



Date: _____
Series: God Made Everything
Summer Year 1, Lesson 6

People Care for God's Earth

Bible Event: Genesis 1:28-30

Take Home Point: *GOD GAVE US EVERYTHING – *Take care of God's stuff.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: God takes care of us most of all by giving us Jesus.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn that God gave us all that we have! After God created the earth and everything else, he made us to be in charge of it and to take care of it. In fact, God wants us to take care of everything he gives us. We can do that by taking care of our possessions and helping others take care of theirs. We can keep our world clean and not waste the things that God gives us. Kids will take home the point: ***GOD GAVE US EVERYTHING – *Take care of God's stuff.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Your choice, if available.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: Video

Test your sound and video system beforehand. Cue the video to its precise beginning. For larger groups of children (15 or more), use a large screen TV or imager. Dim the lights before starting the video. To introduce a video, you might read from a Bible storybook and leave off the ending, inviting children to see what happens by watching the video. You could also introduce the video by inviting children to keep an eye out for special actions or words they will see during it.

Introduce the video by telling children that today they're going to see how God gave the earth to the very first person – Adam. God made the earth and all of the stuff on the earth, like animals and plants and fish and water and people. When God made Adam, he gave him a very special job to do.

Invite the children to watch the video and see if they can find out what job God gave Adam to do.

Show *The Beginner's Bible: The Story of Creation*, Sony Music Entertainment, Inc. and Time-Life Video and Television, 1995, from 9 minutes and 15 seconds until 15 minutes and 15 seconds.

Wrap up the video by asking children what the special job was that God gave Adam. (*To name the animals.*) Explain that God wanted Adam to take care of the earth by naming the animals and taking care of the plants. Today, God still wants us to take care of the earth. Ask the children if they can think of ways that they can take care of the earth and God's things. (*Pick up trash, help dad in the yard, be kind to animals, recycle, etc.*) Explain that when we take care of God's stuff like he wants us to, we are showing that we love him.



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones. During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Provide various fruits like orange sections, apple slices, grapes or bananas for the children to eat. Explain that God provided all of the fruits and vegetables that we can grow today. *Option:* Show the seeds from the fruits the children eat and explain how the seeds can be planted to grow a new tree with new fruit.

Drama Zone: Invite the children to act out various animals that God put on earth.

Puppet Zone: Let the children use puppets to talk about ways that they can take care of God's stuff on earth.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of God creates the earth from today's Bible event.

Craft Zone: Provide packets of seeds (various vegetables like beans and carrots or flower seeds) for the children to plant and take home. Allow children to decorate a paper cup with crayons, markers, stickers, etc. Attach a pre-made label to the outside of the cup as well: ***GOD GAVE US EVERYTHING – Take care of God's stuff.** Allow children to pick which kind of seed to plant. Place the seed and some potting soil in the cup and cover with plastic wrap and a rubber band for safe transport home. At home, they may keep the seed in the cup or plant it in the earth!

Play Zone: Provide a number of simple shapes cut out of construction paper (see template). Challenge kids to arrange the shapes so they look like animals God has made. *Option:* Have the children arrange the shapes on an overhead projector facing a wall so they can see the silhouette of the animals they are designing.

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of creation.

Music Zone: Your choice of music.

Coloring Zone: "God creates the earth" coloring page.



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

From behind the stage, have Bubba throw some empty pop cans, some crumpled newspaper, and a dog dish or plastic bowl of some kind. The large group presenter sees and hears all the ruckus and wonders what is going on.

Bubba comes out on stage holding a sack or bag and looking grumpy. He has so many things to clean up! He doesn't want to do his chores and he doesn't know why it's his job to do them.

The large group presenter thinks that the kids might know the answer to those questions. He invites the kids to explain to Bubba why we have to do things like clean up and take care of animals. (*Because God wants us to take care of earth and animals, etc.; because they are gifts from God; when we clean up and take care of things we are showing God we love him; it helps our parents and it's the right thing to do...*)

The presenter wraps up by explaining that it is so wonderful that God gave us everything—like the earth and plants and animals and even families and all of the stuff we have. But the most important gift of all that God ever gave us was Jesus. All of the stuff we have is nice, but Jesus dying on the cross lets us be friends with God forever. That promise is the best thing that God ever gave us.

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone, such as the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- Bible
- *The Beginner's Bible: The Story of Creation*, Sony Music Entertainment, Inc. and Time-Life Video and Television, 1995, order from:
<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/6304258917/002-1331796-6652867?v=glance> or <http://www.timelife.com/catalog/product.jsp?productId=328>

Action Zones:

Snack:

- orange sections, apple slices, grapes or bananas

Drama:

- animal costumes/accessories, if available

Craft:

- seed packets (*various vegetables or flowers*)
- potting soil
- markers, crayons, stickers, etc.
- plastic wrap
- rubber bands
- pre-made labels on Avery 5960: GOD GAVE US EVERYTHING – *Take care of God's stuff.*
- paper cups

Play:

- assorted construction paper shapes (see template)
- optional: overhead projector

Quiet Reading:

- basket of books

Music:

- your choice of music

Puppet:

- various puppets

Felt:

- materials to reenact story

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet
- empty aluminum cans, crumpled newspaper, dog dish or plastic bowl

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books

Lesson 6 - Template

