



Date: _____
Series: Discover the Design
Summer Year 1, Lesson 4

Master Over God's Creation

Primary Scripture: Psalm 24:1, "The earth and everything it contains are the LORD's. The world and all who live in it are his."

Key Verse: Genesis 1:28, "God blessed them and said, 'Be fertile, increase in number, fill the earth, and be its master.'"

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids today are keenly aware of environmental causes and our responsibility to take care of the earth. Yet, the reason for this responsibility is most often presented as the idea that we owe it to Mother Nature. The biblical perspective is different. God created the earth and gave us dominion over it. We are to exercise control over God's creation to use it in responsible ways. We are reminded of Jesus, who has given his life for us so we might be forgiven for our irresponsible uses and empowered through him to have proper dominion.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Through Jesus' death and resurrection on the cross, he has redeemed all of creation. We want to claim that for ourselves.

Jesus in us: Jesus does give us the power to reign with him and be responsible for the world he has created.

Jesus through us: Just as Jesus is Lord of all creation, we can give glory to him in the ways we take care of his earth.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring the worship symbols forward such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies:

- *broken toy*

Show kids a broken toy.

Have you ever lent a toy to a friend and had it returned to you broken?

Read Psalm 24:1.

***"The earth and everything it contains are the LORD's.
The world and all who live in it are his."***

The earth and everything in it are the Lord's. He lends it to us to take care of it. Do we ever return it to him broken? Do we ever misuse it? That is what we are talking about today.

Let's worship God for giving us all we need to take care of his earth. Let's especially worship the Lord of this earth, Jesus, who we trust as our Savior and follow as our Lord.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Supplies:

- *large trash can full of wadded newspapers*

Pour onto the floor all the paper from the trash can.

Are we making this world a garbage dump full of litter?

Identify ways we might fail to recycle, reuse, and reduce. Let that be part of the prayer of confession. As you ask for forgiveness in the name of Jesus, announce the power of Jesus to receive his forgiveness and to better take care of this earth.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Supplies:

- *slip of paper for each child*
- *pens or pencils*

Have each child write down one way he could better take care of his world. The children should place these slips of paper in the offering basket along with their offerings. What they write is something they will do this week as an offering to God.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Backyard Trash:

Supplies:

- masking tape to make a grid on the floor (See below for details.)
- stack of newspaper
- whistle
- trash can used in *The Power of the Cross*

Divide kids into an even number of teams, either four or six teams. Teams should not have more than six kids. (Our example on the next page shows teams of six.) Using masking tape, make a grid on the floor. If you have four teams, there should be six 10 x 10-foot squares. Likewise, if you have six teams, make six squares.

X X X X X X	X X X X X X
X X X X X X	X X X X X X

In each team's square, place a stack of newspapers.

The object of the game is for teams to wad up all the newspapers and get rid of them by throwing them into their neighbor's backyard. The team to get rid of all its newspaper and have no trash in its square is the winner. Have several rounds of about a minute each, blowing a whistle to mark the time when it is over and all stop.

It will become obvious that this game can be frustrating. Just as quickly as a team gets rid of its trash, another team is throwing trash back into their backyard.

When several rounds have been played, gather the children to discuss their frustration. Give them a new challenge. Can they come up with a plan to get rid of all the trash? It shouldn't take long for them to figure out to put the trash in the trash can used earlier.

Have a race to get all the trash into the trash can. In order for it all to fit, someone will have to do some compacting.

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Supplies:

- *video:* The Newton's Workshop, The Pollution Solution
or...
- *video:* God's Earth Team, *produced by Moody Institute of Science*

Genesis 1:28 says, "God blessed them and said, 'Be fertile, increase in number, fill the earth, and be its master.'" As good stewards of God's great gifts, we have a responsibility to care for the Earth.

Show the 28-minute video, *The Pollution Solution*. Grandpa challenges Tim and Trisha to a competition unlike any other—to find out who can produce the smallest amount of waste. After a ride in Grandpa's "spaceship," Trisha and Tim learn their important role as caretakers of the earth. Of the two videos suggested, this one may be more appropriate for 1st and 2nd graders. The concepts are presented in very practical ways.

Questions from the video:

Where does most of the waste produced by people go?

What does the word "ecology" mean?

How does the ocean food chain help to break down toxins (*poisons*)?

What percentage of the earth's water supply is fresh water?

OR...

Show the 30-minute video *God's Earth Team*. In this video, the zany Professor Walter Schnaegel and the Earth Team discover what it means to exercise dominion over the fishes of the sea, the birds of the air, and living things. They also learn the three R's of good stewardship of the earth—recycle, reduce, and reuse. This video might be best for kids 3rd grade and older, as it contains numerous scientific terms and concepts that may be above a typical 1st or 2nd grader's grasp.

Optional Activity or Application:

Supplies:

- *bags for trash collection*

Have kids pick up trash around the church property. Separate the trash into what can be recycled. Divide the kids into teams with the challenge of which team can collect the most trash.



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Kids share things they have done to help take care of God's earth.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Invite kids to the microphone who would give thanksgiving prayers for one of the special items in God's creation. After each item, an adult or another child would pray for a way that we might better help take care of that part of God's creation.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- broken toy

The Power of the Cross:

- large trash can full of wadded newspapers

Offering:

- slip of paper for each child
- pens or pencils

Learning Game:

- masking tape to make a grid on the floor (See lesson for details.)
- stack of newspaper
- whistle
- trash can used in the *Power of the Cross*

Bible Presentation:

- video: *God's Earth Team*, produced by Moody Institute of Science (VHS only) order at <http://www.a1christianbook.com/item--God-s-Earth-team-VHS-Moody-Science-Video--godsearthteamvhs.html>
- video: The Newton's Workshop *The Pollution Solution* (Moody Kid's Video, a ministry of the Moody Bible Institute, 1998)—order from <http://www.moodypublishers.com/Publishers/default.asp?SectionID=86DE745783B8435ABFF5832DD9E4C78A&action=details&subid=A4B62961F8914FC7B2CBD20F4C612D25>

Optional Activity:

- bags for trash collection

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