

# 2

## In the Beginning

Starting & Finishing

### INTRODUCTION

*Hold up a Bible.* Can anyone tell me what kind of book this is?

*Allow time for the children to answer.* Yes, it's a Bible.

*You can extend this with a series of different-looking Bibles : "This one is very old, this one is in a different language" or whatever you have managed to find.*

*Hold up The Lion Storyteller Bible.*

**And here is another kind of Bible. I like this one because it has pictures in it. The Open the Book storytellers use this one a lot. You may know that the Bible contains many stories, but did you know that these stories link together to form one, long story about God and the people here on earth? Today we're going to hear the very first story in the Bible.**

**Let's OPEN THE BOOK at the story called 'In The Beginning'.**

*Open The Lion Storyteller Bible as you say these words, and read In the Beginning.*

### CONCLUSION

**That was a pretty amazing first story – from nothing to all these wonderful things! Which part of the story did you like best?** *(Invite responses)* **Next week, we'll be coming back to tell the next part of the story. We'll be finding out what happened to the beautiful world that God made.**

### QUIET MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

**Close your eyes for a moment and think of something beautiful you have seen. It might be the sea, a river, a tree or a flower. It might be a colourful butterfly, a shiny conker or a bright tropical fish.**

*Allow time for reflection.*

### PRAYER INTRODUCTION

**Now I'm going to say a prayer and if you want to make it your prayer say "Amen" at the end after me.**

### PRAYER

**Dear God, thank you for all the beautiful things you have made. Please help us to enjoy them and look after them. Amen.**

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Direction

### STORYTELLERS NEEDED

**Essential** Narrator, voice of God

**Additional** Adam, Eve *(not needed if using banner)*

### SUGGESTIONS FOR PRESENTING THE STORY

- This is a fairly short, simple story so don't rush it. Allow the descriptive text to come alive for the children.
- This story can be done in two ways :
  - 1 Use a Creation banner (see below).
  - 2 Involve the children. (If you want to involve the children and this is your first visit to the school, then discuss your plan with the head teacher in advance.)

Divide the children up into 4 groups to be the 'green growing things', 'the flying things', the splashing things' and 'the walking, hopping things'. Hide two adults to appear at the end as Adam and Eve.

### SUGGESTIONS FOR VISUAL IMPACT

- Collect a selection of Bibles for the introduction.
- Go for visual impact into this all-important first story. Wave large sheets of coloured fabric for light, sky, water and earth or paint "sun", "moon" and "stars" on large card attached to dowel rods. These can be lifted high as they are mentioned in the story.

**It's worth putting your best effort into creating quality visual impact for this story – first impressions count, and will last!**

### EXTRA RESOURCES - downloadable from [www.openthebook.net](http://www.openthebook.net)

- Ideas for developing a basic kit of core costumes and props.
- Inspiration from other teams for making a creation banner.

### MY NOTES

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