

FOCUS

Early
Childhood

SMALL GROUP

BIBLE STORY

**Look at what God made.
Seeing God in Creation**
Romans 1:20

MEMORY VERSE

“Let us keep looking to Jesus.”
Hebrews 12:2, NIRV

BOTTOM LINE

**Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.**

1. ANIMAL WALK

WHAT YOU NEED: Optional animal costume props, such as: a pool noodle (to be an elephant's trunk), three or four large feathers (to be a bird), a bowl large enough to fit on a child's head (to be a turtle), a headband with bunny ears (or any other animal ears), etc.

WHAT YOU DO:

During the Activity: Invite the children to take turns using the props and pretending to be animals along a designated path within your home. Repeat as long as time and interest allow.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“We learned today about how God made all the animals. Now, we're going to pretend to be animals! We can choose some animal props and walk like that animal all along this path. You might choose to be an elephant (*hold up the pool noodle like an elephant trunk*), a bird (*hold up the feathers like wings*), a turtle (*put the bowl on your head*), or a bunny (*put on the bunny ear headband*). (If you provided other props, explain them now.) Look at all these amazing animals! God made all of them. And, the greatest gift God gave us is Jesus!”

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JOURNAL AND PRAYER

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, journal, fun-shaped pen

WHAT YOU SAY:

(Open the Bible and lay it where the children can see it.)

"Our Bible story today was about how God made everything—the sun, stars, trees, mountains, oceans, people, and yes, ANIMALS! And even though we can't see God, we know He is real because we can see everything He made.

(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)

"Let's make a list of some things God made. When you think of something God made, say it and I'll write it down.

(Encourage everyone to think of things God made. Write down what they say.)

"Wow! When we look around, we see LOTS of amazing things God made because God made everything!

"Hmmm. I see something else God made that we need to add to our list. I am going to add *(say each child's name as you write them in the journal)*. Because God made you!

"This list we made is awesome! Good job!

"We can use it later when we pray. But first, I have a very important question. God made a wonderful world and everything in it for us but He gave us something even better. Do you remember WHO is the best gift ever that God gave us? (Pause.)

"YES! Jesus! God gave us Jesus to be our friend forever! That's why when we ask, 'Who wants to be your friend forever?' you say, 'Jesus wants to be my friend forever!' Let's try it. **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**"

PRAYER

"Dear God, we want to tell You how amazing and powerful and creative and loving You are. Even though we can't see You, we know You are real because we see ALL the things You made, like *(read the list you made)*. And I especially want to thank You for making *(say each person's name)*. They are SO special. And I know You love all of us with a super big love because You gave us Jesus to be our friend forever. WOW! Jesus is the best! We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."