

Preschool Winter
Lesson 5:
God Wants Us to Take Care of His Creation - Earth

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Understand that God wants us to take care of the world He created.
- 2) Give examples of ways that they can care for what God has blessed us with.

Accommodations: How will I accommodate individual needs of students?

- See Lesson 1 for Ideas
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Supplies: Check with coordinator to ensure supplies are ready.

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Pens/Pencils
- Bible (please bring your own)
- Crayons/Pencil Crayons
- Attendance Sheet
- Stickers – one per child for attendance
- Color and Name ways to take care of God’s creation page (one for each child)
- Earth Puzzle – printed on white Cardstock paper (one for each child) cut out before class
- Scissors (one for each child)
- Creation fans (see lesson 1 for supplies if you have not made them already)

Optional Activities

- One balloon for every child – inflated before class
 - Snack – fruit and veggie pieces
 - Napkins
 - Cups with water to drink
 - Sandwich baggies to put puzzle pieces in after kids cut the puzzle out
 - Sharpie pen to put each child’s name on the sandwich baggie and to draw a bird face on the balloons
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Lesson:

1) Introduction: 5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied). Let each child put a sticker beside their name for this week, if a new child arrives put their name on the chart for them. Have them sit around the table. Review with kids that last week we learned that God created the world and that everything in it was good including God himself.

Tell them, **“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, including animals and birds, shows respect for God’s Creation, God asks us to.)

Let’s sing a song about God’s Earth!

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

Hand out people and animal creation fans to students while you say: **Because they were created in His image, God gave men and women a privileged place among all creatures and commanded them to exercise responsibility over the earth** (Read Genesis 1:26-28). **Being responsible means taking care and being trustworthy.**

Let's read Numbers 35:33-34

"You shall not pollute the land in which you live.... You shall not defile the land in which you live, in which I also dwell; for I the LORD dwell among the Israelites."

What is God saying in these verses?

In Numbers, what does God command the Israelites? (Don't pollute the land because God dwells there!)

In addition to our role of caretakers, we are to appreciate what God has done for us. He continues to provide the sun and rain, light and heat, 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.

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:*light, sea, sky, animals, etc.)

2) Earth Puzzle

10-15 minutes

Before class, print out one puzzle for each child on white cardstock. Cut it out and place in a sandwich baggie – one for each student. Have kids sit around the table and hand out puzzle and crayons or pencil crayons.

If children are too young to use scissors – cut out the puzzles in advance before class and have them put them back together – have one left still together so they can look and see what the finished puzzle should look like.

Explain to the kids:

In the Bible it talks about God giving us a role in His creation. (Read the entire Psalm 8:1-9) Then say, **let's look at verses 6-8 again, it says that God made us rule over the works of His hands.**

What are some of the things God made again during creation? (animals, birds, fish, mountains, rivers, lakes, etc.) **So we need to rule or care for these things carefully.**

To help us remember, we have a puzzle of the earth. If we don't take care of the earth it can become broken, dirty, 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 that is great!

Help kids color and put back their puzzles. You may want some sandwich baggies to put their puzzle pieces in with their name in Sharpie pen put on the bag, so they can take it home and not lose the pieces. Encourage the kids to clean up before moving on to the next activity.

As you wrap up, say **"the Bible is concerned about the environment. In fact, of all people, Christians should be the most concerned for the environment.**

Why is this? The reason is because Christians know God created the world, and we are the only caretakers. The very first verse of the Bible says, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). When we see the world as a gift from God, we will do our best to take care of it and use it wisely.

3) Name the Ways Color page

10 minutes

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. Right now I am going to hand out a piece of paper to everyone, please put your name somewhere on the top of the page. I will also hand out crayons (or get your assistant to do this). 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:

- 1. Man cleaning up trash** – tell kids 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 help enrich the soil with nutrients, we help by providing 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 – not junk food that isn't made by God.
- 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 and pure.
- 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.

Now let's all color the pictures! And as you color think about the ways you can respect God's creation.

4) Optional: Take Care of 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 anyone 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 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 class for playing and then have them sit at the table for the next activity.

5) Optional: Play – Keep the Birds Up Balloon Game 5-10 minutes

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!

Have the children form two lines facing each other. Give every two students a balloon and have them hit it back and forth. 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. If you have a large class you can play with more than one balloon at a time depending on how big your class is.

Tell the children, 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) Sing

Choose songs from the Songs section of the binder and/or C.D.

7) Optional – Snack Fruit or vegetable pieces 5 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?” (Let kids raise hand and respond - fruit, meat, vegetables, etc.) Hand out a couple of fruit and vegetable pieces to each child with a glass of water. Remind them that these snacks are part of God’s wonderful creation for us to enjoy and they are good! After snack have kids clean up. Then move on to the remaining activities.

8) Close in prayer

First: Ask if there are prayers that kids want to share. Make a list. Then give the list to the assistant or yourself

Thank God that He created the world and that as we learned today, pray that we can take care of the wonderful world that God has given to us.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!