



# When God Made the World

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## Reading and Activity Guide

### BEFORE READING

- + Ask children if they have a favorite animal and why it is their favorite.
- + Ask children if they have a special spot somewhere outside that they like to be. Maybe they've only been there once. Maybe it's their own backyard or neighborhood park, or maybe it's a special spot their family travels to. Ask them to share why they like that outdoor spot, and how they feel when they're there.

### DURING READING

- + Ask children if they notice anything special about the way this book was written. *It's a rhyming book!* As they listen, have children (*silently*) try to predict the final word in the lines.
- + Some children may notice the animals in the story doing out of the ordinary things such as an orangutan mermaid! *Why do you think the illustrator drew some silly pictures?* Point out the last page of the book which reveals that the little boy in this story is **creating** with his imagination.

### AFTER READING

- + *What were some things that were created by God?*
- + *What was something mentioned in the story that was brand new to you? Geysers? Plateaus? Marshes?* You may want to have pictures of landforms or animals to share.

### Springboard Activities:

*There are so many wonderful activities you could do with this book! This book sparks curiosity to explore and learn about the world God has created. Through it all, we can highlight just how diversely and beautifully and wonderfully God made the world. There are so many different species of birds, spiders, fish, etc. that all build different homes and eat different foods. In the same way, God created humans with spectacular diversity as well, and that is something to embrace and celebrate.*

**Activity #1: Nature Study** - Learn about several different species of plants or spiders or sea creatures. Note how they are similar, but also different! Or, challenge yourself to identify bird calls and see if YOU can be a Bird Song Hero! Help students see that God created each spider and bird with its own special gift or talent. We each have our own special talents and gifts as well! When we notice someone's special gift, we should not be jealous of them, but celebrate what God has given them, and thank God for the gifts He's given us as well.

**Activity #2: Connecting with God in Nature** - Although the weather may be getting chillier, bundle up and head outside to just rest in God's beautiful creation. Notice the colorful leaves. Are any flowers still in bloom? Do you notice any insects crawling around? Find a spot to sit and take in the trees and sky.

*Remind children that just like God created each tree, leaf, and bug, God also created them! And, He created everyone else on the Earth - people we love like our friends and family..and also people who might be hard to love - people who are different from us or who annoy us. If God created them, and He loves them...how should WE treat them? Close with prayer: Thank God for creating such a beautiful world filled with unique plants and animals. Thank God for giving us friends and family. Ask God to fill our hearts with His love for everyone - even people who annoy us or seem different from us.*

