

2. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH NATURE

1. Show some beautiful pictures of animals, flowers, trees etc.

OR : Soundstrip : In the Beginning.

OR : Go to see something beautiful like a waterfall etc.
How do you feel when you see these things ?

What do they show us about God ?

(a life giving power in the world.
death and rebirth of flowers, seeds etc - life goes on.
provision of food for all creatures.
ecosystems where one species depends on another - order
and purpose in life)

Read Romans 1:20.

2. Discuss science, space, stars etc.
New knowledge shows us how immense the universe is, how little we know. What in nature makes you feel small, and unimportant?

Read Psalm 8:1,3-4.

3. Read Ps. 8: 5 - 8 and Genesis 1 : 26.

Talk about evolution. God did not create everything at one time, but slowly over a ~~long~~ period of time and it is not finished yet. God is still working changing, creating. Genesis 1 : 26 says we are "like God" in this. We work together with God to create new things and to care for the world. (in charge of animals and other creatures). Discuss the need to care for the environment, not to waste resources etc.

4. There are also destructive forces in nature, hurricanes, volcanoes, diseases.
Nature can show us something of God - his power, giving of life ; but we cannot find out the whole truth about God by looking only at the creation. We need other ways of knowing God personally in our lives, before we can discover his love and care and forgiveness, and what he wants us to do.
5. Activity. Write your own psalm of praise for creation.