

## Caring for Creation Appreciating God's Gift of Our World Grades 1-3 Lesson



### **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:**

“He’s Got the Whole World in his Hands” song—see website link

The Creation Story video—see website link

*The Lorax* book (or animated narration—see website link)

### **Lesson:**

Have the children gather in a circle on the floor.

Play and sing the song, “He’s Got the Whole World in his Hands”.

Talk about what the song means—that there is nothing in creation that God did not intend and find to be good. From the mountains to the trees to all of the creatures on the earth to each and every person, God created them all just the way he wanted them to be.

**Scripture:** Watch the Creation Story short video.

What do we learn about the way God created the world? Was it random or purposeful? Is God far away from us or is he very much involved in how the world works? Does he seem happy with his creation? Why or why not?

### **Read or Watch: *The Lorax***

*Divide your class into pairs and discuss some of the following questions using the Think-Pair-Share method:*

1. The Lorax says that the Once-ler is greedy. Greed is defined as a selfish desire for food, money, or possessions over and above what one needs. Can your student think of ways that the Once-ler proves his greed?

2. The Once-ler says, "I biggered my money which everyone needs." Is it true that everyone needs money?
3. How much money do people need?
4. Is it right to make a lot of money while destroying the environment?
5. Discuss the difference between a want and a need. Did people need Thneeds?
6. What are some ways humans pollute the air? Fires, smoking, vehicle fumes (cars, airplanes, boats), household products (paint, aerosols, cleaners), wasting electricity
7. 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.
8. Discuss odors in the air around us. What are some smells you like and dislike? Are there certain odors that you associate with a place or event?
9. Ask students "What is pollution?" Something in the environment that is harmful or poisonous. Discuss examples of pollution in The Lorax:

Water Pollution: All the Gluppity-Glupp and all the Schloppity-Schlopp made by the machinery is being dumped into the pond. 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)

Air Pollution: The smogulous smoke being put in the air by the Thneed factory made the Lorax cough, whiff, sneeze, snuffle, snarggle, snuffle, and croak. The Swomee-Swans were no longer able to sing! The Lorax had to send the birds away to find some cleaner air to live in. Is air pollution only dangerous for birds? Where are our lungs? How do they work? Breathing dirty air damages our lungs and makes us sick.

**Pray:**

**Father, we praise you with all your wonderful creatures  
and all of the beautiful plants and flowers on our earth.**

**Everything in creation came forth from your all-powerful hand;  
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.**

**Help us to always treat your creation with love and respect.**

**Praise be to you!**

**Amen**

