**God Created Living Things**

**Parent Script**

Ask the children where in the Bible we find the story of creation. Read Genesis 1:20-25.

On the fifth and sixth day of creation God created the animals. It’s amazing how many different kinds of animals God created!

God created huge animals like elephants and dinosaurs. Can you think of some other huge animals that God created? (Let your children give examples of huge animals.)

God made animals that run fast like horses and cheetahs. Can you think of some other animals that run fast? (Let your children give examples of fast animals.)

God made animals that move very slowly like turtles and sloths. Can you think of some other animals that move slowly? (Let your children give examples of animals that move slowly.)

God made animals that creep on the ground like lizards and snakes. Can you think of some other animals that creep on the ground? (Let your children give examples of animals that creep on the ground.)

God made some really great animals didn’t he? He also made some animals that we don’t really like to see around. Can anyone think of some animals that you wouldn’t want living in your backyard? Let the children come up with animals and ask them why they wouldn’t want them in their backyard. Some examples are: spiders, rattlesnakes, scorpions, mosquitoes, boa constrictor, wolf, grizzly bear, etc.

When God first created the animals they were not exactly like they are today. The animals did not kill and eat other animals. God made them so they could eat the green herbs. Genesis 1:30. They didn’t kill each other for food. After sin came into the world they changed. We have animals today that will kill other animals and people for their food. But God did not create them this way.

We sure wouldn’t want any of those animals living too close to us, would we? Sometimes these animals seem bad to us because they are scary, poisonous, or dangerous. Some of them have even been known to kill people. But the Bible tells us that all the animals God created are good. God had a plan for each animal and each animal is important. For example, rattlesnakes don’t seem like very good animals because they can bite and make you very sick. But rattlesnakes are also very good because they eat rodents such as mice and rats and other small animals that can carry diseases. If we didn’t have snakes, we would have a lot more rats and other rodents; and that could be a bad thing.

Nobody likes mosquitoes around because they bite and make you itch. But mosquitoes are good food for birds, and lizards, fish, and other animals.

So remember that everything God created is important. He created them for a reason. And maybe if we understand why they were created, we will learn to like them more.

Today we learned that God created the animals on the 5th and 6th day of creation, but next week we will learn that he created something even more special after he created the animals. See the God Made Me! lesson.