

DAY ONE - FOLLOW JESUS TO PROTECT GOD'S CREATION

BIBLE REFERENCE: Genesis 2.8-9

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the (human) whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

WORSHIP AS A GLOBAL VILLAGE

1. Read the scripture lesson for the day
2. Storyteller - Use Script 1
3. Singing
4. Close with a prayer

Script 1:

[Readers needed: Adam, God.]

God: C'mon Adam, time to get up. *(Silence for a second or two.)* Adam? Adam?
C'mon Adam, time to get a move on things here.

Adam: Huh, huh, go away, will you? I'm sleepy.

God: Adam, this is no time for sleep. C'mon, we've got work to do!

Adam: Naw, go away, will you? Lemme sleep just a little bit longer. I don't feel very well.

God: Tell me where it hurts, will you? I bet it's your side. I bet your side hurts some.

Adam: How'd you know it was my side that was hurting?

God: Just because. Adam, I've got a surprise for you.

Adam: Now you're talking. I like surprises. It's not going to be any more animals that I have to name, is it?

God: No, not really. I've already got a name picked out. I like the name "Eve." Do you like it?

Adam: That's good. So what's this work we have to do?

God: The work is this. I'm giving you and all people a great gift, this forest-garden, in which you will live.

Adam: Wonderful! I like forest-gardens.

God: And the most wonderful thing about this forest-garden is that everything, everything, absolutely everything you and all people will need is right here in the forest-garden. Things you need to eat, things you need to survive, things you need to shelter you, things you need to make tools and toys and games are all here, in this garden, in this forest-garden.

Adam: Hey, wait a minute. If everything we could ever need is right here in the forest for us, what's this work we have to do?

God: The work is that you have to keep the forest healthy. You can't go using more than you need. You can't waste the food and supplies I've put into the forest because there's not enough for everyone to waste some. And everybody has to share. No one can take more than their share of the

forest's riches. When a few people start to take more than their share, then some people will have less than their share. And they will go hungry, or cold, or worse.

Adam: Well, that sounds pretty easy.

God: It's not as easy as it sounds, Adam, but you and all the other people can do it if you always remember that this is my forest, my garden, and you are just borrowing it from me. That's why I want you to work real hard to keep it balanced, to keep it whole and healthy.

Adam: I think Eve and I and the others can do that. By the way, it seems to rain a lot here in this forest. Do you think that there will ALWAYS be rainforests as wonderful as this one?

God: If I have my way, yes, Adam, yes, there will ALWAYS be rainforests to remind people of the Creator's love.

LARGE GROUP EXPERIENCE - Read the book The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry. This is the story of a man who enters the rainforest to chop down a Kapok tree. Because of the heat the man sits down to rest and soon falls asleep. The animals that live in the tree one by one whisper to him not to chop it down. When he awakens he looks around at the beauty of the animals and forest, drops his axe and leaves the forest without chopping down the tree. Use stick puppets to represent the animals. Make them large so all of the children in the group can see them.

From the story the children should understand that the rainforest provides everything that people and animals who live there need to survive. They should also understand that man is quickly destroying the rainforest which is God's creation. The rainforest is the closest thing on earth to the Garden of Eden. We get medicines, food, even the oxygen that we breathe is produced in large part by the Rainforests. We need to preserve and protect rainforests for their well being and ours.

SODA BOTTLE TERRARIUM

Materials: plastic two liter soda bottle with top cut off, potting soil, grass seed, small plants, gravel, water, spoon, plastic wrap, and a rubber band

What to do:

Make a layer of gravel on the bottom of the bottle.

Spoon the soil into the bottle; fill the bottle about 1/3 of the way to the top.

Sprinkle the grass seed on top of the soil.

Use your finger to make a hole in the soil and put the roots of the plant in the hole.

Smooth the dirt in and around the hole and water the plants lightly.

Cover the top of the bottle with plastic wrap and place the rubber band around it to keep it in place.

Followup: Draw a picture on day one and label it. Observe the terrarium each day and draw picture of any changes that take place in the terrarium. These are miniature environments.

GOD MADE BOOK - The purpose of this project is take the children out into God's World and have them collect things that God made in the beginning. Focus on the fact that even though the Garden of Eden is gone we can still see God's creation all around us.

Supplies: 5 zip loc baggies for each child (sandwich size work best)
electrical tape
printed label God Made

Procedure: Give each child 5 zip loc bags that have been bound together at the bottom. Attach the sticker God Made to the front of the first bag. Then go on a nature walk. As you walk, children will collect items from God's world. Remind the children that harming nature or hurting other peoples property isn't what they are here to be doing. Each child should find four things that they really like from nature and put them in the first four bags. When you return to the classroom the children put a picture of Jesus into the last bag to remind them that all of nature shows us the love of God. Jesus is a reminder of that love because he is God's Son. With the pages bound together in this fashion the children can change their items as they find things in nature that they like better than their original items.

CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS (Camille Saint-Saens) - The purpose of this project is to teach the children creative movement to music. This piece of music is based on the different animals of the world, many of which are found in the Rainforest. This is a very stimulating piece of music! It allows for the children to express themselves within the animal kingdom creation of God.

Supplies:
tape player
tape of "The Carnival of the Animals" by Camille Saint-Saens

Procedure: These are a few facts about the composer.

1. born in Paris, France in 1835 (What would it be like to be child then?)
2. as a child reacted to musical sounds
 - a. beautiful tones made his face shine
 - b. discord noises made him cry
3. began piano lessons when he was 2½ years old
4. at age 4½ he had his first performance
5. at age 5 was composing songs and piano pieces
6. loved to travel, went to Russia, South America, and the USA
7. performed until he was 86
8. national day of mourning in France when he died
9. wrote "Carnival" for his own fun
10. it was never performed in his lifetime

Ways you can have the children respond to the music:

1. draw pictures of the animals that they hear as they listen to the music
2. brainstorm a list of the animals they heard in the music
3. make an abstract painting using watercolor that recreates the mood of the music
4. create movements or a dance for all or part of the music. You might use

streamers or scarves for effect.

CREATION PRAISE WINDCHIMES - The purpose of this project is to help the children understand what God has created for them.

Supplies:

- 4-6 juice can lids for each child with holes punched in one edge
- permanent markers
- yarn or string
- thin piece of tree branch, twig
- scissor
- 1 14" piece of string

Procedure:

1. use permanent markers to draw pictures of things God created in the beginning on each of the juice lids
2. tie one end of string to the lid
3. tie the other end around the stick
4. tie one end of the 14: piece of string to each end of the stick to make a hanger (another way is to use a child-sized coat hanger instead of a stick)

SPEAKERS FOR THE EARTH - Read to the children the story *The Lorax* by Dr. Suess. In this story the Once-ler remember how the rare Truffula Tress became extinct. Make a list of things such as the rainforest, ocean, whales, trees, and other animals that the children can speak for. Have the children draw a picture of their animal or land area and follow the example of the Lorax as he spoke for the Truffula Trees.

WE CARE FOR GOD'S WORLD - Make posters to show how each of the children in you class cares for God's world. These can be displayed in the church or school. They can even be displayed within the community as businesses will allow.

GOD'S WORLD helps the children understand the difference between things God created and things man created out of the God's creation. Now create a creation word bank with the children. On one sheet of poster board list the creation of the world and the things that God created in seven days. On a second piece of poster board list the things that man has developed or created from those first creations. Be sensitive to the children helping them to understand that, for example, a tree is God's creation but the things that came from the tree were developed by man with God's help. This project can also be created by using pictures and a collage format.

OTHER BOOKS:

The Wump World by Bill Peet

Where The Forest Meets The Sea by Jeannie Baker

The Magic School Bus At The Waterworks by Joanna Cole

The Dead Tree by Alvin Tresselt

Just A Dream by Chris Van Allsburg

The Modern Ark, The Endangered Wildlife of Our Planet by Cecilia Fitzsimmons

Save Our Planet: 52 Easy Things Kids Can Do Now by Susan Levine

50 Simple Things Kids Can Do To Save The Earth by The Earthworks Group