

A LESSON ON GIVING TO THE WORLD

GRADES 1-3 -- Caring for Creation- Lesson I (Year I, Day 5)

Goal: To introduce children to the concept that God has given us a beautiful gift in the creation of the entire world around us. Students will explore creation and see how caring for it is a prayer of thanksgiving to God.

Materials: Scraps of paper and other recycled materials that could be used for crafts

Lesson: The purpose of these videos is to introduce the idea that God created all things, including the students! Not only did God create all things, He loves them and cares for them. In the creation story, human beings are given the task of caring for creation as God does.

Watch: [He's Got the Whole World in his Hands- for children](#) from iCharacter
[The Creation Story](#) from The Beginner's Bible Curriculum- Lesson 1 (zondervan)

Discussion:

- What do we learn about the way God created the world?
- Is God far away from us or is he very much involved in how the world works?
- Does God seem happy with his creation? Why or why not?
- Who did God put in charge of the animals and the garden?
- How do you think Adam and Eve took care of the animals and the garden?

Activity: Creation ABCs: Call on a student and ask them to name something that God created that starts with the letter A. Go through each letter of the alphabet naming all the wonderful things God has created. The purpose of the creation ABCs activity is to reiterate that God created all things and loves them.

Activity: Craft Project: Have students create a picture of their favorite animal using recycled materials, i.e. old paper scraps. The craft activity encourages the students to create an image of a member of creation that they love while caring for creation by using recycled paper.

Activity: Nature Walk

Bring students outside to a local park or school yard for a contemplative nature walk. Encourage students to walk slowly and pay attention to God's creation, noticing plants, flowers, seeds, berries, colorful leaves, birds and animals. When students point out something they have noticed, you can all say a prayer of thanks to God together. E.g. "Thank you Lord for the sparrows." or "Thank you Lord for the way the leaves are blowing in the tree." For more mature students, encourage them to walk silently and say a prayer of thanks to God in their hearts as they notice different aspects of creation.

Prayer:

Father, we thank you with all your wonderful creatures and all of the beautiful plants and flowers on our earth. Everything in creation came forth from you; they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love. Help us to always treat your creation with love and respect. Amen.

Lesson adapted from the plans on the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Office of Life, Justice and Peace website



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[Find out more](#) about the Archdiocese of New York "**Care of Creation Initiative**"