

Inclusive catechesis & prayer

God's Beautiful World



Introduction for catechists: We are all beloved children of God. Inclusive catechesis is about making sure that everyone has the chance to get to know about God the Father, Jesus His son, and the Holy Spirit. You can adapt this resource to meet the needs of your child / group, so that each one can build an engaging and joyful relationship with God – who loves each of us, just as we are.

Opening hymn: Playing quietly to introduce the liturgy. Our suggestion is *All Things Bright and Beautiful*. See missiontogether.org.uk/sing-with-mission-together

Sign of the cross: Where appropriate children are supported to make the sign of the cross.

Introduction for children

At the beginning of time there was just God. There weren't any people or pets or plants. There was no sun or moon and there was no day and night. God thought about all of the beautiful things that he would like to make. Then God made land to stand on and sea to splash in. He made plants that look pretty and give us food to eat. God made animals of all different kinds and he made the first people.

Bible reading

In the Bible, which is our special book about God, it says: 'God saw all He had made and indeed it was very good'. (Genesis 1:31)

Bible reflection

Our world is very good, isn't it? There are lots of different parts of the world. Some are hot and some are cold, and each have different plants and animals. How wonderful that God made so many different places and things for us to see. When we are in the playground or garden we can see many lovely things that God made, like the sky and the grass and the flowers. And when we look at pictures of other countries, we can see the different animals and plants and people that live there too. God loves everything that he made, especially all the people who share this beautiful world. We are all God's beloved children. Let's say a prayer together for all of the children in God's beautiful world.

Mission Together prayer: to the right.

Sign of the cross: Where appropriate children are supported to make the sign of the cross.

Closing hymn: *This Little Light of Mine*. This time children can join in with percussion instruments and sing along if appropriate for the group.

Follow up activities: *All Things Scavenger Hunt*. Find on page 2.

Mission Together Prayer

May all children
In the world
Share love
Share friendship and live
In the peace
Of God's love
Now and forever. **Amen.**

Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission.

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All Things Scavenger Hunt

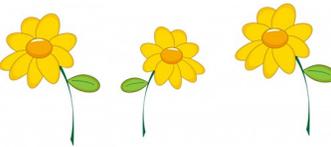


Tips for catechists / parents

It is important to use a safe space to carry out the scavenger hunt and to make sure that everyone understands that they must not leave that area. Explain that the point of the hunt is to find all of the things and not to finish first.

Instructions

This scavenger hunt can be adapted to meet the needs and abilities of the children and young people you are working with. In the first column the item to be found is written in words. In the second column the item is depicted. The third column contains a box for the child to tick or add their name, as evidence that they have found their item.

The item you are looking for...	It could look like...	You found it!
A yellow flower		
Grass		
A small stone		
A small stick		
A big leaf		
A small leaf		

Fundraising ideas



Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio – the Catholic Church's official children's charity for overseas mission. Thanks to children in England and Wales, we can provide life-changing aid around the world in whatever form it's needed. That could be a new school, feeding programme, or a generator for a children's home. Mission Together helps all children, regardless of background or beliefs. That's how we show the all-embracing nature of the Catholic Church and the true meaning of 'mission'.

Fundraising is a brilliant way to involve everyone in raising money for Mission Together. Below are a few ideas for different times in the year. You can find other ways to get involved by visiting our webpage <https://missiontogether.org.uk/fundraising-ideas/> Please **share your** fundraising events with us @missioUK adding the hashtag #missiontogether

Ideas for Spring & Summer

Valentines biscuits: bake heart shaped cookies and sell them in pretty bags around Valentines Day. Try to involve children as much as possible, from adding ingredients and cutting cookies to shaking sprinkles.

Spring flower sale: everyone loves the first signs of spring after winter! Work with children to pot spring bulbs – snowdrops, mini daffodils, crocuses and hyacinths to sell as Easter gifts.

Easter bonnet competition: charge children to enter a competition for the best Easter bonnet. Prizes for the most fabulous creations!

Weeding Week: While the days are sunny and warm, why not raise money by weeding gardens? Ask for suggested donation, or sponsorship per bag of weeds. Maybe green fingered children could plant too!

Scavenger hunt: this is a great outdoor activity! Print off some sheets with summertime things to spot e.g. flowers in the garden, leaves on trees, birds singing. We have an accessible Scavenger Hunt available to download on our 'Inclusive Resources' webpage. Charge an entry fee. Every complete scavenger sheet is placed in a hat, with the pulled out winner receiving a prize.

Ideas for Autumn & Winter

Rake-a-Thon: With autumn leaves falling, who not fundraise for Mission Together by tidying gardens for a suggested donation. Make sure children have strong gloves and bags if they take up the Rake-a-Thon challenge.

Winter walks: brave the elements and hold a torch-lit hike or winter walk to raise money for Mission Together. Make sure you have plenty of adults to supervise and assist when organising outdoor events with children. Better still, get the whole family involved!

Christmas crafts: get children involved in making and selling Christmas cards, ornaments, wreaths, biscuits, and any other Christmassy gifts and treats you can think of. Donate the proceeds to Mission Together. Visit our Advent webpage for instructions for our Handy Advent Wreath and other craft ideas.