CREATION STORY AS ADAPTED FROM GODLY PLAY MATERIAL Lesson for Sunday January 17th (GENESIS 1:1-2:3)

<u>GETTING READY</u>: Before we begin, we need to get ready... Shake off all the distractions and wiggles out of our bodies, take a deep breath and...

Let us begin...!

Place the candle and the cross on top of the green felt... Remembering that green represents the "green and growing season" which we are in...

Light the candle and open in prayer:

Jesus, we love to hear Your Word..., so we can continue to grow and learn how to be more like You in all we do and say. Be with us today as we wonder about this story of Your Creation...! Amen.

Note: the following Script can be read by 1 narrator

What is the biggest present you have ever received?

Have you ever received a present that is alive?

"There are some presents so big that no one notices them. They are so huge they are hard to see. They are so hard to see that the only way to know they are there is to go clear back to the beginning, or maybe a little before the beginning."

Have everyone close their eyes...

In the beginning, there was nothing...

Except, perhaps, a great big smile...

Have everyone smile, keeping their eyes closed.

ON THE FIRST DAY, GOD GAVE US THE GIFT OF LIGHT ...

Everyone opens their eyes. Identify all the sources of light that you can see...

God gave us the gift of light that all this other light comes from ...

When God saw the light, God said, 'It is good.' And that was the end of the first day.

ON THE SECOND DAY, GOD GAVE US THE GIFT OF WATER ...

Take time to name and wonder at all the sources of water you can see and remember (water we drink, oceans, rain, snow ...)

Just like light, God gave us the water that all the rest of the waters come from.

When God saw the water, God said, 'It is good.' And that is the end of the second day.

ON THE THIRD DAY, GOD GAVE US THE GIFT OF DRY LAND AND THE GIFT OF GREEN AND GROWING THINGS...

Think of all the green and growing things that you can see from where you are sitting... what do you notice about them? Can you imagine life without them?

Every single one of these green and growing things are gifts from God.

When God saw the dry land and the green and growing things, God said, 'It is good.' And that was the end of the third day.

ON THE FOURTH DAY, GOD GAVE US THE GIFT OF THE DAY AND THE NIGHT ...

What is the great light that rules the day? What about the lights of the night sky? Do you like the change of seasons that are tied to the movements of the day and of the night? What season do you like best?

When God saw the day and the night, God said, 'It is good.' And that was the end of the fourth day.

ON THE FIFTH DAY, GOD GAVE US THE GIFT OF ALL THE CREATURES THAT FLY IN THE AIR AND ALL THE CREATURES THAT SWIM IN THE WATER...

Think of some favorite birds or insects, or favorite fish or other creatures of the water.

When God saw all the creatures that fly and all those that swim, God said, 'It is good.' And that was the end of the fifth day.

ON THE SIXTH DAY, GOD GAVE US THE GIFT OF ALL THE CREATURES THAT WALK UPON THE EARTH, INCLUDING YOU AND ME!

Think of something you appreciate about each person with you, for we are all uniquely and wonderfully made in God's image...! If you have a pet, what is special about him/her too?

When God saw all the creatures that walk on two legs and those that walk on many legs, and everything else God had made, God said, 'It is very good,' and that was the end of the sixth day.

ON THE SEVENTH DAY, GOD RESTED AND GAVE US THE GIFT OF A DAY TO REST - AND TO REMEMBER THE GREAT GIFTS OF ALL THE OTHER DAYS...

What helps you rest? Besides sleeping, are there things you do that help you rest from school and work? How might church be a part of our rest (sabbath)?

WONDERING QUESTIONS

I wonder what is amazing to you about creation ...?

I wonder if rest is important to you ...? I wonder if rest is important to us as a family ...?

I wonder how this story is important to you...? I wonder how it is important to all of us—our neighborhood, our church, our country?

I wonder how God feels about God's CREATION. you and all the others around you?

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY:

Draw what is most important to you from each day of creation.