BIG IDEA: God made the plants and trees.

Week 5: Creation Day 3

God Made the *Plants*



This lesson is based on Genesis 1:11–13 and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 44-51, 90.



In the beginning, before there were apple trees or honeybees, there was God. God had been busy making a place for you and me. When Day 3 began *(hold up three fingers),* God moved the water to make dry land. He had made light on Day 1 *(hold up one finger)* and the sky on Day 2 *(hold up two fingers).* Still nothing grew, no gardens or flowers, cherry trees or seeds.



There was more to do on Day 3, so much more to be seen. A blue stream tumbled down the rolling hills of rich brown dirt. A quiet breeze rippled the water of the sparkling sea. The sky was bright and clear. What would God do next for you and me? *(Hold hands out as in a question.)*

God's strong, kind voice echoed over the hills. God spoke, and soft green grass began to grow. It pushed up through the dirt and covered the hillsides. Flowers burst *(closed hands together, then burst up and open)* **from the soil: purple pansies, yellow sunflowers, and white daisies filled the meadows. Apple and pear trees and strong oak trees pushed their way through the earth, reaching up toward the sky.**

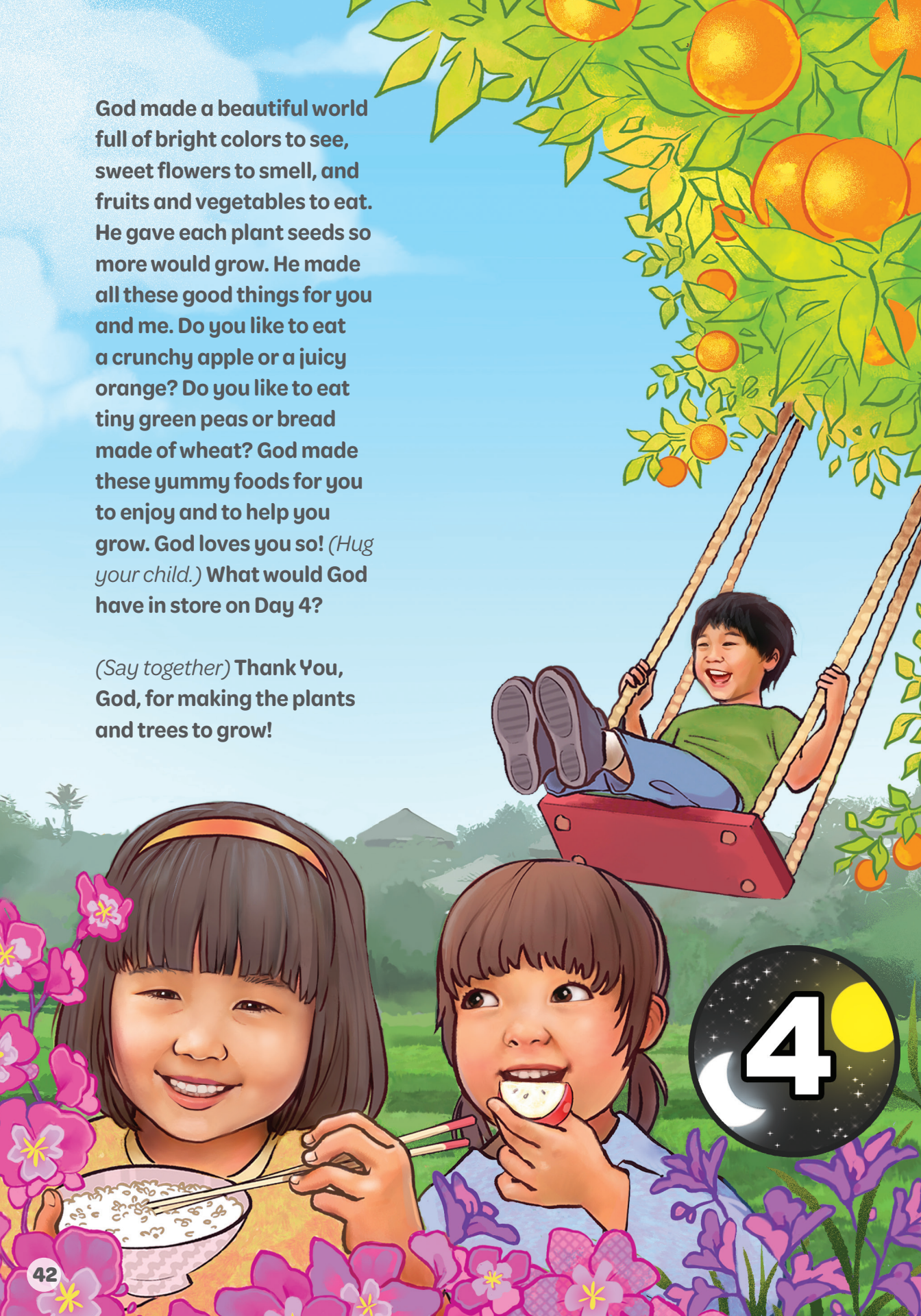




Trees stood tall with tasty red apples and sweet mangoes hanging in green leaves. Bananas and coconuts hung from branches in palm trees. Tall sunflowers nodded their heads in the breeze. Orange carrots with their bushy green tops pushed up through the dirt as the tidy rows of a garden began to appear. God saw *(hand above eyes; look about)* **all that He had made, and it was good.**

God made a beautiful world full of bright colors to see, sweet flowers to smell, and fruits and vegetables to eat. He gave each plant seeds so more would grow. He made all these good things for you and me. Do you like to eat a crunchy apple or a juicy orange? Do you like to eat tiny green peas or bread made of wheat? God made these yummy foods for you to enjoy and to help you grow. God loves you so! *(Hug your child.)* What would God have in store on Day 4?

(Say together) Thank You, God, for making the plants and trees to grow!



play throughout the day

Create

Continue to work on Day 3 of your child's Creation Book. Collect leaves, sticks, and flowers from outside (or cut out pictures) to create a collage on top of the mountains you made last week. Use strong glue to attach these to the paper. Create trees, bushes, grass, and flowers. Write at the bottom of the page, "*On Day 3 God made dry land, plants, and trees.*"

Connect

On Friday go and pick flowers together (or buy some from the store), ready for Sabbath. Ask your child to arrange them into two bunches, one for your table and one to share with a neighbor or friend. Thank God for the beautiful flowers He created.

Learn

Glue five stems of green paper strips onto heavy paper. At the top of each stem, glue a different colored paper muffin cup. Give your child items to sort (such as pom-poms or large buttons) into the matching-colored flower.

Explore

Take a walk to discover what God made on Day 3. Gather pinecones, flowers, leaves, and different grasses. Look at the details of life God created in each item you find—the seeds in a pinecone or sunflower, the pollen of a flower, and the veins of a leaf. Sort the items by color, shape, and size. Add them to a creative bin for your child to play with and add dirt to make their own garden.

Pray

Draw and cut out a simple five-petal flower. Write in the center, "Thank You, God." On each petal, write something you are thankful for. Complete a flower as often as you want this week and create a garden of thankfulness. Invite other family members to add their own flowers too.



Extension weekly memory verse: "Then God said, 'Let the earth bring forth grass . . . and the fruit tree' " (Genesis 1:11).

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

For You, Parents

The hillsides were bursting with new life. Buttercups and daisies dotted the rolling hills of green grass; bushes were loaded with sweet-smelling lilac blossoms. Tall, stately evergreen trees stood guard while groves of fruit trees hung heavy with sweet juicy peaches. The earth was clothed in fragrant beauty, and new life was growing abundantly.

We can see God's love and wisdom in His created works as we marvel at the grandeur of the Alps, the careful design of flowers, or the gentle flutter of a butterfly. How perfect and beautiful this world was before sin, with no dead leaves or thorns, no freezing winters or steaming hot summers. Take some time in your busyness to think about how God's original, perfect creation reflected His character. Talk to your child about this, too. All around us we can still see evidence of our mighty Creator God and His perfect character, but nature can no longer provide us with a perfect knowledge of God's love and will.

"God has bound our hearts to Him by unnumbered tokens in heaven and in earth. Through the things of nature, and the deepest and tenderest earthly ties that human hearts can know, He has sought to reveal Himself to us. Yet these but imperfectly represent His love" (Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ,* p. 10).

God is so good to have given us the Bible—a trustworthy and enduring revelation of His character, which tells us most clearly of His infinite love for us!

"And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him" (1 John 4:16).