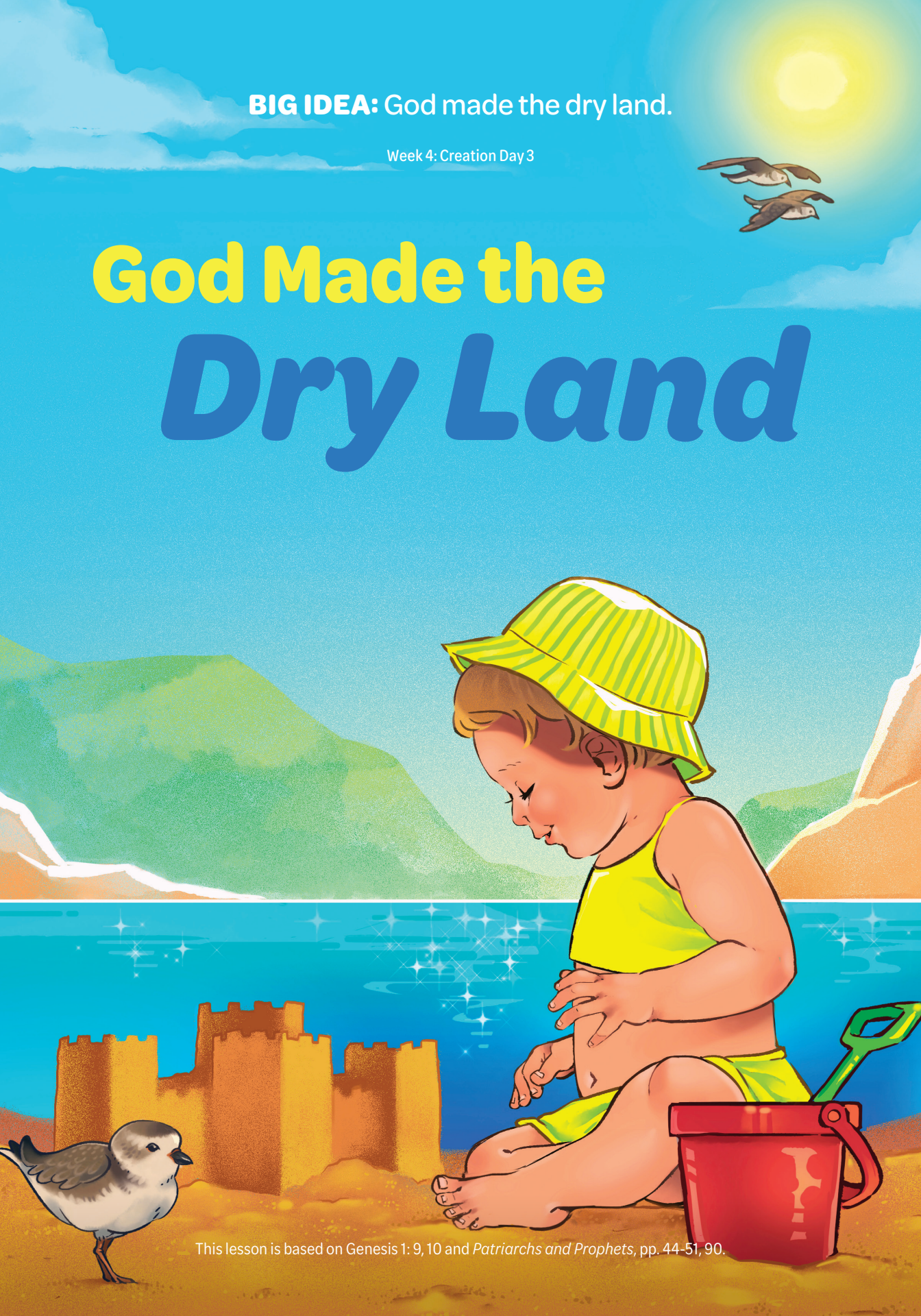
BIG IDEA: God made the dry land.

Week 4: Creation Day 3

God Made the Dry Land



This lesson is based on Genesis 1: 9, 10 and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 44-51, 90.



In the beginning, before there were owls in the trees or turtles in the seas, there was God. It was Day 3, and God had been busy creating a place for you and me. On Day 1 *(hold up one finger)* God created light. On Day 2 *(two fingers)* God created the sky. There was still more to be done. The earth was covered in water, with no place for us to be.



It was the morning of Day 3 *(three fingers).* **A gentle breeze blew** *(blow across your hand),* **and the sky** *(move hand in an arc over your head)* **shone brilliant and blue. The light sparkled on the water covering the earth. What did God have in store for us to see?**



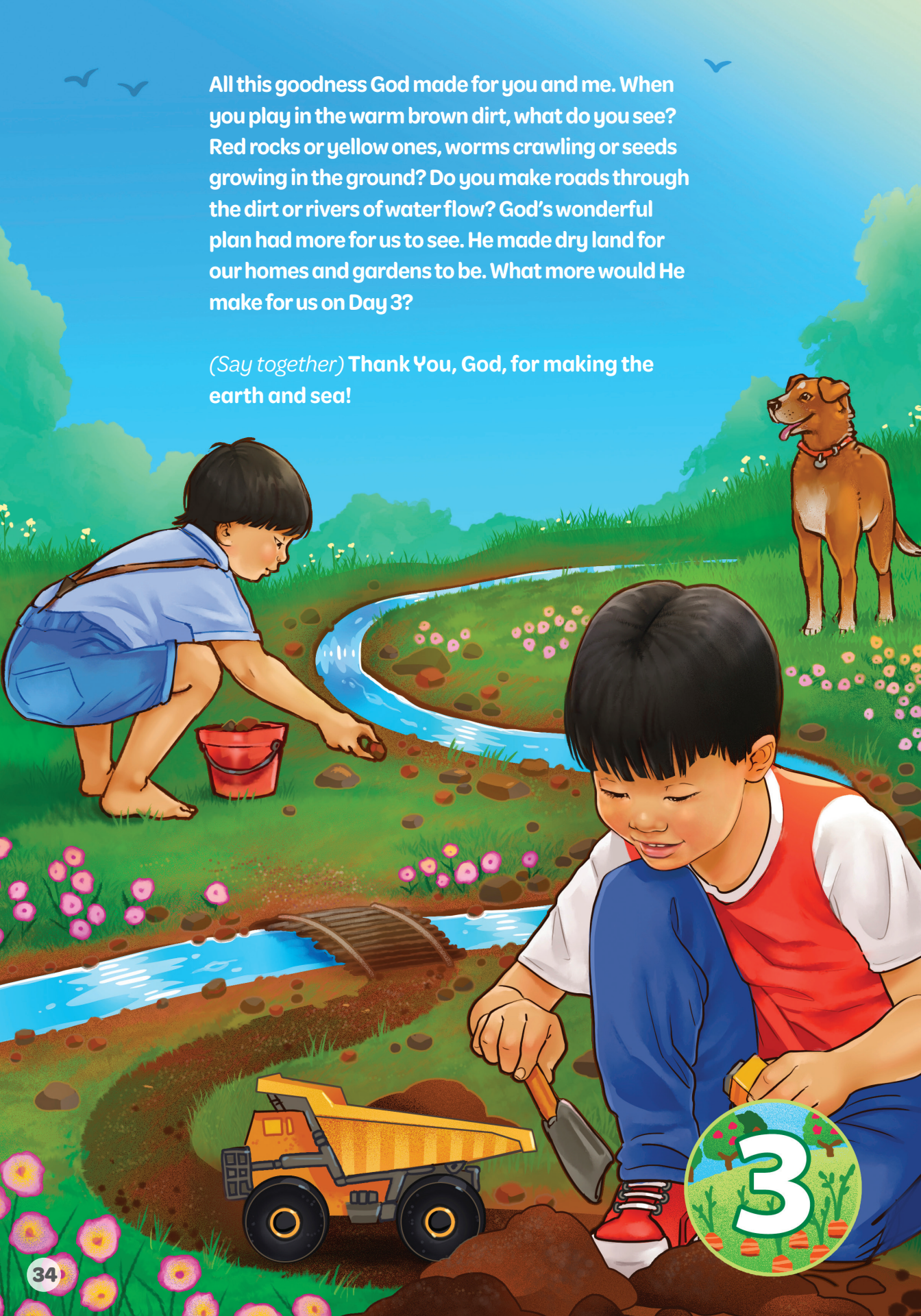
God's strong, kind voice echoed across the water. God told the water to move together and the dry land to appear. At His command the water rushed to one place *(move hands to one side),* **and the dirt and rocks pushed right up through the water!** *(Push hands up.)* **"God named the dry land 'earth.' He named the water . . . 'seas'" (Genesis 1:10, ICB).**



Rolling hills of deep brown dirt could be seen. Colorful rocks sparkled on the ground. Water bubbled *(make a rolling motion with hands)* **up from the earth and became gentle streams and roaring rivers that joined the big sea. God saw** *(hand above eyes; look about)* **all that He had made, and it was good.**

All this goodness God made for you and me. When you play in the warm brown dirt, what do you see? Red rocks or yellow ones, worms crawling or seeds growing in the ground? Do you make roads through the dirt or rivers of water flow? God's wonderful plan had more for us to see. He made dry land for our homes and gardens to be. What more would He make for us on Day 3?

(Say together) **Thank You, God, for making the earth and sea!**



play throughout the day

Create

Help your child create a Day 3 page in their Creation Book. Create a backdrop of land and water. Use colored cardstock to cut out the shape of hills. Cut out a few, using different colored cardstock, and then glue these on top of each other to form a backdrop of many mountains. Create a lake or pond in the foreground. You will add plants and trees to this page next week.

Build

Use kinetic sand or dirt for your child to discover more about God's creation. Provide them with a variety of items, such as river rocks, bark, small shovels, and tractors to design and create their own hills and valleys. If using dirt, add water to make ponds or rivers.

Discover

Go for a walk along a river or a beach and search for rocks or shells of different colors and shapes. Collect a pocketful to bring home and add these to your child's dirt play or garden collection. You can also hide some for them to find.

Explore

Go outside and learn about animals that live in the dirt. Take a small shovel and a magnifying glass to look for worms and bugs. Thank God for His wonderful creation, even the tiny things we don't see often!

Pray

Paint rocks to represent some of the things that God has created (you may want to paint one for each day of Creation as you teach your child about Creation week). Thank God for what He created each day. Find a place in your yard to create a prayer-and-praise path using your painted rocks, or share them with a neighbor or family member to remind them that God's creation tells us of His love.



Extension weekly memory verse: "And God saw that it was good" (Genesis 1:12).

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

For You, Parents

The water rushed to be within the boundaries God designed for it. Rivers and lakes flowed within their banks, the sea in its place. These boundaries would keep the water from overtaking the dry land, creating space where things would grow. God, in His infinite wisdom and creativity, crafted beautiful meandering rivers and oceans with the boundaries necessary to provide the balance needed between water and land.

Boundaries also offer the balance needed in raising a child of God. They give not only structure but also security for your child. When age-appropriate boundaries are established with love and grace, a child learns self-control, confidence, and self-worth. They discover how to respect others' needs as well as how to express their own. Children will search for where those boundaries are, so be clear and consistent. Just like a river that looks for the path of least resistance to flow, it is only natural for a child to test these limits. Give your child opportunities to make choices within the boundaries you create. When those boundaries are breached, gently and lovingly set your child back on a solid path. Pray for wisdom as you establish these grace-filled boundaries to meet the needs of your child. Delight in their growth as they find the path of joy through all that God lovingly created for them.

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

"Parents, in the training of your children, study the lessons that God has given in nature. . . . Ask the gardener by what process he makes every branch and leaf to flourish so beautifully, and to develop in symmetry and loveliness. . . . By gentle touches, by loving ministrations, seek to fashion their characters after the pattern of the character of Christ" (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages,* p. 516).