

# April

## God Makes Growing Things



### God Made the World

(See Genesis 1:11-31.)

### “God made everything.”

(See Genesis 1:1.)



#### This month you will help each child:

- hear words and songs about the world God made;
- feel awe at God’s creation;
- participate in play activities to touch and see things God made.



## Devotional

And . . . it was good. These familiar words echo through the first chapter of Genesis. In springtime they seem to take on fresh luster as plants awaken from their long winter dormancy. There is something very good about new beginnings. Read Genesis 1:1-31.

Perhaps your spiritual life needs a new beginning, a reawakening from a period of seeming barrenness. Just as God’s Spirit moved to bring beauty and order in the world’s beginning, God Himself can bring light and life to the soul of anyone who is open to this love. God designed people in His own image to possess qualities that respond to His presence.

The good beginning for all creation came as God spoke. His Word still speaks today. Make time in your daily routines to read the Scriptures, asking God to help you respond.

Keep in mind that even the universe was not built in a day; six were needed to do the job! Expect God’s work in your life to take place over a period of time as you gain spiritual insight according to His plan for you.



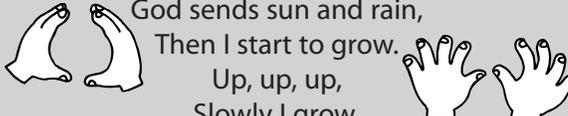
During the month of April, display this poster at child’s eye level. Talk about the things that God made and the child’s happiness in playing with the kittens.

# God Makes Growing Things



**Do It!**

I'm a Little Seed  
I'm a little, tiny seed  
In the earth so low.  
God sends sun and rain,  
Then I start to grow.  
Up, up, up,  
Slowly I grow,  
Then my leaves and flowers show!



**Sing It!**

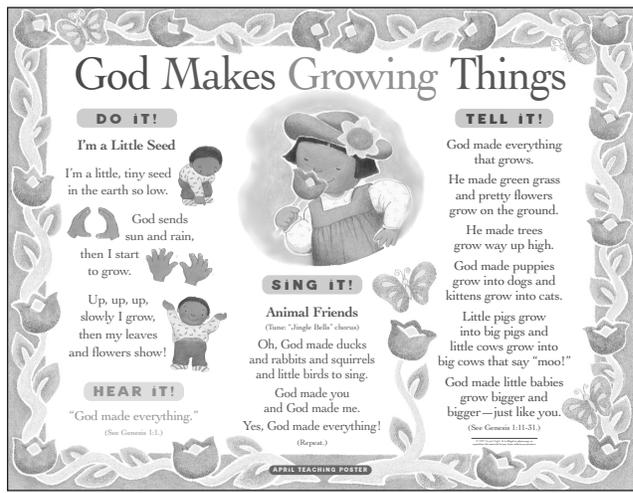
Animal Friends  
(Tune: "Jingle Bells" chorus)

Oh, God made ducks  
And rabbits and squirrels  
And little birds to sing.  
God made you and God made me.  
Yes, God made everything!  
(Repeat.)

**Tell It!**

God Made the World

God made everything that grows.  
He made green grass  
And pretty flowers grow on the ground.  
He made trees grow way up high.  
God made puppies grow into dogs  
And kittens grow into cats.  
Little pigs grow into big pigs and  
Little cows grow into big  
cows that say "moo!"  
God made little babies grow bigger  
And bigger—just like you.  
(See Genesis 1:11-31.)



**God Makes Growing Things**

**DO IT!**

I'm a Little Seed  
I'm a little, tiny seed  
in the earth so low.  
God sends sun and rain,  
then I start to grow.  
Up, up, up,  
slowly I grow,  
then my leaves  
and flowers show!

**HEAR IT!**

"God made everything."  
(See Genesis 1:1.)

**TELL IT!**

God made everything that grows.  
He made green grass and pretty flowers grow on the ground.  
He made trees grow way up high.  
God made puppies grow into dogs and kittens grow into cats.  
Little pigs grow into big pigs and little cows grow into big cows that say "moo!"  
God made little babies grow bigger and bigger—just like you.  
(See Genesis 1:11-31.)

**SING IT!**

**Animal Friends**  
(Tune: "Jingle Bells" chorus)  
Oh, God made ducks and rabbits and squirrels and little birds to sing.  
God made you and God made me.  
Yes, God made everything!  
(Repeat.)

APRIL TEACHING POSTER

Display this poster at teacher's eye level in your nursery. Tell the Bible story, sing the song, do the finger play and repeat the Bible verse to one or more interested children.

## Activities with Children

Choose one or more of the learning activities on pages 67-72 to provide for children during a session. Consider your facility, the number of children and teachers and the supplies you have available as you plan which activities you will use. The best kind of teaching for toddlers will happen as you take advantage of teachable moments as children play and experience the learning activities you have provided. Continue an activity as long as one or more children are interested. For more information on using this curriculum, see "Why Use Curriculum?" on page 8.

## Growing Seeds

### Collect

Watering can  
Some seeds in a small container

### Do

Show children the seeds.  
Show children how to crouch down to make themselves small like seeds.  
Pretend to water them with watering can so they can “grow.”

### Say

These seeds are small. Isaiah, can you make yourself small like a seed?  
When seeds get watered, they grow. When I water you with my watering can, you can pretend to be a seed and grow big!  
God made seeds to grow into plants. God made everything that grows.

## Hide and Seek Animals

### Collect

Several small stuffed animals

### Do

Before class, hide stuffed toy animals around the room. Make sure part of each animal is visible.  
In class, ask children to find the hidden animals and make the appropriate animal sounds.

### Say

Laura, you found the dog! What sound does it make?  
God made all the animals. God made animals to grow!  
I'm glad God made dogs and cats and birds.  
**Bonus Idea:** Use stuffed animals that make sounds and conceal them completely so children have to listen to find them.

## Animal Actions

### Collect

April Bible Story Picture from *I Love to Look!* or *Nursery Posters*  
Sturdy picture books of animals such as rabbit, snake, frog, and spider

### Do

Look at the pictures with children. Show children how to move like each animal.  
Ask interested children to try moving like each animal.



### Say

God made everything that grows. God made all the animals. Look at the pictures of these animals.  
Can you wiggle like a snake? Can you run like a puppy? Can you hop like a frog?

## Watering Plants

### Collect

One or more small watering cans with small amount of water  
Several indoor or outdoor plants

### Do

Children use watering cans to water plants.

### Say

God makes growing things.  
Kobi, growing things need water. Would you like to give our plants a drink?  
God made trees and plants that grow. Thank You, God, for trees and plants.

## Animal Pictures

### Collect

April Bible Story Picture from *I Love to Look!* or *Nursery Posters*  
Sheet of construction paper for each child  
Animal stickers

### Do

Show and talk about the Bible Story Picture. Children attach stickers to their papers. Tell children the names of the animals. Children make animal sounds.

### Say

This picture shows a dog. Who has a pet dog at home?

God made puppies that grow into dogs. God made everything that grows.

Jodie, have you been to the zoo and seen an elephant? God made elephants. God made you!

## Bird Play

**Note:** Post a note alerting parents to the use of food. Also, check children's registration forms for possible food allergies.

### Collect

Raisins  
Paper plates  
Several toy birds  
Optional—birdseed, plastic tub, plastic tablecloth

### Do

Place several raisins on each paper plate. (Optional: Place tub on tablecloth and put birdseed into tub. Children feel the seeds and use them in their pretend play.)

Children play with the birds, pretending that the birds are eating the "seeds."

### Say

Let's pretend our birds are eating the seeds. God made birds. God made seeds for birds to eat so they can grow.

God made red birds. God made yellow birds. God made black birds. God made all the birds!

## God Made Ducks

### Collect

Large plastic tub filled part way with water  
Large towel  
Several small rubber ducks

### Do

Place tub on towel. Children float ducks in the water.

### Say

Ducks can swim on top of the water like this. Let's make sounds like ducks.

God made ducks. Ducks grow, just like you are growing.

Thank You, God, for ducks.



## Animal Sounds

### Collect

Pop-up animal toys and/or toys that make animal sounds

### Do

Children play with toys. Encourage children to name the animals they see on the toy. Children make animal sounds and/or imitate the animal sounds they hear.

### Say

Caleb, what animal do you see? That's right—it's a pig. What sound does a pig make?

God made pigs. God made lots of animals that grow.

Zachary, you're having fun making animals sounds. God made all the animals!

**Nature Search****Collect**

Magazine pictures of nature items displayed on walls at children's eye level

One or more toy binoculars

**Do**

Guide children to look through windows or around the room to see growing things such as people, trees, plants, flowers, insects and birds. (Optional: Take children on a walk in an enclosed play area.)

**Say**

Look! Do you see the bird on the fence? God made all the birds.

I see lots of things that are growing in the picture on the wall. I see small trees and big trees. Trees grow. God made trees.

Seth, what do you see that God made? I'm glad God made everything.

**Long or Short?****Collect**

April Bible Story Picture from *I Love to Look!* or *Nursery Posters*

12-inch (30.5-cm) length of yarn or string for each child

**Do**

Show and talk about the Bible Story Picture.

Let children use yarn or string to measure items in the room. Talk about whether the items are longer or shorter than the yarn or string.

**Say**

Kylie, what animals do you see in this picture? Put your finger on the cow. God made all the animals! Animals need food and water to grow. God gives us what we need to grow.

Anthony, let's see if this car is longer or shorter than your string. It's shorter. Anthony, you are bigger than the string. You are growing! God is helping you to grow!

**Smell the Flowers****Collect**

One or more kinds of flowers

Unbreakable vase filled part way with water

**Do**

Let children help you place flowers in vase. Invite children to see, smell and touch the flowers.

Place flowers out of reach when their use is not supervised.

**Say**

Look at the beautiful flowers God made.

He gives them rain and dirt to help them grow.

**Comparing Plants****Collect**

Several small (non-poisonous) potted plants (with different leaves, with and without flowers, etc.)

**Do**

Place plants on a child-sized table where children can see them easily.

Talk about the similarities and differences.

**Say**

William, look at this plant. It has pretty red flowers.

This plant has no flowers, but it has big shiny leaves.

God made lots of different plants. God makes growing things.

**Bonus Idea:** Keep one or more plants in the classroom indefinitely and let children help care for it.

**Seed Shakers****Collect**

*I Love to Sing!* CD and player  
 Small, clear, plastic water bottle for each child  
 Any kind of seeds (bird, plant)  
 Duct tape

**Do**

Before class, place some seeds into the bottle. Securely tape the bottle shut.

In class, children use shakers as they listen and march to "God Made Grins."

**Say**

Cameron, do you see the seeds in your bottle? Flowers grow from seeds.

God made seeds. God made the flowers that grow. God made you, too. God planned for you to grow!

**Birds Are Flying****Collect**

April Bible Story Picture from *I Love to Look!* or *Nursery Posters*  
*I Love to Sing!* CD and player  
 Two small scarves for each child

**Do**

Show and talk about the Bible Story Picture.

Give each child two scarves for bird wings.

Play "Growing Things" on CD. Children wave scarves up and down to "fly like birds." Children may also move around the room as they "fly."

**Say**

Maggie, look at the animals in this picture. God made the cows. God made pigs. God made all the animals that grow.

God made birds that grow. God made birds with wings so they can fly. Annie, I see that you are "flying" like a bird.

The Bible tells us that God made everything that grows!

**Animal Movements****Collect**

*I Love to Sing!* CD and player (optional—a recording of Camille Saint-Saens' *Carnival of the Animals*)

**Do**

Play "Growing Things." Invite children to move like the animals named in the song while the music plays. (Optional: Play selections from the *Carnival of the Animals*, such as "Elephants," "Tortoises, and "Kangaroos.")

**Say**

Let's walk like elephants. We see elephants at the zoo. God made those great big elephants.

God made all the animals. God made everything that grows!

God made you so that you are growing! Thank You, God!

**God Makes Growing Things****Collect**

Sturdy picture books that show growing things

**Do**

Show pictures to children and identify them. As each picture is identified, sing the following words to the tune of "God Is So Good":

God made the dogs, God made the dogs,  
 God made the dogs, God makes growing things.

**Say**

Kelsey, can you find the picture of the dog? God made dogs. God made everything that grows.

I'm glad that God made dogs and cats. I'm glad that God made birds and flowers. I'm glad that God made you!

God makes everything grow!

## Birds in a Nest

### Collect

Sturdy book with picture(s) of birds in a nest (optional—real bird nest)  
Wading pool or masking tape  
Blankets and small pillows

### Do

Before class, if wading pool is not available, use masking tape to outline a circle on the floor for a “nest.”

During class, show picture of bird nest to children and talk about it. (Optional: Show real bird nest.)

With children’s help, place blankets inside pool to make a “bird nest.”

Children pretend to be birds (make chirping sounds, flap wings, etc.) and play in the nest.

### Say

God made birds. When birds are babies, they live in a nest. God helps baby birds grow bigger and bigger. God is helping you grow bigger and bigger, too.

Let’s pretend we are birds and this is our nest.

## Spider Web

### Collect

Crepe paper  
Several child-sized chairs, placed in a circle, several feet apart

### Do

Before class, loosely wrap crepe paper around lower portion of chair legs to form a “spider web.”

In class, let children climb in and out of the web.

### Say

Spiders live in webs. Let’s pretend to be spiders and crawl around this web.

God made spiders. God made everything that is growing.

Nathanael, you are growing. God made you! Thank You, God, for Nathanael.

## Zoo Animals

### Collect

Large cardboard blocks  
Toy zoo animals  
Blue construction paper or fabric to represent water  
Green construction paper or fabric to represent grass

### Do

Help children build animal habitats with the blocks and paper and fabric.

Encourage children to decide which animal goes where.

Children play with animals.



### Say

Madison, have you ever been to the zoo? What did you see? The giraffe lives near trees.

God made all the animals at the zoo.

God made everything that grows.

## Caring for Animals

### Collect

April Bible Story Picture from *I Love to Look!* or *Nursery Posters*  
Several stuffed toy animals and birds  
One or more pet care items (plastic feeding bowls, blankets or pet bed, dog leash, brush)

### Do

Show and talk about the Bible Story Picture. Children use materials to pretend to care for pets.

### Say

Toby, where is the kitty in this picture? God made the animals grow.

What does our kitty need? You can give this kitty a drink of water.

Hope, God made you. You are growing, too! The Bible tells us that God made everything that grows.

**Bonus Idea:** Children pretend to be animals and make animal sounds.

## Animals and Their Babies

### Collect

April Bible Story Picture from *I Love to Look!* or *Nursery Posters*

### Do

Show and talk about the Bible Story Picture. Help children match pictures of baby animals to the parents.

### Say

Andrew, I see a baby cow in this picture. Where is the picture of the cow's mommy? Baby cows grow to be grownup cows. What other baby animals do you see in this picture?

God made all growing things. God made you.

Taylor, you are growing. God made you. Thank You, God, for helping Taylor grow.

**Bonus Idea:** Laminate pictures (from magazines or the Internet) of a variety of animals, one picture of each adult and one of each baby (optional—use clear Con-Tact paper if laminating equipment is not available). Set out pictures and let children match baby animals to the parents.

## Animal Puzzles

### Collect

Several toddler puzzles depicting animals

### Do

Children play with the puzzles.

Be ready to help as needed and to talk about the animals.

### Say

Rachel, you are holding the duck puzzle piece. What does a duck say? Where does the duck puzzle piece go?

God made all the ducks. God made everything that grows!

I see ducks and cows in this puzzle. I see horses and goats. God made all the animals.

## Animal Puppets

### Collect

Several animal puppets

### Do

Children use puppets. Be ready to help children put puppets on their hands.

Guide children to make the sound of each animal.



### Say

Here is a sheep puppet. God made the sheep. God made all growing things.

Darnel, what sound does a sheep make? Is your puppet a baby sheep or a grownup sheep? God makes everything grow.

You are growing. God made you!

## Can You Find It?

### Collect

Variety of plastic animals and/or insects  
Tray

### Do

Let children help you place all items on the tray. Ask one child at a time to find a particular animal or insect.

### Say

Olivia, where is the ladybug? That's it! You found it! God made ladybugs. God made everything that grows.

I see a pig and a horse. Do you see them too? God made baby pigs and baby horses to grow bigger and bigger.

Anthony, God made you. You are growing bigger and bigger, too!