

1: IN THE BEGINNING-ANIMALS AND CREATION – Activity 3

**Chaos Monster Sock Puppets**

**Equipment:** Socks, stick-on eyes and other appendages, glue, wool and other bits and pieces to make the monsters with.

**Activity:** To make the chaos-monster sock puppets. Given that there aren't many photographs of chaos-monsters available, everyone can have fun with their imagination.

**Purpose/teaching:** To introduce the participants to the idea that the Creation narratives in Genesis are not the *only* stories about Creation which appear in the Bible. In the Psalms there are references to the Lord battling the forces of chaos, personified as a monster/sea-monster (see references in suggested readings below). God brings light and order out of darkness and turmoil. At one level this is a reminder that God wants a beautiful and safe universe for his creatures to inhabit. For older children/teenagers it is helpful to realise that Genesis is not the only book in the Bible which talks about God as Creator, and that this aspect of God is something which has always been very important to Jewish and Christian people. It isn't a point which we make at the beginning of our holy book and then abandon. Furthermore the various different Creation narratives in the Bible raise issues about the way in which we understand/use the text, which again may be appropriate for discussion with more mature participants.

