

Lesson 8: God Wants Us to Take Care of His Creation – The 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: See Lesson 1 for ideas

Supplies:

- Pens/Pencils
- Bible (please bring your own)
- Attendance Sheet
- Stickers – one per child for attendance
- Name Ways to Take Care of God's Creation Page (one for each student)
- Crayons/Pencil Crayons
- Earth Puzzle – printed on white Cardstock paper (one for each student)
- Scissors (one for each student)
- Maze (one for each student)

Optional Activities

- Snack – fruit and veggie pieces
- Napkins
- Cups with water
- Sandwich baggies to put puzzle pieces in after kids cut the puzzle out- one bag per student
- Sharpie pen to put each child's name on the sandwich baggie – to share

Lesson:

1) Introduction: Verses about why we care for God's world

5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance and 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 – the earth! Can anyone tell me, why taking care of the world we live in is important?”** (Keeps us healthy, helps the animals and birds, shows respect for God's creation, God asks us to.)

Because they were created in His image, God gave men and women a privileged place among all creatures and commanded them to be responsible over the earth. Let's see this by turning to Genesis 1 and reading verses 26-28. (Read Genesis 1:26-28).

Does God expect us to take care of the earth? Yes.

Does He have ways in the Bible that teach how to do that? Yes.

Let's read, listen while I read from Leviticus 26:3-4 and Numbers 35:33-34.

"If you follow my statutes and keep my commandments and observe them faithfully, I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit." (Leviticus 26:3-4)

"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." (Numbers 35:33-34)

What is God saying in these verses? What will God do if we as a nation follow Him and keep His commandments? (Bless us with good land and rain)

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

God gives us everything we need. Our food, clothing, and shelter. He even gives us the sun and the rain to help our gardens and food grow. He gives us beauty and enjoyment in flowers, pretty fish, and more. As God's people we should do our best to take care of the beautiful good world He gave us!

2) Earth Puzzle

10-15 minutes

Before class, print out one puzzle for each child on white cardstock. Have kids sit around the table and hand out puzzle, scissors, and crayons or pencil crayons.

Explain to the kids:

In the Bible it talks about God giving us a role in His creation. Let's all turn in our Bibles or share if you need to and go to the book of Psalms. We need Psalms Chapter 8. This was written by King David. Let's all read this together, follow along as I read. (Read 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. And to help us remember this verse, it is put on the puzzle to see that God wants us to care for His creation! Let's now color the earth picture, put our names on it, then we will carefully cut it out and see who can put their puzzle back together again!

Help kids color, cut 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. Talk about different ways we can care for God's wonderful and good creation. (examples may be: grow organic foods, don't use chemicals, clean up the lakes and neighborhoods, recycle, help animals, fish and birds, ride a bike instead of using a car, etc.)

Encourage the kids to clean up before moving on to the next activity.

3) Student Maze

5 minutes

Hand out sheets. Hand out crayons or pencil crayons and ask each child to put their name on the front of the first page of each sheet.

Help them by reading the directions aloud and showing them where to start and where they should end and what the words on the page say.

As you wrap up, say **"the Bible is concerned about the environment. When we see the world as a gift from God, we will do our best to take care of it and use it wisely, instead of poisoning or destroying it.**

We don't worship the earth; instead, we realize that God gave it to us, and we are accountable to Him for how we use it. After creating Adam, the first man, the Bible says, "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it" (Genesis 2:15). God wanted Adam and us to watch over the earth and use it wisely. God also says that we need to take care of ourselves as well since we too, are God's creation. Yes, we should take care of the environment. But most of all, we should take care of our souls.

Is Christ the center of your life, and are you seeking to live for Him every day? If not, start now!

4) Name the Ways We Can Care for God's Creation Activity Sheet

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 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 without damaging the air around him or using precious fuel. Although it is ok to drive if you need to.
- 4. Three cans that are being used for recycling items instead of throwing them away.** Did you know in Canada, 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** – trees create oxygen for the air, provides shade and shelter for animals, looks beautiful and by 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.

5) Sing and learn Books of the Old Testament

5-10minutes

Have children sing songs with you, you can sing:

Days of Creation

(Tune: This Old Man)

lyrics written by Sharon Broome

On day one God made light
Made the difference in day and night
God just spoke the words and it came true
Wonder what else God will do?

On day two Split in two
Skies above the water blue
God just spoke the words and it came to be
What will happen on day three?

On day three God made land
Then he put plants in the sand
God made herbs and grass and fruit on the tree
This was all done on day three

On day four God made lights
Some for days and some for nights
Stars are dim, but the sun and the moon are bright
Aren't you glad that God made lights

On day five God made alive
Fish for the waters and birds for the skies
All the things that swim and birds to fly
These were made on day five

On day six God did fix
Animals, mankind and even ticks
God made lizards, cats, and other things that lick
Animals were created on day six

On day seven God in heaven
Rested from all the work he'd done
He'd made the earth, the stars, the moon, and sun
It was good what God had done

Practice learning **Books of the Old Testament** you can sing them to the ABC Song.

6) 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! Talk about ways we can respect what God has provided by eating more good foods that God has made, rather than food that man has made that is not as healthy for us – like chocolate bars and chips, instead eat real pieces of chocolate and baked potatoes instead! After snack have kids clean up. Then move on to the remaining activities.

7) Close in prayer

First: Ask if there are prayers that kids want to share. Make a list. Then give the list to the assistant, yourself, or someone old enough to read and lead.

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.