



MODULE 1: WATER STORIES



illustrated
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



WELCOME TO AN ILLUSTRATED EARTH: CELEBRATING GOD'S CREATION

Thank you for your purchase of *An Illustrated Earth: Celebrating God's Creation*. We are excited about this new curriculum, and the opportunities it will provide for churches to spend time reflecting on Bible stories that celebrate various aspects of God's creation.

This curriculum is incredibly flexible and has the capacity to be able to be used in a variety of different ways. Here at Illustrated Children's Ministry, we imagine the lessons and coloring pages could be used as a Sunday School curriculum, as a component in your summer Vacation Bible School program, as a mid-week intergenerational program or as a curriculum for a family ministry gathering at your church. In whatever way *An Illustrated Earth: Celebrating God's Creation* meets your ministry needs, we hope it's a blessing to all who encounter it, offering you and those you serve opportunities to connect with each other and with God and reflect on the wonderful diversity and beauty of God's creation.

STRUCTURE OF LESSONS

This is a curriculum that focuses primarily around a particular biblical story for the week, and all of the components of the lessons point back to that biblical story. Our goal is to offer you a low-prep to no-prep curriculum that can easily be led by anyone in your congregation. We don't have a supplies list (other than photocopies if you need to make them and crayons/markers/colored pencils for coloring). In hopes of minimizing your work load, we have intentionally designed *An Illustrated Earth* in such a way that it requires little background material and reading prior to presenting the lesson.

What emerges is a simple but meaningful lesson focused around hearing a biblical story, reflecting on it with open questions and discussion and a chance to create a piece of art based on the story.

Gathering: Since much of the lesson is focused on listening, discussing and coloring, this gathering time gives you a chance to lead an activity that might be more active. We provide you with a sample gathering activity, but you are welcome to come up with your own that suits the children's needs and temperaments in your ministry. Though this doesn't need to be overly involved, it's a good opportunity for movement and for the children to introduce themselves if that is necessary in your context.

Story Time: This is the time set aside for becoming familiar with the biblical story for that week. There are a variety of ways you can introduce the kids to the story. First, we have provided you with a paraphrase of the passage that has been written specifically for children. Second, we provide you with that same paraphrase broken up into a script. If you have some older children in your group, this would be a great opportunity to allow them to stand up and act out the story. Depending on the story, you may choose to have some of the younger children act out the story while it's narrated and directed by the older children or teachers. Finally, we have created Illustrated Story Cards for each lesson. These story cards each have a very simple line drawing that depicts one part of the story. The goal is to offer children the opportunity to put their cards in the proper sequence, matching the illustrations with the story in scripture they've just heard.

Imagining Together: This is not so much a time to make sure they got the information or facts of the story, but rather, an opportunity for the children to share what stood out to them and what they imagined when they listened to the story. Depending on the time you have set aside for this lesson time, you may choose to do this portion while coloring the poster or sheets, or you may want to spend a little time imagining with the children first, and then move over to the poster.

Coloring: If you purchased our Illustrated Earth Coloring Posters, you will have a poster that corresponds with each lesson. Each poster has a word, phrase or portion of the biblical passage incorporated into the design.

Coloring is an opportunity to continue talking about the story, while asking questions and seeing where the conversation takes you. Because many of the story's elements are integrated into the coloring design, it may be fun to encourage the children to search out as many symbols as they can that communicate an aspect of the story.

If you didn't purchase the large coloring posters, you can use this as time for individual coloring with the included coloring sheets. We have provided you with both the design of the poster, and a simplified coloring sheet for your younger children.

Closing Prayer: Whether you simply read the prayer, or have the children repeat after you - use this as a chance to "close" your time together as you wait for parents to come pick up their children. As you approach the end of your time together, this is a great short ritual to do with the children; it creates a sense of community and preparation as they enter back into the world.

Illustrated Earth Sign: Finally, we have included an Illustrated Earth Sign that you can print out (preferably on card stock or a thicker paper) and give to the children in your class on the first Sunday that you teach *An Illustrated Earth*. These signs are for the children and their families to take with them wherever they will be celebrating God's creation. The sign can be personalized, and we encourage children and their families to have fun with this. They can write their own names on the sign, or your church's name (if you want to begin a church-wide campaign). Your church and children will be joining a large online community of folks who have used our *An Illustrated Earth* curriculum: hundreds of families and churches across the world have used this curriculum. We encourage everyone to share their photos on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and be sure to use the hashtag #anillustratedearth. You can check the hashtag online, and see where the global body of Christ is celebrating God's beautiful creation.

An Illustrated Earth: Celebrating God's Creation is a new resource, and the first curriculum that Illustrated Children's Ministry has published. As is the case with all of our products and resources, we would love to hear from you about what was helpful and meaningful and what suggestions or comments you have for us about the materials. We want to create quality resources for children in the church, so we appreciate your comments and feedback.

You can reach us at hello@illustratedchildrensministry.com or find us on the following social networks:

Facebook: facebook.com/illustratedCM

Pinterest: pinterest.com/illustratedCM

Twitter: twitter.com/illustratedCM

Instagram: instagram.com/illustratedCM

We also love to see photos and hear stories about how you are using our materials. When you are posting photos or comments online about *An Illustrated Earth: Celebrating God's Creation*, please be sure to use the hashtag #anillustratedearth, so we can be part of the conversation and you can be part of our online community.

Blessings,

Illustrated Children's Ministry



SEPARATION OF THE WATER

Week 1: Genesis 1:6-10



GATHERING

Since much of the lesson is focused on listening, discussing and coloring, this gathering time gives you a chance to lead an activity that might be more active. We provide you with a sample gathering activity, but you are welcome to come up with your own that suits the children's needs and temperaments in your ministry.

The Wave

Line the children up in a single straight line (in chairs or standing shoulder to shoulder) and teach them to do the wave. The person on the end begins the wave by standing and raising their hands over their head. The child next to them does the same right afterward and so on.

You can have fun with different ways of doing this, e.g.: start the wave on both ends of the line at the same time, begin on one end and once it hits the end of the line have it go back the other way, have the kids jump when they raise their hands. If you have a large group, try having the kids line up in two lines facing each other, and experiment with the children doing the wave across from each other down the lines at the same time.

After doing this, ask the kids where they've seen waves. Talk with them about how fun playing in waves is and how amazing it is that God created them.

INTRODUCTION

Whether playing outside with siblings, participating in sports, going on vacations or just walking to school, children in your faith community spend a lot of time outdoors. This first lesson serves as a good reminder for your children and families to learn to be more and more aware of God's awesome creation around us all the time. By mere words God created and, having seen the creation, called it good.



STORY TIME

One of the goals of An Illustrated Earth is to help children become more familiar with some of these stories and to help increase biblical literacy. There are a variety of ways you can introduce the kids to the story. First, we have provided you with a paraphrase of the passage that has been written specifically for children.

Second, we provide you with that same paraphrase broken up into a script. If you have some older children in your group, this would be a great opportunity to allow them to stand up and narrate the story. Depending on the story, you may choose to have some of the younger children act out the story while it's narrated and directed by the older children or teachers.

Finally, we have created Illustrated Story Cards for each lesson. These story cards each have very simple line drawings that depict one part of the story. The goal is to offer children the opportunity to put the cards in the proper sequence, matching the illustrations with the story in scripture they've just heard.

GENESIS 1:6-10

On the second day God created the world, God said, "Let there be a covering that separates the waters." So God separated the waters below from those above. God called this covering Sky. There was morning and night the second day God created the world. Then God said, "Let all the water below the sky come together in one place so dry land appears." God called the land Earth and the water Sea. God saw how good it all was.



IMAGINING TOGETHER

After you've spent some time with the story, we encourage you to reflect with the children about the story and see what stood out to them. This is not so much a time to make sure they received the information or facts of the story, but rather, an opportunity for the children to share what stood out to them and what they imagined when they listened to the story. Depending on the time you have set aside for this lesson, you may choose to do this portion while coloring the poster or sheets, or you may want to spend a little time imagining with the children first, and then move on to the coloring.

We would encourage you to think about what questions make the most sense for your context, and certainly you can add to the list below—but here are a few questions that you could reflect on with the children:

- What do you love about water?
- Where's your favorite place to go with water?
- Why does God call the water good?
- What wouldn't be possible on Earth without water?



COLORING

If you purchased our Illustrated Earth Coloring Posters, you will have a poster that corresponds with each lesson. Each poster has a word, phrase or portion of the biblical passage incorporated into the design. Coloring is an opportunity to continue talking about the story, while asking questions and seeing where the conversation takes you. Because many of the story's elements are integrated into the coloring design, it may be fun to encourage the children to search out as many symbols as they can that communicate an aspect of the story. If you didn't purchase the posters, we have included 8.5x11 versions of those designs so each child can color their own individual coloring sheet.



CLOSING PRAYER

Whether you simply read the prayer, or have the children repeat after you - use this as a chance to “close” your time together as you wait for parents to come pick up their children. As you approach the end of your time together, this is a great short ritual to do with the children; it creates a sense of community and preparation as they enter back into the world.

God,
You are our Good Creator
All that you made is
awesome and beautiful.
As we use water today,
we will remember you
and give you thanks.
Amen.

SCRIPT: GENESIS 1:6-10

Reader 1: On the second day God created the world, God said, "Let there be a covering that separates the waters."

Reader 2: So God separated the waters below from those above.

Reader 1: God called this covering Sky.

Reader 2: There was morning and night the second day God created the world.

Reader 1: Then God said, "Let all the water below the sky come together so dry land appears."

Reader 2: God called the land Earth and the water Sea.

Reader 1: God saw how good it all was.

ILLUSTRATED STORY CARDS

On the following pages you will find the Illustrated Story Cards for Genesis 1:6-10.

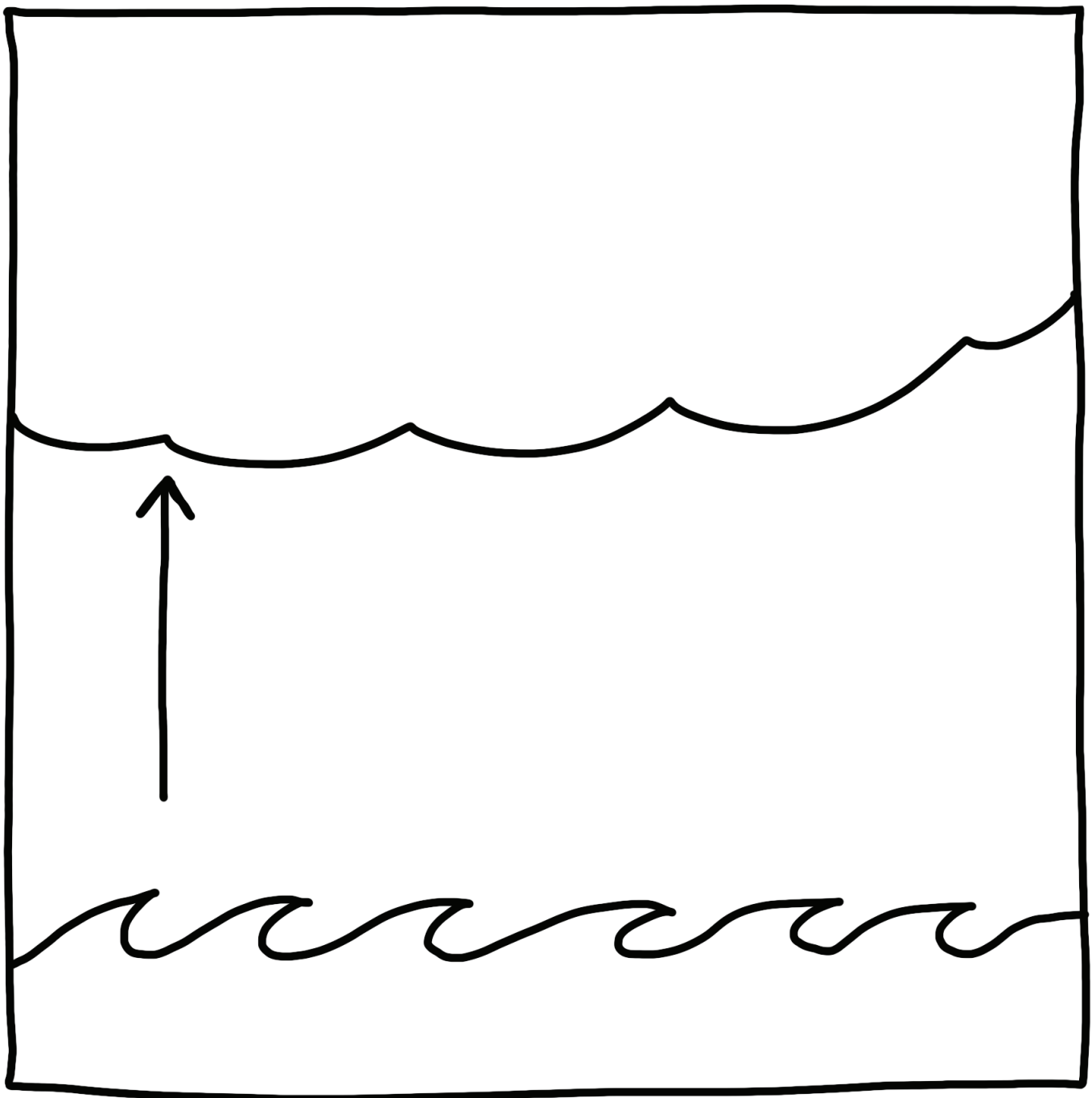
Print out the Illustrated Story Cards and have them ready for children to go through after you've read them the Bible story. You could print out a set for each child, or you could have the children get together in groups to put the story in the right order.

COLORING SHEETS

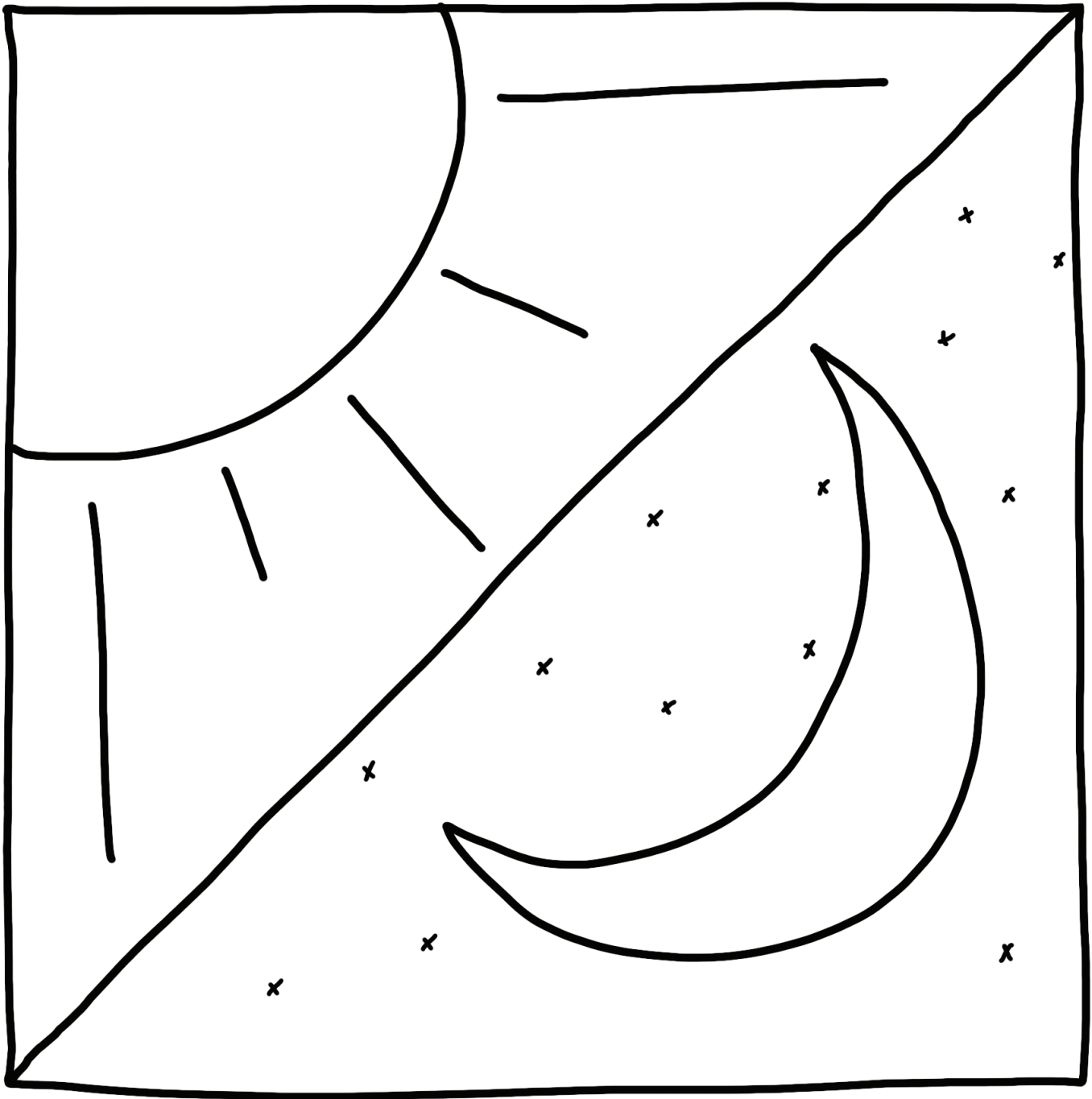
If you didn't purchase our large coloring posters, you can print out these coloring sheets to give to the children in your class. If you did purchase the coloring posters, you could still send kids home with this coloring sheet so they could color one of their own during the week after they've participated in this lesson of An Illustrated Earth. Or you may have parents asking if they could have a copy as well, so it wouldn't hurt to print out a few extras.

You will also notice that there are two versions of the coloring sheet. There is a detailed version which is the exact same design as the coloring posters, and then there is a simplified coloring sheet that includes the same general pieces of the illustration, but with less detail to color in. The simplified version of the coloring sheets would be great for the younger children you may be working with.

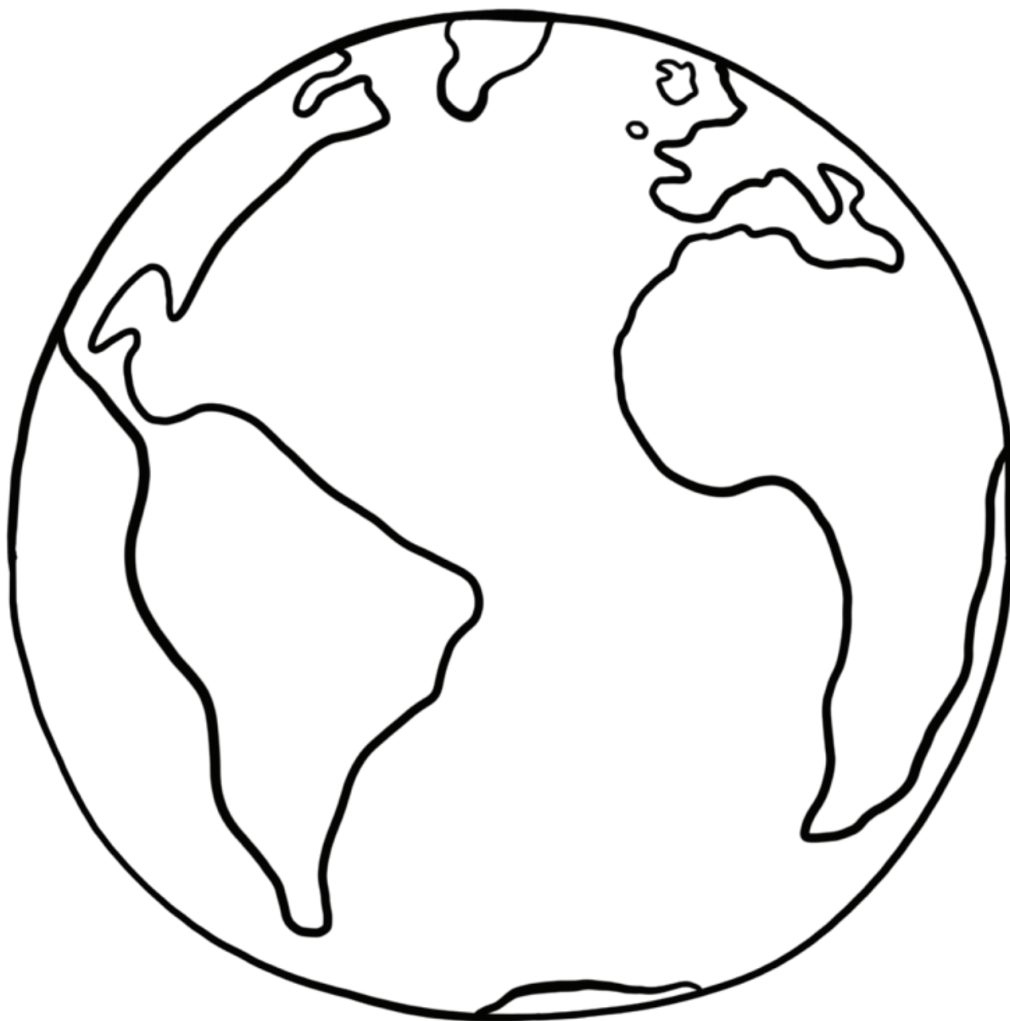
Happy coloring!



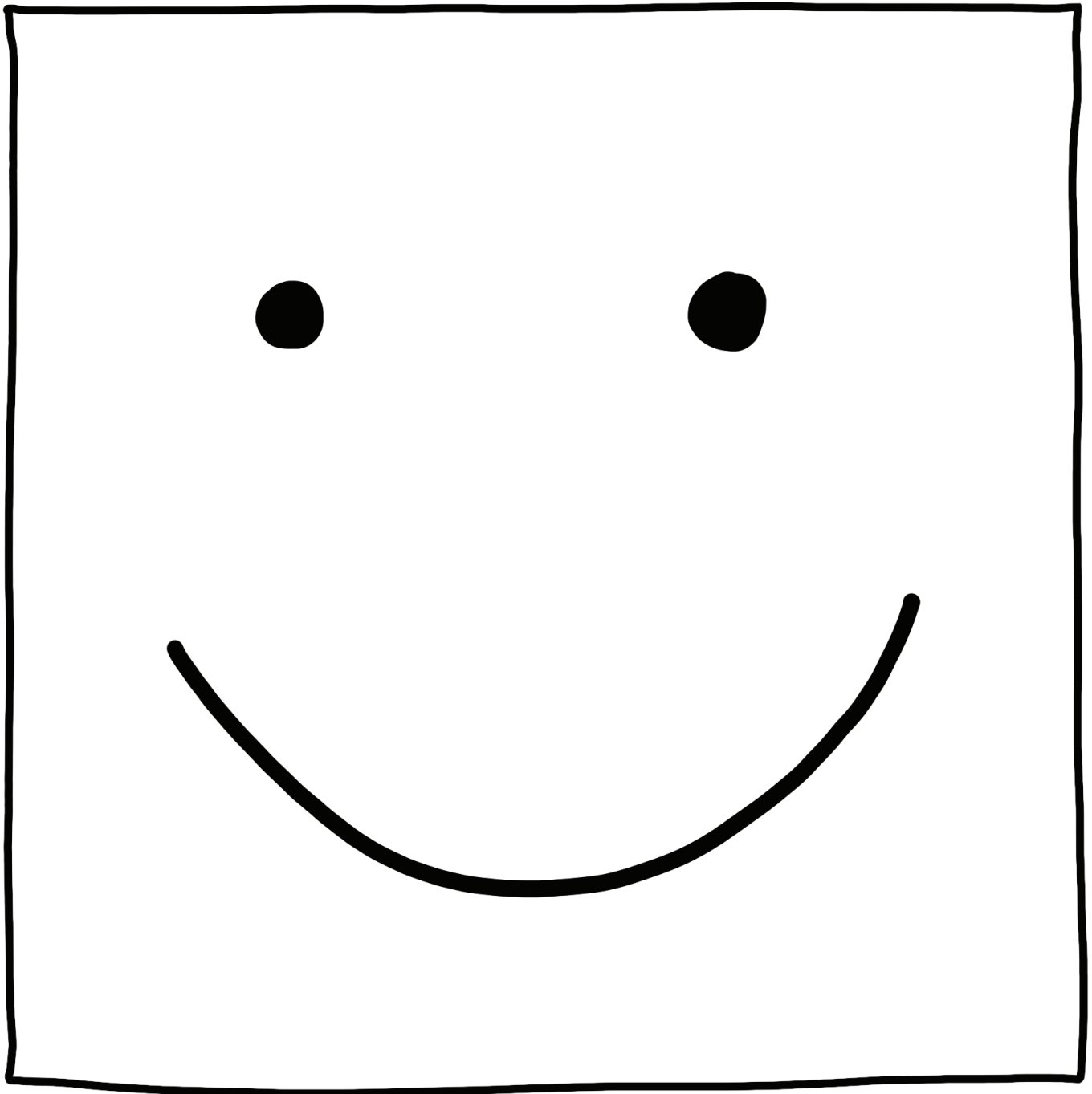
GOD MADE A COVERING FOR THE WATERS AND CALLED IT SKY.



THERE WAS MORNING AND NIGHT ON THE SECOND DAY GOD
CREATED THE WORLD.



GOD SEPARATED THE WATER AND LAND.



GOD WAS VERY HAPPY WITH HOW GOOD EVERYTHING WAS.

