



Creation and
Covenant

Branch 1

Y2 Teachers' Guide

Version 1: September 2026

This booklet is offered as a theological guide for teachers. Although the information provides some context for the whole branch, it will be most useful for teachers as they deliver the first few sessions and lessons within the branch.

Teachers' Guide: Y2 Creation and Covenant

Session 1	
Learning Focus	Know that the Christian Bible is made up of two parts and the first book in the Bible is Genesis.
Recall and Retrieval	What promises have we made?
Sequence of knowledge throughout the lesson	Know that we listen to stories about Jesus spreading God's good news in the New Testament but before that there are stories in the Old Testament where we learn about God and his love (Hebrew Scriptures). Know that Genesis is the first book in the Bible – that it has the creation story in it. Know the Old Testament has other stories in it especially about the great flood.
Key skills/disciplinary knowledge	U2.1.5. Know that the Christian Bible is split into two parts the Old Testament and the New Testament

Explain the structure of the Christian Bible including that it is split into two parts the Old Testament and the New Testament

The **Christian Bible** is the sacred scripture of Christianity and is divided into two main parts: the **Old Testament** and the **New Testament**. Each part has its own structure and significance in the Christian faith, containing different types of writings such as history, law, prophecy, poetry, and teachings.

The Old Testament

The Old Testament is the first section of the Bible and is largely shared with the Jewish faith, where it is known as the Hebrew Scriptures. It contains 39 books in most Protestant Bibles, while Catholic Bibles include additional books, bringing the total to 46.

Focus: The Old Testament primarily covers the history of God's relationship with the people of Israel, His covenant with them, and His laws. It anticipates the coming of the Messiah (Savior), who Christians believe is fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Sections of the Old Testament:

- The Pentateuch/Torah (first five books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy) - These are the books of the Law, including the creation story, the story of Israel's ancestors (like Abraham, Moses), and the laws given to them by God.
- Historical Books – These narrate the history of Israel, including their kings, wars, and exile (e.g., Joshua, Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings).
- Wisdom and Poetry Books – These contain poems, proverbs, and reflections on life and God's relationship with humanity (e.g., Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job).
- Prophets – These books contain the writings of prophets who spoke God's messages to the people, often calling for repentance and foretelling future events (e.g., Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the twelve minor prophets).
- Catholic Additions (Deuterocanonical Books): The Catholic Bible includes books such as Tobit, Judith, Wisdom, Sirach, Baruch, and 1 & 2 Maccabees, which are not part of the Protestant Old Testament. These are referred to as **deuterocanonical** books.

1. The New Testament

The New Testament focuses on the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the early Christian Church. It contains 27 books that are central to Christian faith and practice.

Focus: The New Testament is centered on the fulfilment of the promises made in the Old Testament through the coming of Jesus Christ, the establishment of the Church, and the spread of the Gospel (Good News).

Sections of the New Testament:

- The Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) – These four books give accounts of the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Each Gospel presents a unique perspective on Jesus' life and message.
- Acts of the Apostles – This book, written by the same author as the Gospel of Luke, describes the early history of the Christian Church, focusing on the works of the apostles, especially Peter and Paul, after Jesus' ascension.
- The Epistles (Letters) – These are letters written by early Christian leaders, especially the apostle Paul, to various churches and individuals, providing guidance on theology, Christian living, and church organization (e.g., Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, etc.).
- The Book of Revelation – The final book of the Bible, often seen as prophetic, it contains symbolic visions and messages concerning the end times and the ultimate triumph of good over evil.

2. The Relationship Between the Old and New Testaments

- **Old Testament:** Lays the foundation of God's covenant with humanity, the Law, and the prophets. It also contains prophecies and promises regarding the coming of a Messiah, which Christians believe are fulfilled in Jesus Christ.
- **New Testament:** Presents Jesus Christ as the fulfilment of the Old Testament promises. It describes the establishment of a **new covenant** through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, and the spread of the Christian faith.

3. Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant Bibles

- **Protestant Bible:** Consists of 66 books (39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament).
- **Catholic Bible:** Includes 73 books (46 in the Old Testament, including the deuterocanonical books, and 27 in the New Testament).
- **Orthodox Bible:** Contains even more books in the Old Testament, as the Orthodox Church includes additional writings not found in the Catholic or Protestant Bibles.

Summary:

The **Christian Bible** is divided into two parts:

- The Old Testament, which recounts the history and covenant between God and Israel, including laws, prophecies, and wisdom.
- The New Testament, which focuses on the life of Jesus Christ, the establishment of the Church, and teachings on Christian faith and practice.

These two parts together form the foundation of Christian belief, with the Old Testament anticipating the coming of the Messiah and the New Testament revealing His arrival and significance in the person of Jesus Christ.

Session 2	
Learning Focus	Know that God's creation is a gift to us and that we should be stewards of God's creation in our local community.
Recall and Retrieval	Creation Story from year 1 2024 Pupils will not have covered this – added in for 2024 review after teaching)
Sequence of knowledge throughout the lesson	Know that God created the world as a gift to humanity. Know that we are called to be stewards of God's creation. Know how we should show stewardship to others. Know how a community in another part of the world cares for Creation.
Key skills/disciplinary knowledge	U2.1.3. Understand the term 'stewardship and what it means for caring for God's world R2.1.1. Considering what they could do to care for God's world in their own lives and in the life of their local community.

Explain the term 'stewardship and what it means for caring for God's world

Stewardship in a Christian context refers to the **responsibility** that humans have to **care for and manage the world** that God has created. The term is rooted in the belief that the earth and everything in it belong to God, and humans are entrusted to look after it on His behalf.

What Stewardship Means:

1. Caretakers, Not Owners:

- Stewardship emphasizes that humans are not the ultimate owners of the earth; instead, they are caretakers or managers. The world belongs to God, and humans are tasked with using its resources wisely and preserving its beauty and integrity for future generations.

2. Responsibility to Protect and Preserve:

- Stewardship calls for **protecting** the environment, animals, and natural resources. It means that people should avoid waste, pollution, and exploitation of the earth's resources. Caring for God's creation means living sustainably and ensuring that the environment can continue to provide for all living beings.

3. Caring for Creation as an Act of Worship:

- Caring for the world is seen as a way of honouring God. When humans act responsibly toward the earth, they show respect for God's creation and acknowledge the gift of life and the resources He provides.

Stewardship and Caring for God's World:

1. Environmental Conservation:

- Stewardship means actively working to preserve the environment by reducing pollution, conserving water, protecting forests, and preventing climate change. This reflects the responsibility to protect the natural world for future generations.

2. Sustainable Living:

- Living sustainably by reducing waste, using resources like energy and water efficiently, and minimizing harm to the environment aligns with the idea of stewardship. It encourages people to be mindful of their consumption and how their actions impact the planet.

3. Respect for All Life:

- Stewardship also involves caring for all living creatures. This means protecting endangered species, treating animals humanely, and ensuring that all of creation is respected and valued.

4. Social Justice and Stewardship:

- Stewardship isn't only about environmental care but also about social justice. Ensuring that all people, especially the poor and marginalized, have access to clean air, water, food, and a healthy environment is a part of stewarding God's world.

Conclusion

In summary, **stewardship** is about recognizing that the earth is a gift from God, and humans have a responsibility to care for it wisely. It involves **protecting the environment**, living sustainably, and ensuring that all people and creatures can thrive in God's creation. Stewardship reflects an attitude of **respect, responsibility, and gratitude** toward the world we have been entrusted with.

Make suggestions what Year 2 children could do to care for God's world in their own lives and in the life of their local community.

Here are some simple and practical suggestions that **Year 2 children** can do to care for God's world, both in their personal lives and in their local community:

In Their Own Lives:

1. Save Water:

- Turn off the tap when brushing teeth or washing hands.
- Use water wisely and remind others to do the same.

2. Turn Off Lights:

- Switch off lights when leaving a room to save energy.
- Encourage family members to reduce energy use.

3. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle:

- Use less plastic by bringing reusable water bottles and lunch containers to school.
- Learn how to recycle properly and help sort recyclable items at home (e.g., paper, plastics, cans).

4. Take Care of Plants:

- Help water plants or start a small garden at home.
- Understand that plants are part of God's creation and need care to grow.

5. Pick Up Litter:

- Keep personal spaces clean by putting trash in the bin.
- Make sure no litter is left behind in the schoolyard or at home.

6. Be Kind to Animals:

- Treat pets and all animals gently and with respect.
- Avoid disturbing wildlife, such as birds or insects, when playing outside.

In Their Local Community:

1. Join a Litter Cleanup:

- Organize or participate in a community or park cleanup with family or school friends.
- Bring gloves and trash bags to help clean up local spaces and keep them beautiful.

2. Plant Trees or Flowers:

- Get involved in planting flowers, trees, or vegetables in the school garden or local park.
- Encourage the school to create a small nature or butterfly garden to help care for local wildlife.

3. Walk or Bike Instead of Driving:

- When possible, walk or ride a bike to school or the park instead of using the car.
- Learn how walking helps reduce pollution and keeps the air clean.

4. Create Art from Recycled Materials:

- Make fun art projects using recycled materials, like bottle caps, cardboard, or newspapers.
- Use these art pieces to remind others about the importance of recycling.

5. Share with Friends and Neighbours:

- Donate unused toys, clothes, or books to local charities or families in need.
- Learn the importance of sharing and giving to help take care of others in the community.

6. Talk About Caring for Creation:

- Encourage discussions with classmates, friends, or family members about caring for God's world.
- Help teach others how to make small changes to protect the environment, like reducing waste or saving energy.

Conclusion

These simple actions help children **learn the value of stewardship** and taking care of God's creation. By practicing these habits, Year 2 children can make a positive impact on their environment and local community while developing a sense of responsibility and care for the world around them.

Session 3	
Learning Focus	Retell in any form the Noah story.
Recall and Retrieval	What is stewardship? How can we show stewardship to others?
Sequence of knowledge throughout the lesson	Know that in Noah's time people were not showing stewardship. Know that people were sinning. Know that a sin is something that we do against God's wishes. Know that Noah was showing stewardship, and God decided to open a path to salvation. God gave humanity another chance. It only takes one good person and there is hope! Know and retell the story up to chapter 8. Flood waters go down.
Key skills/disciplinary knowledge	U 2.1.1. Retell in any form the Noah story (Genesis 6:9-9:17), focusing on Noah and God's promise to all living creatures in the sign of the rainbow (Gen 9:8-17).

Retell the Noah story (Genesis 6:9-9:17), focusing on Noah and God's promise to all living creatures in the sign of the rainbow (Gen 9:8-17). Explain how it links to teachings on stewardship.

Retelling the Noah Story (Genesis 6:9-9:17)

Once upon a time, in a world where people had forgotten about God and were doing wicked things, there was a man named **Noah** who was different. Noah was righteous and followed God's ways. Because of the wickedness on the earth, God decided to cleanse the world with a great flood, but He chose to save Noah and his family, along with pairs of every kind of animal.

God told Noah to **build an ark**, a huge boat, and to bring his family and animals aboard to keep them safe during the flood. Noah obeyed God, and after the ark was built, he gathered his family and animals, as God instructed. Soon, it began to rain. It rained for **40 days and 40 nights**, and the floodwaters covered the earth. Everything outside the ark perished, but Noah, his family, and the animals were safe inside the ark.

After many days, the waters began to recede. Noah sent out a **dove**, and when it returned with an olive leaf, Noah knew that the waters were going down and that new life was returning to the earth. When the land was dry again, Noah and all the creatures came out of the ark.

God's Promise and the Sign of the Rainbow (Genesis 9:8-17)

After the flood, God made a special promise, or **covenant**, to Noah and all living creatures. God said, "I will never again destroy the earth with a flood." To show His promise, God set a **rainbow** in the sky, saying, "This is the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. Whenever you see the rainbow, remember My promise to never flood the whole earth again."

God's covenant wasn't just for Noah but for **all living creatures** - for animals and future generations of people. The rainbow became a symbol of God's faithfulness and care for the world He had created.

Link to Stewardship

The story of Noah and the **covenant of the rainbow** teaches Christians about **stewardship**, which is the responsibility to care for God's creation.

1. God Values All Creation:

- In the story, God shows His care for not only Noah and his family but also the **animals**. This reminds us that all creatures are important to God, and humans have a responsibility to care for them.
- The **rainbow** symbolizes God's ongoing care for the earth and all living beings, showing that He wants His creation to thrive.

2. Human Responsibility:

- Just as Noah was tasked with protecting the animals and ensuring their survival, humans today are called to **protect and care for the environment**. This includes taking care of the plants, animals, air, water, and land that God has entrusted to us.
- Stewardship means that, like Noah, people should act as **caretakers** of the earth, ensuring it is preserved and respected for future generations.

3. Covenant of Care:

- God's covenant with Noah reminds us that we have a **relationship with creation**. Just as God promised to protect the earth, humans should also make a promise to be good stewards of the environment, avoiding destruction and living sustainably.

Conclusion

The **Noah story** and the **rainbow covenant** teach that God cares deeply for all living creatures and the earth. In return, humans are called to practice **stewardship** by protecting the world around them, caring for animals, and preserving the environment so that it remains healthy for future generations, reflecting the care that God shows in His promise.

Session 4	
Learning Focus	Know the story of Noah focusing on God's covenant (promise) with Noah and all living beings in the sign of the rainbow.
Recall and Retrieval	What does promise mean? What promises did we make?
Sequence of knowledge throughout the lesson	Know and retell the story in any form. Know that God made a covenant a promise to Noah. Know that a rainbow is the reminder of this promise.
Key skills/disciplinary knowledge	U 2.1.1. Retell in any form the Noah story (Genesis 6:9-9:17), focusing on Noah and God's promise to all living creatures in the sign of the rainbow (Gen 9:8-17).

Retell the Noah story (Genesis 6:9-9:17): SEE SESSION 3 NOTES, AS ABOVE.