

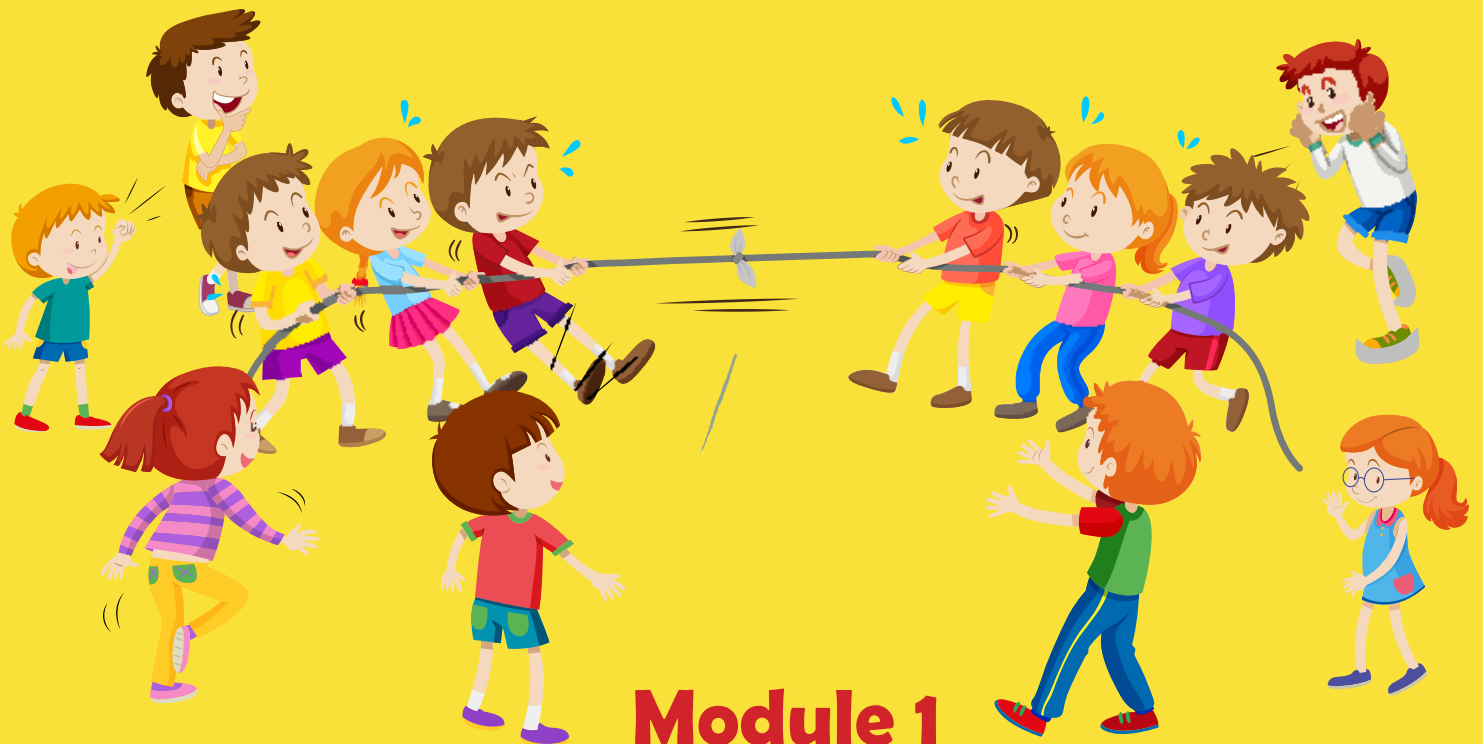
2022 "Union with God and Prayer" 2023

Today, I discovered Heaven



ATTACHMENT D

Proposals for the GEN4 meeting



Module 1



Today I discovered Heaven

Module n. 1

The Wonder of Creation: I am there too!
*God has thought of us from the beginning and
accompanies us from creation to
“new heavens and new earth”*



Proposals for the GEN4 meeting

For this stage we propose ideas for 3 meetings:

- **First meeting:** Indigo from Sacred Scripture - episode of Creation
- **Second meeting:** Chiara's answers on the existence of God
- **Third meeting:** an episode from Chiara's story. Chiara as a child in front of Jesus in the Eucharist

General guidelines for preparing a Gen 4 meeting

- **Inform the parents in good time of the date, time and place of the meeting.**
- **Ask them to confirm if their child/children will participate.**
- **Inform the parents what the children will need to bring with them, (e.g. outdoor clothing, colouring pencils, or an old shirt for painting, snack, etc.).**
- **Assess how many adult helpers you will need and check their availability.**
- **According to the laws of your country, make sure that all adult helpers have the necessary attention and up-to-date training in child protection.**
- **Prepare and send parents' 'authorisation' forms that they must fill out, sign and return to us. If it is expected that photos or videos will be taken, they should be asked for with specific wording.**
- **For emergencies, have the phone numbers of all parents of children attending the meeting.**
- **Be aware of any medical needs of children attending the meeting such as medication inhalers, epi-pens etc. This should be entrusted to a responsible adult, kept in a safe place and returned to the parent at the end of the meeting.**
- **Any food or other allergies should be known to be safe.**

Meeting place

- **Our responsibility is to provide a safe environment for children participating in our activities. Make sure you know the venue well and check the toilets, fire exits, electrical outlets etc.**
- **Children are very sensitive to the harmony of the environment, so make the place welcoming and attractive.**



First Meeting

Indigo Content

- Episode of Creation presentation and pathway “From Creation to New Heavens and New Earths”: I’m there too.
- Related experiences on thanking God for all He has given us, on creation that brings us closer to Him....

1) Welcome the gen4

- The initial welcome is very important for the child, whether he/she comes for the first time or regularly. Have some simple activities ready that can be undertaken straight away: draw, colour, or play with lego bricks.
- One assistant can accompany the child while another talks to the parent, exchanging any useful information while the child is at the meeting.
- If a child is very shy or frightened, the parent may stay for a short time until the child has settled into the group.
- if appropriate, a Gen4 can be a “buddy friend” with the newcomer by playing with him/her.
- When everyone has arrived, get together for a song or dance and have fun!

2) Suggested Guidelines

- Prepare or show some pictures that were used in the previous meeting.
- Ask open questions to the children who were present. This will give the new children an idea of how things are done.
- If a PowerPoint or some short videos were shown in a previous meeting, it might be a good idea to show some of them again.
- It is good for everyone to refresh their memories and summarize what they remember. By asking questions, you will find out how much they have been able to understand!
- Children never seem to mind seeing something a second time. Then proceed with the theme of the day’s meeting.



3) Theme of the meeting

- Children love stories and have very good imaginations.
- An idea to welcome Gen 4 and make a nice introduction to this theme, 'The Wonder of Creation' could be:

Option 1

- Take them on a journey through space in a rocket. Explore the vast galaxy and then fly around the earth exploring the beauty of the world. This can be done with a video clip and they can see the wonderful creation or make a paper aeroplane (for countries without Internet access). Narrating through paper pictures the creation, the wonders of God (a beautiful story so that they can imagine it).
- After their journey, they land on earth and we can ask them these questions (after watching the video clip, or having been in the plane/paper rocket):
 - Who do you think created this beauty?
 - How did it all come about?
 - If the children have no religious beliefs, accept what they have to offer.
Discussion together will open their minds.

Option 2

- Take a little trip to a nice garden, nearby woods, a park or wherever there is beautiful nature.
- Encourage them to observe the nature around them. Take note of the things they like best.
- After the little walk, some questions can be asked
 - Did you like what you saw in the park?
 - What did you like most and why?
 - Who do you think created this beauty?
 - How did it all come about?
 - If the children have no religious beliefs, accept what they have to offer.
Discussion together will open their minds.

After option 1 or 2, you can proceed:

- Give them the theme of the gen 4 centre. (The Creation episode).



- **At the end of their program, they can say a prayer together to thank God for creating them (or they can go to a nearby church or chapel to pray, if there is one).**
- **For children who have no religious beliefs, they can make a card to thank someone they love who helped them see such a beautiful world.**

Let's do something together

Some ideas to choose from:

- **Invite children to draw their favourite plant, something from nature.**
- **Create a paper bag and collect items from nature.**
- **Make a bird feeder, muesli with peanut butter and rub on cardboard roll (example toilet paper roll) and hang it on the trees for the birds.**
- **Make a large creation drawing (or print the poster attached 1) and put the picture of each gen 4 on the drawing or poster (meaning that in this Great Creation: I am also there and part of it).**
- **Visit a nearby church or chapel (if there is one) to pray together and thank God for such a wonderful creation, a beautiful common home for all and for creating us.**
- **Master Peace-Ecology (see gen4 site)**

Let's stay connected

- **As an activity, they can build paper airplanes or rockets to take home. We can encourage them to take them to space/ and around the world with their parents, siblings and friends and they can meet/ share God's creation or when parents come to pick them up, do a little show to tell what was done. Children telling someone else will reinforce, better absorb the concept/theme.**
- **If there is a possibility, agree with parents, to invite gen4 to put in the WhatsApp or Messenger group, a photo of what they do during the week to take care of the creation: taking care of the plants, the park, throwing garbage in the designated places, etc. or on an agreed activity.**

Additional ideas to enrich the topic

- **A song in English: changing the lyrics of the song, "The wheels on the bus go round and round" to the plane/rocket instead: such as "The engine of the rocket goes zoom, zoom, zoom or the engine of the**



plane goes wish, wish, wish. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_04ZrNroTo

● Another song in English: Whole Wide World (the lyrics are about the creation, that God made the world and made me). Taken from Crossroads Kids' Club.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1X_eAq5-e8HV7pdIUZKK_1ybtOd4rVsZ1/view?usp=share_link

Second meeting

Indigo Content

– Answers of Chiara

1) Welcome the gen4

● See the ideas under the first meeting.

● Or you can certainly do other creative ways of welcoming gen4, which can also be related to the topic of the day.

2) Suggested Ideas

Activity: God is Everywhere

“Hide and Seek” and “Hot or Cold” are probably familiar games to most of you, but they can provide new opportunities to open children’s eyes to the incredible reality that God is everywhere! Play one or both games and then, during snack time, use the discussion questions to begin this new adventure!

● **Preparation:** Make your favourite snack for after the game. Play one of the following games and then talk about it while you enjoy your food!

● **Play “Hide and Seek.”** This can be fun at any age. Play a few times until everyone has a chance to participate and then take the opportunity to ask questions during “snack time”.

● **“Hot and Cold.”**

Choose an object to hide in the house. (The size may vary depending on how difficult we want to make the game. A larger item will be easier to find than a smaller item.) One person is the “hider,” one person is the “finder,” and one person is the “timer.”



The “finder” leaves the room while the “hider” hides the chosen item somewhere in the room. Everyone else in the room knows where the object is. The “seeker” returns to the room and looks for the object. Everyone can give hints by saying “Cold” when the “finder” is far from the object, “Warm” when it is close, and “Hot” when it is very close. The “timer” calculates the time it takes the “seeker” to find the object. Take turns until everyone has had a chance to be the “finder.” The person who finds the object in the shortest time wins.

3) **Snack Time!**

- Gather around your favourite snack and ask the following questions:

- Who was the best “hider”?
- What is the key to being a good “hider”? (Find a place you think no one knows about.)
- If you played “Hiding” or “Hot or Cold” with God, who would win every time? (God) Why (There is no place we can hide where God is not already there).
- Who was the best “seeker”?
- What is the key to being a good “seeker”?
- If you played the game “Hot and Cold”: how did you feel when you were not the “hider” or the “seeker” and had to be quiet while the “seeker” was searching?
- Was it frustrating to see the “seeker” approach the object but not be able to find it?
- In your opinion, how might God feel when He sees us looking for help, love, friendship or strength and He is right there, ready to help us, but we keep looking in the wrong place and don’t see Him?
- Sometimes people want to play “hide and seek” with God. Why do you think a person would want to hide from God?

Concluding the game:

The great thing about God is that He does not try to hide from us! He is EVERYWHERE all the time, and He wants us to find Him!

We can never escape God’s presence.

This week we will discover that God is EVERYWHERE, all the time.



4) The theme of the day: Chiara's answers to the Gen 4

A few insights that can help give the theme of the day:

- **“We observed the beauty of creation and the whole world around us. It is something absolutely wonderful! Someone might ask, ‘But who did all this? How did it all begin?’ We will listen to how Chiara answered this question.”**
- **Share Chiara's answers with the text (see in the theme content of the year) or video of the same topic. You can pause and create a dialogue after each question.**
- **After listening to Chiara's answers, “Now we know how we can answer this question when our friend asks who made the world. Did your grandfather make the world? Or your great-grandfather? Or when we are asked, “No one has ever seen God. How do we know he exists?”**
- **At the end, you could also add/do a little examination, with an adult (disguised as a judge or an extra-terrestrial guest) who comes by surprise and asks questions (and someone tells her that we have the answers to those questions). The guest asks the gen 4 questions (they could be the same as the questions above) and whoever answers, gets a small medal (could be made from a shiny paper) or a small gift or whatever the guest gives as a symbol of recognition. Then the guest, very happy, enlightened and satisfied, thanks the gen 4 for the answers and leaves (goes back to his home or his planet).**

Let's do something together

Some ideas:

- **Write a letter to God, thanking Him for His presence everywhere in our lives! For Gen4s who cannot write yet, they can draw something to thank God for His presence.**
- **It is always good to go to a nearby chapel (if you have the opportunity) to pray together. They can symbolically offer their letters and drawings to God (placed in a nice basket or box and put on the altar or near the tabernacle).**
- **Make a card/drawing to someone who is lonely, an elderly person or someone who is unwell to make them feel the Presence of someone who loves them. Or visit this person and bring them a letter/drawing and sing them a song.**



Let's stay connected

Some ideas:

- Invite children to draw a picture or pictures of the place where they can find God's presence during the week - at home, at school, etc.
- Or draw a picture of the times when we talk with God during the day - first thing in the morning, before meals, when going to bed, etc.

Additional ideas to enrich the topic

- Song in English: Breathing in, Breathing out. Link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KodLjEUrINLQmMvFR57t4Lej0OV6QqIU/view?usp=share_link

It is a video song with Buddhist children to highlight God's presence as the air we breathe, we don't see Him, but He is always present everywhere, all the time.

Third meeting

Indigo Content

– Chiara's story

Some ideas:

Introduction to Chiara's story:

- If they have seen the story before - some ideas for creating a dialogue:
 - Do you remember Chiara's story when she was young like you?
 - When Sister Carolina used to take Chiara and her friends to Church to pray and do adoration in front of the tabernacle?
 - Do you remember her prayer to Jesus in the Eucharist?
- If they have not seen Chiara's story yet - some hints or questions to introduce the story:
 - Do you remember the video we saw the previous meeting in which Chiara talked about the presence of God?
 - Do you want to know how Chiara prayed to Jesus in the tabernacle when she was young like you?
 - After that, you can share Chiara's story, through ppt, video or simply a printed image of that part where Chiara is praying before the Blessed Sacrament.



Let's do something together

Some ideas:

● After telling the story, they can colour a bookmark with a picture of Chiara praying before the tabernacle with her prayer (see attachments):

“Look, Jesus, you created the sun, the sun has light and generates heat, I look at you fixed, fixed and you put in me, through my eyes, in my soul, spiritual light and spiritual warmth.”

● After colouring the bookmark with the prayer, invite them to visit a nearby chapel, if there is one, or simply to the meeting hall, and propose that they pray together Chiara's prayer written on the bookmark.

● We can also invite the children to talk about the prayers they have learned so far and when they pray them.

● Do we know a prayer to say first thing in the morning? Or a prayer we say before we eat.

● Do we pray together with our family at night before going to bed?

Let's stay connected

Some ideas:

● They can take the bookmark home and propose to them, if they want, that they can say the prayer written on it every so often when they feel like it, to Jesus who is present in their hearts.

● Propose that they visit a chapel or enter a church whenever they see one and greet Jesus (like visiting and greeting a friend) who is present in the Blessed Sacrament or in the tabernacle indicated by a small light near the altar. If they want, they can say the prayer written on the bookmark... or just talk to Jesus....

● Or pray for someone they know who is sick or has a problem ... or ask Jesus for peace in countries where there is war and entrust him with the children suffering in these countries ... Invite them to talk to Jesus who can tell Him anything.

● We can also invite them to say a little prayer before going to sleep or before eating and invite their family to do it together. Also say a little prayer or greeting to Jesus in their heart when they wake up in the morning.

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