

Genesis 1:1-5

God shakes things up

In this description or imagining of creation, before God creates the heavens and earth there is only a formless void, complete darkness and endless water. God's first act is to create light, and then to separate light from dark, day from night – the first day.



CREATE

Make a collage representing the separation of light from darkness, by cutting shapes from black, yellow and blue coloured card and sticking it to a white disk. If/where you want white to appear, just leave the background uncovered. You could draw a line to represent the 'wind of God' moving over the waters.



WALK

Get up early, grab a coat or blanket and go and watch the sunrise. Notice the difference in the sky as night changes to day, you may wish to capture this by drawing or taking a photo. As you see the light appear say, 'God said "Let there be Light"'.

Bible notes



At the start of everything is God, bringing order in chaos and light in the darkness. Whatever this account is saying about cosmic origins, one thing is certain: God is at work. The words about God creating light are echoed at the start of John's Gospel (1:5,9). The word for wind also means breath and spirit, a reminder that God is involved and invested in everything that happens around us and within us. God is at the start of everything but is also the throbbing heartbeat in everything. In another creation song, the psalmist sings of God's active involvement in the world God has made (Psalm 104). Isaiah looks forward to a time when God will do all this again, making anew heaven and new earth (Isaiah 65:17-25), and both John and Paul speak of Christ as the one who creates and sustains and brings about what Isaiah saw. The picture of the creating and sustaining God is a thread running through the whole Bible story.

First impressions

- If you made a snow globe, what would you put in it?
- If you could shake the world and start over, what would you want to see emerge?
- What can you do to help your vision take a step towards reality?



A prayer of thanksgiving

Almighty God, thank you for the year which now lies behind us. Thank you for all you gave and all we received. We praise you for a new start, a beginning and a new year. Amen.

REFLECT

Each morning as you look in the mirror, name the places and situations in your life that you want God to speak into, shake up and bring light to.

Pray



Watch a news programme, read a newspaper or look at an online news source. As you do, notice and pray for the places you want God to shake things up and illuminate the darkness. Each time you notice something say, 'Let there be light'.