



Friday of Respect Life Week
Caring for Creation
Grades 4-6

Theme: Appreciating God's Gift of Our World Materials

Goal: 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: Bible
The Lorax ([video link](#))

Scripture: The Story of Creation (Genesis Chapter 1)

Questions for Discussion

What do we learn about the way God created the world?

Was it random or purposeful?

Is God far away from us or is God very much involved in how the world works?

Does God seem happy with his creation? Why or why not?

What is the role of humans in creation?

What command did God give us about creation? What does that mean?

Video: The Lorax ([video link](#))

Questions for Discussion

The Lorax says that the Once-ler is greedy. Can you think of ways that the

Once-ler proves his greed? (*Greed is defined as a selfish desire for food, money, or possessions over and above what one needs.*)

Is it true that everyone needs money?

How much money do people need?

Is it right to make a lot of money while destroying the environment?

What is pollution? (*Something in the environment that is harmful or poisonous.*)

What are some examples of pollution in *The Lorax*?

What are some ways humans pollute the air? (*Fires; smoking; vehicle fumes, cars, airplanes, boats; household products, paint, aerosols, cleaners; wasting electricity.*)

What are some ways humans can care for the air? (*Riding a bike or walking to school, recycle, plant a tree, conserve energy, choose natural products.*)

What happens to the fish when you put all of this pollution into the water?

Can you think of some other problems this might cause? (*No drinking water, no swimming*)

What are some ways humans can care for the earth?

What is the difference between a want and a need?
What do people need?

Activity: Pope Francis encourages us not to be a “throw-away culture.” We can get into the habit of using things and throwing them out. But, if we look again, perhaps they can be used in a new way. Have students come up with creative ideas of how to make something new out of something old. (For example: Out of plastic bottles- can birdfeeders, decorative ornaments, pen holders be made?) Ask the students: “Are you surprised by all the things that could be made of something that seemed like trash?” We are called to “look again” to see the hidden value of the earth and in each human person.

Prayer:

*Almighty God,
we thank you for the gift of our world and of all creation.*

*Help us to appreciate the beauty and greatness of the earth,
and help us to take care of it and protect it.*

*Give wisdom to the people responsible for making decisions that will
affect the environment. Help them to make good
choices that will reverence the earth and all its inhabitants.*

Amen.

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