



## Creation Recommendations

Lesson 4, Volume 2, *The Complete Guide to Godly Play*, Revised and Expanded

### The Material

#### The black underlay:

The black underlay, together with the language used about emptiness, could suggest that black people are empty or bad in some way. You can change the negativity around this by shifting the language.

The language in the published story is:

*In the beginning, there was nothing...except perhaps a big smile.*

We recommend saying:

*In the beginning there was nothing, but it was full of God and what was to come.*

If this does not feel like enough, you might consider changing your underlay to a deep blue, or a black felt with glitter. Either way, we recommend using the new language.

#### The cards:

The bright colors and clean lines in the original material are very binary and do not reflect the fluidity and interconnectedness of creation.

We recommend new visuals that have fewer stark lines. Godly Play Resources will provide this going forward. If you own one of the older versions, we recommend getting the digital download from Godly Play Resources (these are free) and using spray glue to put the new images on the wood plaques or laminating them. Print them out on 32-pound, 8.5 x 11 paper. Regular copy paper is not recommended.



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## The Seventh Card: The gift of a day to rest

The Sabbath card is white on one side, and plain wood on the other. To avoid suggesting that “white” is good (as opposed to black), we recommend using the plain wood side when you present the lesson. Godly Play Resources provides a plain wood card now.

## The Language

### Discussion of gifts at the beginning of the story:

The language in the published lesson is:

*What is the biggest present you ever got?*

This could set the circle of children up to compete with one another making some of the children feel left out. Think perhaps of the child who received a new bike, while another child does not own a bike. To avoid the suggestion that “big is better,” we recommend changing the question to:

*Have you ever received a gift? Which one was **your favorite** or was **the most important**?*

After the children share their memories of special gifts the language in the published lesson is:

*These are all big gifts.*

We recommend changing this to,

*These are all **wonderful** gifts. Did you know that there are some presents so wonderful that nobody notices them? They are so amazing that they are hard to see. They are so hard to see that the only way to know that they are there is to go clear back to the beginning, or maybe a little before the beginning.*

### Language describing the black underlay:

The language in the published story is:

*In the beginning, there was nothing...except perhaps a big smile.*

The black underlay, together with the language used about emptiness, could suggest that black people are empty or bad in some way. You can change the negativity around this by shifting the language. We recommend saying:



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*In the beginning...in the beginning there was... Well, in the beginning there wasn't very much. In the beginning there was...nothing, **but it was full of God and what was to come.***

### **The First Day: The gift of light**

The language in the published lesson is:

*When God saw the light, God said "It is good." And that was the end of the first day."*

This might suggest that the dark (or people who are dark) are bad.

We recommend changing this to:

*When God saw **the light and the dark**, God said "It is good." And that was the end of the first day.*

### **The Fourth Day: The gift of the sun, the moon, and the stars...a way to count our days.**

The language in the published lesson is:

*Here is the great light that rules the day- the sun, and here are the lights that rule the night-the moon and stars.*

To avoid imperialistic language, we recommend changing this to:

*Here is the great light that **guides** us during the day - the sun, and here are the lights that **guide** us at night - the moon and the stars.*

### **The Sixth Day: The gift of the people and animals who live on the earth**

The language in the published lesson is:

*On the sixth day, God gave us the gift of all the creatures that walk upon the earth... ..the creatures that walk with many legs, and the creatures that walk with two legs like you and me. That was the day when God put God's own image within us. When God saw the creatures that*

*walk with two legs and the creatures that walk with many legs and all the gifts of the other days, God said, "It is very good," and that was the end of the sixth day.*

This leaves out people who cannot walk or do not have two legs. We recommend changing the language to:



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*On the sixth day, God gave us the gift of all the creatures that **live on the earth**. The people and all the animals. That was the day God put God’s own image within us. When God saw all the creatures **that live on the earth** and all the gifts of the other days, God said, “It is very good,” and that was the end of the sixth day.*

### **The Seventh Day: The gift of a day to rest**

The language in the published lesson is:

*There is nothing here, because people go to different places to remember the great gifts. You can imagine something there to show your favorite place to remember. It might be in your backyard by a tree, in a church, or in your room. It might be in the mountains or by the ocean or a lake. I don’t know where your place is. Only you know.*

The mention of a backyard with a tree, the ocean, etc. could make children who do not have access to these things feel left out of the lesson. We suggest leaving those suggestions out and saying instead:

*There is nothing here, because people go to different places to remember the great gifts. You can imagine something there to show your favorite place to remember. I don’t know where your place it. Only you know.*

### **The Wondering**

To move away from the binary and linear nature of this lesson, we suggest adding the following wonderings:

*I wonder if these can be in a different shape? I wonder if there is another way we could arrange these cards?*