

Lesson Plan 5

God Wants Us To Care For The Earth

Objective

Students will understand that God wants us to take care of the world He created. They will be given examples of ways they can care for what God has blessed us with.

Supplies

Teachers and/or Coordinators ensure supplies are ready prior to each class.

Print From the Site:

- Name The Ways Color Page (one per student)
- Earth Puzzle (one per student, printed on white cardstock paper)
- *Creation Fans (one per student from lesson 1)
- Attendance Chart
- Songs for Winter Quarter Sheet (teacher)
- Bible
- Pens/Pencils/Crayons/Pencil Crayons
- Black Sharpie Marker
- Stickers (for attendance)
- Glue Sticks
- *Popsicle Sticks (one for each picture of the creation fans, from lesson 1)
- Sandwich Bags (one per student to store the puzzle pieces)

Optional Supplies

- Fruits and/or Vegetable Snack
- Balloons (one for every two students)

Teacher Tips

- ★ See Lesson Plan 1 for tips on how to keep the classroom engaged.

1) Introduction to Lesson

Prep: **Before class, print and assemble a "Creation Fan" for each student if not done in lesson one.*

As students enter, welcome them and help them find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance. Let each child put a sticker beside their name for this week.

Today we are going to look at the importance of taking care of God's creation - Earth!

Can anyone tell me why taking care of the world we live in is important? (Keeps us healthy, we and animals live on it, shows respect for God's creation, God asks us to.)

Now let's sing a song to get us started!

God made the Earth (To the tune of Old MacDonald)

Our heavenly Father made the earth. E-A-R-T-H.

And on the earth God made a(ex: Dog) E-A-R-T-H.

With a (Sound the animal makes ex: Woof, woof) here and a
(Woof, woof) there, here a (Woof), there a (Woof), everywhere a (Woof, woof)

Our heavenly Father made the earth E-A-R-T-H.

*Repeat with other animals

During class, hand out the creation fans - the one with the people and the one with the animals and say: **God gave people a special job - to take care of the earth and everything in it! When I say something about people, hold up the people picture. Let's practice "human people" make sure students hold up the people fan. And when I say something about animals hold up the animal fan. Let's practice "birds, fish and animals".** make sure students hold up the animal fan. **Great, let's try:**

Genesis 1:26-28

26 Then God said, "Now let's make **humans** who will be like us. They will rule over all the **fish** in the sea and the **birds** in the air. They will rule over all the **large animals** and all the little **things that crawl on the earth.**"

God wants us to do our best to care for the earth.

God provides the sun and rain, light and heat, and food and shelter for all of us – so we should remember that we need to take care of the Earth that God has made for us! Let's sing another song about God's wonderful creation – the world.

Hand out all the creation fans and have the children show the right fan when you say it.

In the Beginning Tune: Farmer in the Dell

God made the world*. God made the world*.

In the beginning, God made the world*.

(replace “world” with other words each time: trees, sun, sky, people, animals, etc.)

2) Class Time - Earth Puzzle

15-20 minutes

Prep

Before class, print the “Earth Puzzle” for every student on white cardstock paper. Cut each puzzle and store them in their own sandwich baggies labeling it with the student’s name.



Activity

Hand each student their own set of the Earth puzzle and crayons. Ask the students to open the baggies and attempt to put their puzzle together. Have a completed sample available for the students to look at.

To help us remember to take care of the earth, we have a puzzle of the earth. If we don't take care of the earth it can become broken, dirty, and not well cared for. But if we put it together carefully we have a nice picture of the whole earth. Let's now put the puzzle together and then we will color the earth picture to remind us that God blessed us with the earth and the earth is good!

While the students are working, explain to them that: **In the Bible it talks about God giving us a role in His creation.** (Read Psalm 8:1-9) Then say, **God made us rulers of the world He created. Raise your hand and tell me what are some of the things God made during creation?** (animals, birds, fish, mountains, rivers, lakes, etc.) **So we need to rule and care for these things carefully.**

Once the students complete their puzzle, they can go ahead and color it. When they are finished, have them place their pieces back into their own bag so they can take it home.

As you wrap up, say **“God created the world, and we are to take good care of it. The world is a gift from God, let's do our best to take care of it.**

3) Activity - Name The Ways Color Page

10 minutes

Hand each student a “Name The Ways” color page with crayons and ask them to write their name somewhere on the page.

Remember, God has blessed us with His wonderful creation; it is our job to take care of it and respect the world that God has made. The page says, “Can you name all the ways these people are taking care of God’s creation?” Let’s go through these pictures together and raise your hand if you can tell me what each one is talking about. After you tell me what the picture is showing, you can color it!



- 1) **Man cleaning up trash** – we need to remember to help show respect for God’s creation by putting our trash in the garbage, not on the ground where it can hurt animals or wreck the plants or grass around it.
- 2) **Man planting seeds** – by planting our own food, we provide food for our families and for birds and animals that also nibble on the good food we plant. We can respect God’s creation by eating foods that are made by God. Because they are good for us.
- 3) **Child riding bike** – instead of taking a car this child is getting somewhere by using his bike.
- 4) **Three cans that are being used for recycling items instead of throwing them away.** Did you know in Canada and other countries there are places that will take your old computers, house items, cars, etc. and reuse the parts or turn them into something else? We can all recycle and keep the world clean.
- 5) **Planting a tree** – creates oxygen for the air, provides shade and shelter for animals, looks beautiful and caring for it shows respect for the wonderful things God has blessed us with.
- 6) **Turning off lights and power when we aren’t using them.** Saves power, energy, and helps prevent a light from burning out quickly—which keeps them out of landfills!
- 7) **Girl walking dog** – respecting God’s creation by helping animals on the earth and getting out enjoying nature. There are many animals that need help from us, it is our job to care for them!

Let's remember to care for God's creation!

4) Optional Activity - Take Care Of The Earth Action Game

5 minutes

Line the students up in a row so that they can all see you and have enough space to move their hands and feet without hitting someone beside them.

Say to the students: **We are going to play a game about things that God made. Today we are going to pretend to look and touch all the things that God created when He made the world. I want you to follow and do what I say. If I say to do something, I want you to pretend to do that action. Ready? Everyone quiet and listen.....good job.....**

Everyone – look at the sun (pretend to cover your head with your hand as you look up to the sky)

Everyone – go for a swim (pretend to swim)

Everyone – say “Thank You God for the World.”

Everyone – walk in the garden (pretend to walk and look at pretty flowers and trees)

Everyone – say “God is great”

Everyone – pick an apple from the tree (pretend to pick an apple)

Everyone – take a bite of the apple God made (pretend to eat)

Everyone – pour some juice into the glass (pretend to pour juice into the cup)

Everyone – drink your juice (pretend to drink juice)

Everyone – pet the animals (pretend to pet animals)

Everyone – pick up the trash, don't leave any on the ground (pretend to pick up trash)

Everyone – sit down!

Thank the class for playing and then have them sit at the table for the next activity. If time and they enjoy it, you can play again.

5) Optional Activity - Keep The Birds Up Balloon Game

5-10 minutes

Prep

Before class, inflate and tie one balloon for every two students. Draw two eyes, a triangle beak and a smiley face. On each side draw a wing. You have made birds!

Activity

Have the students form two lines facing each other. Give every two students a balloon and have them gently lift the balloons to keep them in the air. See which team can keep the

balloon up the longest. Or you can have the whole class play at once with everyone trying to keep the balloon up. For larger classes you can play with multiple balloons.

Tell the students, **everything God made is good and we are to take care of what God made. Let's help keep the birds in the air while we play this game. Remember to not hit the birds hard, but be gentle and try to keep them in the air so they can fly!**

6) Optional Snack - Fruit and/or Vegetable

10 minutes

“You’ve all done a great job this morning learning that God wants us to respect the world that He created. To help us remember, we are going to have a snack. First can anyone tell me; what are some of the food items God has created for us?” (fruit, meat, vegetables, etc.)

Hand each child a few pieces of the fruit and/or vegetable snacks. Remind them that these snacks are part of God’s wonderful creation for us to enjoy and they are good!

After snack, have students clean up.

7) Optional Activity - Sing

5-10 minutes

Practice song sung earlier or find different songs in Songs for Winter Quarter

8) Closing Prayer

**Before the prayer, make sure the activities/snacks have been cleaned up.

Ask if there are any prayers the students want to share. Say closing prayer remembering to thank God for the world He has created for us and that we take good care of it.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!