

# THE STORY OF CREATION

## UNIT ONE: GOD CREATED HEAVEN AND EARTH

### Lesson 5: Sun, Moon and Stars!

#### CONTENT:

1. God is a wise Creator. He made everything good and in order.[CCC339]
2. He made the sun and the moon, and the whole universe which is full of other suns (stars).
3. He made everything work together so that we have day and night, light and darkness, winter, summer and rains.
4. There is a time and place for everything. Daytime is good for work and play and night for sleep and rest. We should be wise and cooperate with God's plan and do the right thing at the right time.
5. It is good to begin each day asking for God's blessing and to end it by asking his forgiveness for any sins we have committed, and thanking him for the day.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read handout at home. Try and get an interesting fact about the sun, the moon, or the stars. Be ready to share it with the class. Say the morning and night prayers.

**REFERENCES:** Gen. 1: 1-3; Mk 10:46-52; (also Luke 18:35-43) CCC 344, 338, 353.

**MATERIALS NEEDED:** Handouts, torch.

**EXTRA CLASS:** Special copies could be made of the morning and night prayers for the children to put up in their bedrooms. Print out the prayers separately and stick them onto coloured card paper, leaving enough space around the edges for the children to decorate with cut-outs of moons, stars, flowers etc. A cord is attached for hanging.

#### I. STARTER:

- Did you tell the story of Blind Bartimaeus to anyone? [*Get responses*] How blessed we are to have eyes to see all the beautiful things God has made. And how wonderful light is! Let's sing the 'Praise Song' that we learnt last time.

#### II. DEVELOPMENT:

##### 1. CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE:

- Where do we get light from? [*Mostly from the sun*]
- Who made the sun? [*God*] He said, 'Let there be lights in the sky to give light to the earth!' And it happened!
- Do you know what lights he made? [*The sun, the moon, and the stars*] God made the sun, which is like a huge ball of fire. He made the moon, which is lit up by the sun and gives us light in the night. God also made other suns, which we call stars. They are so far away that they look like tiny fireflies.
- God is very wise. (Wise means clever, smart) He put everything in the right place and made everything work in the right way. If he had put the sun a little closer to us, it would have been very, very hot on the earth and we would have burnt up into nothing. If he had put it a little further away, we would have been icy cold, like ice in the freezer. But he put it in exactly the right place. God also made the earth turn round and round, so that we have day and night, day and night... Not light all the time, and not darkness all the time.

[It would make it more interesting to demonstrate by placing two children back-to-back, representing the earth. Another child holding a torch, or just stretching out his hands, represents the sun. The 'earth' moves round slowly, while you say:]

Now this side of the earth has day. The sun is shining on it and everything is bright. The people here are playing, working, eating. Then, as the earth goes round, these people come into the dark part. It becomes night. They can't see the sun, but they can see the moon, because the sun is lighting it up. It is a good time to stop working and go to sleep.

Because of everything in the right place, and going the right way, we have the cold season (winter) the hot season (summer) and the rainy season.

- Why did God give us night? Why not day all the time? Because he is wise. He knows that we can't go on working all the time. We need to go home, to close our eyes and sleep. Darkness is good for sleeping in.

## 2. STORY: 'I Don't Want To!'

There was a girl called Jenny who didn't understand about day and night, and why we have to sleep at night. One Sunday night she was in a bad mood. Whatever her Mummy told her to do, she said, "I don't want to!" It was bed-time, and her Daddy and Mummy were out. Granny told her, "Jenny, put your things ready for school, and go to bed."

"But I don't want to go to bed. I want to watch TV!" Jenny didn't listen to her Granny. She sat in front of the TV, and watched cartoons till late at night. When Daddy and Mummy came home, they found Jenny fast asleep in front of the TV.

The next morning, Mummy said, "Wake up, Jenny. It's Monday. Time to get ready for school." But Jenny wouldn't open her eyes. The sun also shone in through the window as if it was saying, "Wake up! It's morning!" But Jenny covered her head with her bed sheet and wouldn't get up. Then Granny went and shook Jenny. "Get up, baby! It's getting late." But Jenny said, (*guess what?*) "I don't want to!"

At last the school bus came and honked outside. That woke Jenny up! She jumped up and put on her uniform, grabbed her bag and ran downstairs... No wash, no breakfast... nothing.

That day everything went wrong for Jenny. She was so sleepy that she couldn't answer anything the teacher asked her. She got all her spellings wrong. And at break time, she was so hungry and upset that she shouted at her best friend, Rina. Rina got angry and left her alone. Jenny hid her face and cried all the way home. When she reached home, Granny opened the door.

"What happened to you, baby? Did you fall down? Are you sick?"

"No.. But I'm hungry and tired and sad. Everything went wrong today. I think God hates me."

"Jenny, that's not true. God loves you very much. He gave you night to sleep in, but you didn't sleep and so you were tired. Come, have your 'naashta' and then come to my room. I have something to show you."

After having her milk and poha, Jenny went and sat down on Granny's bed. Granny opened a box and took out a picture wrapped in brown paper. She took off the paper. It was a prayer. Granny said, "When I was a little girl, my granny gave this to me. It helped me to start my day well. Can you read it?"

Jenny was good at reading. She read, "Thank you God for this new day. Bless my work and bless my play. Help me make you happy today... But Granny, I don't think God will listen to me, because I didn't try to make him happy. I made him sad."

"Ah, but you can do something to become his friend again, can't you?" Granny said.

"Yes! I know. I can say sorry." She closed her eyes at once and prayed, "Father God, I'm sorry for being so naughty. Sorry for watching TV instead of sleeping. Sorry for being rude to my friend. Please let me be your friend again."

Granny nodded and smiled at her. She took another picture out of the box. "Here's a prayer I used to say every night, before I went to sleep. I used to hang it next to my bed."

Jenny read, " 'For the times I've made you sad, please forgive me Lord. For the happy times I've had, thank you dearest God'.... Granny can I hang these prayers near my bed?"

Granny said yes, and Daddy hammered two nails on the wall next to Jenny's bed. From that day on, when the sun peeped into the window, Jenny would open her eyes and see the picture on the wall. She would say the Morning Prayer. And every night, before closing her eyes, she would think of any way she had made God sad, and also the good things that had happened, and then she would say the Night Prayer. Never again did she have such a bad day as on that Monday morning.

### **III. ACTIVITY:**

[Give out handouts at this point. Read the words on the sheet aloud, while the students follow. Talk about what we should do at night and in the day The children then draw themselves in the spaces provided, below the window, depicting what they should do in the day (study, play, eat etc) and at night (sleep).]

### **IV. REFLECTION & PRAYER:**

Do you want your days to go well? Do you want to be God's friend and make him happy? Then let's ask his help.

[Make the sign of the cross and pray:]

**Father God, thank you for the sun, the moon and the stars.  
Thank you for making everything in order.  
Help me to be wise like you,  
and to do the right thing at the right time. Amen.**

#### **Home assignment:**

- Read the handout with someone at home.
- Try and get an interesting fact about the sun, the moon, or the stars. Be ready to share it with the class.
- Say the morning and night prayers.