

Caring for Creation

Friday of Respect Life Week – January 2022

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: The Lorax ([video link](#))
CST – Stewardship of Creation ([video link](#))

Gloves, garbage bags

Watch: The Story of Creation in Genesis tells that God created the world with love and care. The video shows that humans are called to continue God's work of creation by taking care of the earth, not wasting its resources. The video CST-Stewardship of Creation demonstrates that the poor are disproportionately affected by harm to the environment. To care for the earth is also to care for the health and wellbeing of the most vulnerable.

CST – Stewardship of Creation ([video link](#))

Questions for Discussion

Who is most affected by damage to the environment?

What does consumerism mean?

What are examples of wasteful consumerism?

How can we avoid wasteful consumerism?

Where does all of our garbage go?

What damage does our wasteful garbage do to the environment and to our health?

The Lorax ([video link](#)) (full 25 min 1972 movie)

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: Clean Up the Earth: To teach the students about taking care of the environment, take them outside in the area around the school and have them pick up any garbage they see. Warn them not to pick up any glass or cigarettes. If applicable, have them separate what they pick up into trash and recycling.

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.

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