

Grade 6 - Chapter 2

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Discover

Catechist Tips: Creation Accounts

The divinely inspired creation accounts found in the Book of Genesis teach the truth of God's role in creation. However, creation myths are found in most ancient cultures.

- The most well-known creation account apart from those in the Bible is the Babylonian story *Enuma Elish*.
- Most cultures in existence today retain their own creation legends and myths.

Catechist Tips: Genesis

The word *genesis* comes from a Greek word meaning "to be born." In addition to being the name of the first book of the Bible, *genesis* has come to mean the beginning of anything.

- Many scientists believe that the description of the Garden of Eden may have intended a location in present-day Iraq, along the Fertile Crescent bordered by the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.

Catechist Tips: Recognize God's Presence

Sixth graders may need help seeing God's image in the people around them.

- Whenever issues of discrimination, prejudice, or exclusion come up in the group, ask a volunteer to read aloud Genesis 1:27. Lead the children in a prayer for help in seeing God's image in all people.

Catechist Tips: Creeds

The Apostles' Creed refers to God as "Creator of heaven and earth." The Nicene Creed confesses that God is the maker "of all things visible and invisible."

- Both creedal confessions deliberately include the creation of the world.
- Paul began his discourse on Mars Hill with God as creator. (See Acts 17:22-28.) The creeds remind us that God is the source of our being.

Glossary Activity: Human Dignity

We treat each other with *human dignity* because we believe that all people have value because they are made in the image of God. Lead the children in saluting one another with a traditional Indian gesture.

- Hold palms together under the chin and bow the head and hands slightly toward the other person.
- The significance is this gesture is “I salute God’s presence in you.”

Additional Activity: Clay Models

Bring in modeling clay for each of the children in your group.

- Have each child work with their clay to create a replica of one aspect of God’s creation.
- Encourage the children to be creative.
- If there is time, have the children discuss their work with the group.
- Display the clay models in your space.

Additional Activity: Creation in Harmony

Challenge the children to find hymns or songs about creation.

- Examples can be found in parish hymnals.
- Ask groups of children to sing their songs.
- If the children are nervous about singing in front of the group, have them point out and talk about lyrics they found in the hymns or songs that describe aspects of creation.

Parish Video Connection: God's Creation

Before inviting the children to work on their poems in the Connect Your Faith activity on page 67, play this video to expand on the wonders of creation. Before playing the video:

Say: In this video, you’ll see some of the wonders of God’s creation. Think about what you see and be inspired!

YouTube Link: http://youtu.be/AE_BX1XUSC4