



SPf: Say Prayers frequently god's creation - day 2 - the sky

Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters, which were under the firmament from the waters, which were above the firmament; and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day. –Genesis 1:6-8

If you ever splashed in puddles after it rained, or sat near a lake and looked up at the clouds in the sky, then you have an idea of what God did on the second day of Creation.

In the Book of Genesis it says God separated the waters "above the firmament from the waters below the firmament." "Firmament" is another word for "sky." On the second day, God formed the sky! The waters "above" are in the clouds. The waters "below" are on the earth.

When we think of the sky we think of how far and high it reaches up, but we also live, move, and breathe in, the air that makes up the sky. Every Vespers Service in Church begins with Psalm 103. In it we hear "You stretch out the heavens like a tent." Our sky is like a huge, "see-through" tent. We can't see with our eyes where it begins and ends, but we see the light that comes through it and we breathe in the air inside of it.

In prayer time, read Psalm 103 as a remembrance of God's mighty work in creating our sky:

*"Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty, wrapped in light as with a garment. **You stretch out the heavens like a tent**, you set the beams of your chambers on the waters, **you make the clouds your chariot**, you ride on the wings of the wind..."*

- Psalm 103:1-3

Now read and discuss the following, adapting as needed depending on the age of your child(ren):

- **What did God separate, placing some of it “above” and some “below”?**
- **What does the word firmament mean? What makes up the firmament?**
- **When you think of how big the sky is and how far it stretches out, what might this teach us about God?**
- **What things do we learn through the different colors and clouds that form in the sky?**

dive in: honor god's creation

Look to the Sky

Go outside and see what the weather is like. Is it a cloudy day or are there blue skies? Summer time is a great time for cloud gazing. Lay on the ground and watch as different shaped clouds float by. Can you see any animal-shaped or people-shaped clouds? Play a game of “I see” with your family. Take turns sharing, for example, “I see a cloud that looks like a car, or...a tree,” or whatever it is you see! Your family can try to find the special cloud you are looking at.

Pitch a “sky” tent! Set up a tent in your yard and drape it with blankets that look like the colors you see in the sky. Hang paper cutouts of clouds inside from the top of the tent. Get inside and talk about how God “stretched out the heavens like a tent” at the beginning of His creation.

Honoring God's Creation: Less Is More!

Walk or ride bicycles instead of driving a car short distances, especially if you have safe bike paths or sidewalks to use. If you live in a larger city take a bus, subway/train instead of driving a car when you travel longer distances. This burns less fuel, which helps make the air cleaner.

Make your own rainwater catchers by cutting the top off of used plastic milk jugs. Paint them with whatever designs you like, leave them outside to catch rainwater. Then, use your rain catchers to help water vegetable and flower gardens. This will cut back how much you need to use from a hose.

Parents make a swap: replace cleaning chemicals and self-care aerosol products with natural cleaners, soaps, and self-care products. These are healthier for our lungs, skin, and everything in our environment. Many simple, gentler products are becoming available in stores and pharmacies. If your family is feeling inspired, you may even start making some of your own!

Vitamin d: Creating with God

Creating with God

Paper Plate Days of Creation Series: Sky Craft": <https://ithappensinablink.com/creation-day-2/>.

Calling All Artists & Scientists!

This activity uses Q-tips and watercolors to recreate the colors of the sky. There's also a science lesson for elementary aged students to learn more about the gases that cause the sky to look blue: <https://www.trueaimeducation.com/creation-story-for-kids-day-2/>.

Here's an easy DIY Rain Catcher Gage activity for budding meteorologists.

<https://www.goodmorningamerica.com/family/story/im-bored-crafty-activities-kids-57016434>

For parents interested in making their own gentler household cleaners, check out this informative website: <https://learn.eartheasy.com/guides/non-toxic-home-cleaning>.

