

# Caring for Creation

## Appreciating God's Gift of Our World

### Grades 4-6 Lesson



#### **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:**

Website Links

**Scripture:** The Story of Creation. Watch "The Story of Creation in Lego" video.

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 he very much involved in how the world works? Does he 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?

#### **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, sniffle, 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.

**Activity:**

Water is the most precious resource in California right now. Following multiple years of intense drought and fires across the state, conserving water is important for everyone.

Website links offer activities and games that support water conservation and encourage students to think carefully about the amount of water they and their families consume.

For additional activities, see *100 Ways to Conserve*, and challenge students to choose one or more suggestions that they can do at home and school.

**Pray:**

Almighty God, we are in need of rain.  
We realize now, looking up into the clear, blue sky,  
what a marvel even the least drop of rain really is.  
To think that so much water can really fall out of the sky,  
which now is empty and clear! We place our trust in You.  
We are sure that You know our needs.  
But You want us to ask you anyway, to show You that we know we are  
dependent on you. Look to our dry hills and fields, dear God,  
and bless them with the living blessing of soft rain.  
Then the land will rejoice and rivers will sing Your praises,  
and the hearts of all will be made glad. Amen.

