

## Caring for Creation

### Friday of Respect Life Week – October 2021

#### Giving to the World

#### Grades 4-6

**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  
Laudato Si – CRS Elementary Animated Brief ([video link](#))  
Call to Action ([video link](#))

**Read:** The Story of Creation (*Genesis Chapter 1*)

#### Questions for Discussion

What do we learn from 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 human beings in creation?  
What command did God give us about creation? What does that mean?

**Watch:** Laudato Si – CRS Elementary Animated Brief ([video link](#))

#### Questions for Discussion

How does it change the way we treat the earth when we recognize:  
a) The earth is God's gift to us.  
b) The earth is full of beauty and wonder.  
c) The earth belongs to everyone.

What are some ways that the earth is mistreated?

Why do the poorest communities suffer the most when the earth is not properly cared for?

**Watch:** Call to Action ([video link](#))

#### Questions for Discussion

This video offered lots of ideas for reducing waste and energy. What other ideas do you have?  
What's one concrete step you can take to help the environment?  
Why is it important to care for creation?

**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 for how to make something new out of something old. (For example: Out of plastic bottles, can birdfeeders, decorative ornaments or 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.*