

POINT ➔ **WE THANK
GOD FOR OUR WORLD.**

SAY: God made everything. Today we'll learn that God made the plants in our world.

Open your Bible to Genesis 1 and show children the words. Read Genesis 1:11-13. **SAY: God just spoke some words and plants were made! I'm going to name some plants God made. If I name a flower, put your hands by the sides of your face and wiggle your fingers. If I name a fruit or vegetable, pretend you're eating.** Read each phrase below, and pause for kids to respond.

- **Let there be roses** (flower)
- **Let there be carrots** (vegetable)
- **Let there be oranges** (fruit)
- **Let there be tulips** (flower)
- **Let there be corn** (vegetable)
- **Let there be apples** (fruit)
- **Let there be broccoli** (vegetable)
- **Let there be dandelions** (flower)

Name other common plants for the children to act out.

ASK: What's good about flowers?

What's good about fruits and vegetables?

SAY: God made all kinds of plants for different purposes. Flowers are pretty and smell good, and they help bees make honey. Fruits and vegetables are good to eat and give us vitamins that help us stay healthy. Trees sometimes have fruit, and they give us nice shade on a hot day. God made wonderful plants, so ➔ WE THANK GOD FOR OUR WORLD.



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SAY: God made the plants in our world, and we thank God for our world. Let's pretend to be little seeds. We'll grow into flowers, trees, and bushes when we're watered. First we'll get down on the floor and curl up into little balls like seeds. Pause. I'll walk over to you and water you. After I water you, stand up and go water someone else, then become a seed again.

Pretend to pour water on a child, and then have that child stand up. Help that child water another child. The first child will then crouch back down, and you will help the second child water someone else. Keep the game going until everyone has been "watered."

SAY: With God's help, seeds grow into beautiful plants! Thank you, God, for helping plants grow! Let's play again. This time when you're watered, you'll grow by jumping up and shouting out something God made that you're thankful for. Play again, making sure each child gets a turn to jump up and shout out thanks.

ASK: What does God do to take care of plants?

What does God do to take care of people?

SAY: In our game, we changed from little seeds into big trees and flowers. It's amazing how God can help plants grow so big. And our thanks to God can grow bigger, too. The more ➔ **WE THANK GOD FOR OUR WORLD.** the more we grow in appreciating him.

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Lead your children on a walk outside on your church grounds. (If you're unable to go outside, simply have kids use the *Color Switchers Markers* to draw a collage of plants.) Have each child collect plant items such as leaves, sticks, weeds, and grass. Make sure children don't pick flowers that are part of the landscaping.

Bring children back inside. Give children each a piece of paper, and help them tape or glue the things they collected onto the paper to make a collage. Kids can also use the *Color Switchers Markers* to draw flowers at the top of grass stems. When everyone has finished, have children show each other their collages and the different things they collected outside. Each time a child mentions a plant, lead the children in thanking God for making that plant.

ASK: Why did you choose the plants you put on your paper?

Which plants on your collage are you most thankful for, and why?

SAY: God made a lot of different kinds of plants! There are more than 300,000 different kinds of plants in the world. We didn't find that many on our walk! And we know that God made every different kind of plant for a good reason. Let's enjoy all the different plants we see and remember that ➔ WE THANK GOD FOR OUR WORLD.

POINT ➡ **WE THANK
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SAY: God made all the plants in the world. And ➡ **WE THANK GOD FOR OUR WORLD.** When you see a garden, you can thank God for the flowers he made. Let's make a garden together and thank God for the flowers.

Give each child a lump of *Rainbow Clay*. Have kids sculpt flowers. When kids finish their flowers, place all the flowers on a piece of paper to make a garden. Lead all the kids in saying, "Thank you, God, for making flowers."

ASK: **What do you like about flowers?**

Tell about your favorite flower that God created.

SAY: **Our garden turned out beautifully! But our flowers aren't as nice as the real ones God made. Our flowers don't smell pretty, and they won't help us breathe like real flowers do. They won't grow, and bees can't use them to make honey. God is the best creator! Let's remember that ➡ WE THANK GOD FOR OUR WORLD.** Collect the *Rainbow Clay*.

POINT ➔ **WE THANK
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SAY: ➔ **WE THANK GOD FOR OUR WORLD.** Let's sing a song about God's creation. Lead the children in singing 🎵 "God Made All the World" (track 5) on the **CD**, to the tune of "Ten Little Indians."

SING:

God made the land, and God made the sea, *(make waves with your hands)*

Made the sun so we can see, *(shade your eyes with your hand)*

Made the moon and stars we see. *(open and close fingers to "twinkle")*

God made all the world. *(put hands out in front of you)*

God made the plants, and God made the trees, *(lift hands above your head like a growing tree)*

Made the flowers and their leaves. *(pretend to smell a flower)*

God made the grasses all with ease. *(fold hands and wiggle fingers)*

God made all the world. *(put hands out in front of you)*

God made the clouds up in the sky, *(make a big circle over your head)*

Made the wind to help things fly. *(push hands away from your mouth)*

God made everything up high. *(stand on tiptoe and reach up)*

God made all the world. *(put hands out in front of you)*

ASK: **Explain which part of this song was your favorite.**

Tell about a plant you'd like to sing about to thank God.

SAY: **God made all the world. He made every single plant. That means God even made plants like poison ivy or briars that get stuck to us. And God doesn't make mistakes—so even plants we don't like are ones we can thank God for.** ➔ **WE THANK GOD FOR OUR WORLD.**