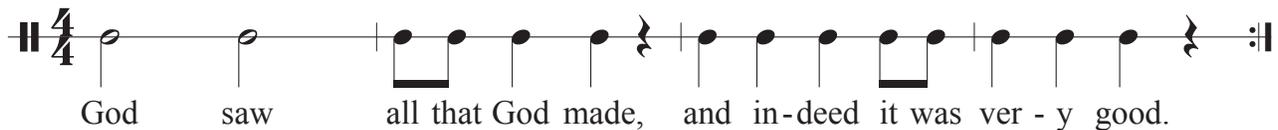


# Seeing the Good

After God created the heavens, the earth, and all living things,  
God saw all that God made, and indeed it was very good.  
To be created in the image of God is to find the good  
...even when it's not easy to see.



Bible Beat: **Genesis 1:31**



Songs: **"All Things"** and **"It Was Good"**



Treasure of Nature: **Acorn**



Art Experience: **Complementary Colors,**  
**Complimentary Cards**



Game: **Found Object Puppets**

## Materials You'll Need:

- Acorn
- White index cards
- Pencils, crayons, or markers
- Color wheel
- Everyday items for puppet props
- Song pages for "All Things and "It Was Good"



# Treasure of Nature: Acorn

*Hand each person an acorn (or find one outside).*

**Say:**

Hold your acorn. It may be small, but oh - the potential it has!

There is a saying - Inside one acorn is an entire forest.

Just think about it. If you plant that one acorn, it could grow into a great oak tree. And what does an oak tree produce? Thousands and thousands of acorns. And each of those acorns can grow into an oak tree that produces thousands of acorns.

The acorn is small, but God has given it the power to do something amazing.

You may feel small, but God has put great things in you.

Listen to this parable of Jesus from Matthew 13, verses 31-32 –

“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

Now let's sit in silence. Look at the acorn in your hand and imagine what great things God has put in you.

*After a few moments of silence, pray (the children can echo):*

**Loving God,  
Please help us to grow,  
for you have put great things in us.  
Amen.**



# Complementary Colors, Complimentary Cards

**Materials:** several white index cards, pencils, an assortment of markers, color wheel

## **Background:**

A style of painting called *pointillism* was made famous most notably by Camille Pissaro and Georges Seurat. In pointillism, pictures are painted using thousands of tiny dots of color. Artists would often place complementary-colored dots close to one another.

Complementary colors, when placed next to each other, produce the greatest contrast and actually heighten one another. When you look at a color wheel, you will see that complementary colors are always opposite each other. Think about how many striking images in God's creation embrace this approach – irises (purple and yellow), holly (red and green), a rising sun on the horizon (orange and blue).

## **What to Do:**

Give each person one index card and a pencil.

Invite them to draw a very simple design outline (a swirl, a cross, a flower, a butterfly) or outline the letters of a short word (such as WOW, JOY, LOVE). Instruct everyone to make the design/word as big as possible.

*Note: Choosing a simple design or short word is important – it will make later steps easier.*

Give each person access to assorted markers.

Instruct them to choose two complementary colors, then fill the inside of their design image with dots of these two colors.

Next, choose two different complementary colors to fill the area around the design.

*Note: The idea is to really fill up the space with colored dots and not leave a whole lot of white showing through.*

Once they are done, invite them to use the other side of the card to write a complimentary (note the slight difference in spelling) note to someone. Yes, the intent is for everyone to give these away – to a parent, a teacher, a coworker, a friend, a custodian at their church.

Using index cards helps artists of any age really feel successful with this project, because placing the small dots can take a while. But the overall effect at the end is so cool!

Finished? Make as many new index card designs as you like!



# Found Object Puppets

## Puppetry Game

**Players:** 1 or more

**Background:** Object puppetry is a form in which everyday objects are manipulated. You don't need glue, thread, or welding equipment for this kind of puppetry - just a keen, creative eye for seeing an object's potential as a puppet.

### How to Play:

As you listen to "All Things," gather props (everyday items in your home) into a prop bin (laundry basket, cardboard box).

Here are a few possibilities:

- A paper plate (white or bright colored)
- A dryer hose
- A strainer/colander
- A measuring cup
- Tongs
- An oven mitt
- An old necktie
- An old computer mouse
- Two empty egg cartons
- Two black combs
- Anything around the house that isn't sharp, breakable, or otherwise dangerous

Spread out the objects on a table where all can see them.  
Invite a person to come up and turn an object into a puppet.

### Tips:

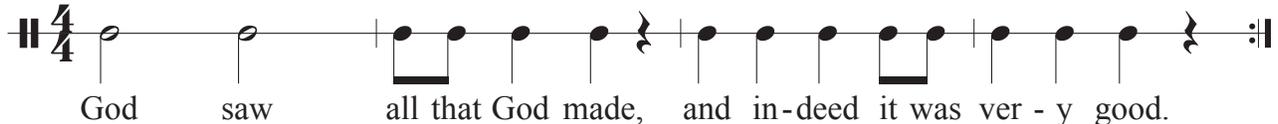
- A puppet doesn't have to have a mouth.
- Just holding up something (i.e. the dryer hose) and saying, "This is an elephant," isn't puppetry. It's barely sculpture. Move the objects – give them action so that the others can see what the puppeteer is trying to create.
- It's okay to combine objects together.
- One object can be many different puppets. Just because one person came up and turned the dryer hose into a snake doesn't mean the hose is now off-limits. (It could also be an elephant's trunk, or even rolled up into a spiral shell as a snail puppet.)



# Family Worship

## Opening Song: "All Things"

### Say and Play the Bible Beat: Genesis 1:31



## Bible Story: Jesus Blesses the Little Children

Based on Mark 10:13-16

In our Bible story today, you are going to hear some things that are true, and some things that are *obviously* false.

Whenever you hear a true statement make a bell sound: **ding-ding**. *Have everyone practice that.* And whenever you hear a false statement make a buzzer sound: **bzzz**. *Have everyone practice that.*

*Note: All the false statements are in bold.*

**People were bringing pizzas to Jesus that he might bake them.**

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might bless them;

**And the disciples told them knock-knock jokes.**

The disciples spoke sternly to them.

**When Jesus saw this he said, "The children are coming! Somebody stop them! Ahhhh!"**

When Jesus saw this, he was angry, and said to the disciples, "Let the children come to me."

**but just for ten minutes. Then whisk them away to their own part of the building."**

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me; and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs."

**"Um, but not the sanctuary. That's for grown-ups."**

"It is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." Period.

Jesus continued, **"Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a grown-up will never enter it."**

"Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."

In our opening song, we are reminded that God created everything, not just rainbows, waterfalls, and butterflies. God made all of it...and saw that it was good! What's so interesting in today's Bible story is that people were struggling to even see *little children* as good. Some viewed them as a distraction or irrelevant. But Jesus reminded the people then, and reminds us today, that small does not mean insignificant. Each person is a child of God. Each person has sacred worth.

### **Prayer Experience: Eyes**

You know, we don't have to close our eyes when we pray. And, in fact, for this prayer I would like us to keep our eyes open as we look around where we are.

*Allow a few moments for silent reflection.*

Continue looking around, as you echo me in prayer:

**God of perfect vision,  
Bless our eyes  
to be like your eyes,  
so that we can do more  
than just see the good.  
We can *find* the good.  
Amen.**

### **Joys and Concerns**

*Offer everyone a chance to share something they want to celebrate (i.e. a birthday, a loose tooth, a yummy meal), and something that's causing anxiety (i.e. I miss my friends, "Will Nana get sick?")  
Encourage everyone to be present and listen to one another.*

*After a concern is voiced, people can respond by singing the last phrase from the hymn "How Can I Keep from Singing?" –*

**How can I keep from singing?**

*After joy is voiced, people can respond by singing the first four notes of Handel's Hallelujah Chorus –  
**Hallelujah!***

### **Closing Song: It Was Good**