUNT THE COST  
DECIDE**

**NAME: .....**



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# RESOURCE MATERIALS



**FOR THIS CRAFT ACTIVITY WE ARE GOING TO MAKE A LARGE TWO-SIDED FLAT GLOBE. YOU CAN HANG THIS UP FROM THE CEILING AS A VISUAL REMINDER TO THE GROUP OF THE KEY MEMORY POINT FOR THIS WEEK'S STORY - "GOD MADE US FOR A PURPOSE".**

The instructions describe how to make just one globe. If you have a large group you will need to make more than one, so make sure you have enough materials.



**YOU WILL NEED:** Large piece of card (you could use a cardboard box which you can get from most supermarkets, or electrical stores; you may have to ask someone)

Pencil

Length of string (long enough to measure the radius of the globe)

Plasticine

Blue and green paint

Collage materials, preferably blue and green, but you can paint them. For example: tissue or crepe paper, scraps of material, sweet wrappers, sequins, sand, glitter and string - the larger variety of textures the better!

Egg boxes

Glue (PVA glue is best here - you can get it in most art and craft shops)

Brushes for paint and glue

Sticky tape

Scissors (a craft knife may be useful if you have one)

An atlas to copy the continents from (you will need to draw or trace these)

**WHAT TO DO:**

**THE GLOBE:**

1. Using the pencil, string and plasticine to make a compass, draw a large circle, about the size of a dustbin lid, on the piece of card - like this:





2. Cut the circle out (a craft knife will make this much easier).
3. Paint the whole circle blue - you could add glitter or sand and PVA glue to the paint to give it an interesting texture, or dip pieces of string in the paint and lay them on the globe in swirly sea patterns - you could even do this in different shades of blue or white like the foam.
4. When this is dry do the same on the other side.
5. While this is drying you can begin decorating the continents to stick on the globe, or another group of children can be working on this at the same time. (See below).

### THE CONTINENTS

1. You will need to draw or trace the shapes of the continents onto thick paper or card the appropriate size for the globe. You can use an atlas for this or draw the rough shape from memory - if using the tracing method you could get the group to do this. If the shapes are too small you could enlarge them on a photocopier.
2. Now that you have your continents ready you will need to decorate them.
3. Cut the egg box up so that you have six "humps".
4. Stick the egg box humps onto the continents with glue or sticky tape, to make mountains.
5. Either paint the continents using green paint - again you can make the textures more interesting with sand, string or other materials, or...
6. ...decorate using the green collage materials - scraps of material, sweet wrappers, sequins etc...
7. When these are dry cut them out and stick them onto both sides of the globe in the correct positions.
8. Now you have your globe looking fantastic and ready to hang up as a reminder for the group of this week's story.





## MAKING AND CREATING

### AIM OF THE GAME: GOD IS THE CREATOR OF THE WORLD

This game will serve to introduce the idea of God as the creator of the world. Children will make a tower out of paper to show how everything in the world is made by someone. When you ask them to make a tree it will show that people can not make everything, and that some things have to be created. Humans make something out of something. God made something out of nothing.

**YOU WILL NEED:** 3 sheets of newspaper per team  
Sticky tape

#### WHAT TO DO:

1. Divide the group into teams of around four.
2. Give each team three sheets of newspaper and six tabs of sticky tape.
3. Give each team five minutes to build the tallest 3D structure possible.
4. Ask the children to make a tree.

## DRESS THE DUMMY

### AIM OF THE GAME: TO HELP CHILDREN TO SEE THAT WE ARE DESIGNED BY GOD

As well as making a good point this game should help burn up some excess energy!

**YOU WILL NEED:** A really large supply of old clothes

#### WHAT TO DO:

1. Divide the children into teams.
2. Have each team nominate a 'dummy'.
3. Put all the clothes in one big pile on the opposite side of the room to the teams.
4. Call out an item of clothing. The first team member runs across the room and rummages in the pile for the correct garment. It is then brought back and dressed on to the 'dummy' whilst you call out the next item.
5. The winning team will have all their clothes on the dummy first.
6. Calling out over garments before under garments will lead to more hilariously dressed children and make the game real fun.

**EXPLANATION:** All of these clothes have been designed by fashion designers to cover certain parts of our body. Just think how much harder it must have been to design the body that the clothes go on!