



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

Taking Care of God's Creation

Take Home Point: *Take care of the Creator's stuff.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Genesis 1:28-29

Key Verse: 1 Corinthians 10:26: "Certainly, 'The earth is the Lord's and everything it contains is his.'"

We will help kids know:

- God gave us creation not to use and abuse, but to take care of.
- God gave us a world to provide for our needs.




We will help kids feel:

- Responsibility for taking care of the Creator's stuff.
- Loved by God as they understand how God takes care of us.

We will help kids do:

- Identify choices they might make in which they are not taking care of the Creator's stuff.
- Make posters out of creative materials that give us examples of how to take care of God's stuff.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	The earth belongs to the Lord so we need to take care of it. The children will listen to the story, "You-Can-Use-It Kingdom" (pp. 6-8).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> snack of popcorn, apple slices, and cups of water for each child "You-Can-Use-It" story from the appendix
Large Group 	3 9-14	Overview Dramatic Presentation: "Take Care, Dr. Fritz" In today's presentation, Dr. Fritz gives examples of how one might fail in taking care of God's stuff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> costume for Dr. Imonza Fritz that might include a lab coat, crazy glasses, an oversized pen and clipboard, and wildly spruced hair Albie, a crazy looking bird puppet guinea pig (or pet rodent) in a cage small box containing a candy bar and a soft drink in a can glass small food dishes that will fit in the guinea pig's cage portable radio with headphones
Small Group Application 	4-5	Kids make posters while discussing how to take care of God's creation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> different colored pages of construction paper to make a poster (one for each child) markers or crayons scissors glue tape several creative objects available for the children to use in making their poster. Objects may include bits of recycled plastic, every day throwaway items, old newspapers and magazines. Avery 5160 labels that read "Take care of the Creator's stuff" (one for each child)

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Serve the children apple slices, popcorn, and water. Read the attached story, "You-Can-Use-It Kingdom."

After reading the story, ask the kids the following.

How can this story be like people today living in the world that God made for them?

Can you think of examples of how people in God's world today say, "It's mine to choose how I will use. I don't care if I abuse"?

Today we will learn that this is the Lord's earth and we should **take care of the Creator's stuff.*

Large Group: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Overview

Dramatic Presentation: "Take Care, Dr. Fritz"

In today's presentation, Dr. Fritz will give examples of how one might fail in taking care of God's stuff. He might 1) litter; 2) be unkind to an animal; 3) fail to recycle; and 4) waste electricity. Dr. Fritz will do an experiment trying to get a guinea pig to eat human food.

Throughout the sketch, Dr. Fritz is reminded of two simple truths: 1) God owns all that we have, and 2) God trusts us to take care of his stuff.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Read Genesis 1:28, 29 and 1 Corinthians 10:26. Then ask the following questions.

What has God given us and wants us to take care of? *(All that is made.)*

Who is in charge of this creation? *(We are.)*

Who does this creation belong to? *(God.)*

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

When you give thanks to God, is it just speaking words to him? Or is there feeling behind it as well? If so, what kinds of feelings?

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Can you think of different ways to take care of God's stuff? *(The examples from large group include don't litter, be nice to animals, take care of pets, recycle, and conserve electricity. Ask the children to think of others.)*

Application Activity:

Explain to the group that they will make an art mural to be displayed on the wall. Have them think of as many ways possible to ***take care of the creator's stuff**. What were some ways to take care of God's stuff learned in large group? Then have each child make a small poster describing one of those ways.

Give each child a different colored piece of construction paper for making the posters. Have markers, scissors, glue, newspapers, and magazines available. Each child should stick the "Take care of the Creator's stuff..." label on his poster. Then have the children complete the phrase in their own words.

One way to take care of the Creator's stuff is to carpool so we save gas and don't pollute the air as much. On this poster a child would put a sticker that says, "Take care of the Creator's stuff..." then he might write "Carpool. Save gas." Then he can draw a picture to illustrate it or cut out a picture from an old newspaper or magazine and paste it on the poster.

To be even more imaginative, offer the kids different items that are commonly discarded around the house such as items that can be cut apart and used for decorations on their poster. For example, "Recycle Cans" might be illustrated with cutout pieces from soda can boxes.

When all these posters are taped to the wall, each having the label "Take care of the Creator's stuff...", the message will be clear.

1 Corinthians 10:26 says, “Certainly, ‘The earth is the Lord’s and everything it contains is his.’”

When we remember this truth, we will want to **take care of the creator’s stuff*, because he made it for us also.

Closing Prayer:

Collect individual prayer requests. In prayer be sure to mention the need for us to have Jesus as our Savior. Through him, we have forgiveness of our sins when we fail to take good care of the Creator’s stuff. Also through Jesus, we have the power to wisely ****take care of the Creator’s stuff***.

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“You-Can-Use-It Kingdom”

Short Story for Small Group Warm-Up

There once was a kingdom called You-Can-Use-It. A kind and generous king who provided for all the people ruled the land. The king planted many fine forests, fruit trees, vegetables and grains throughout his kingdom. He told all of his subjects, “This is mine, but you can use it. Just don’t abuse it.”

So it was with the many villages in the kingdom that they enjoyed the generosity of the king. The people used the land but they did not abuse it. They plucked fruit from the trees, took the grains from the fields, and picked vegetables from the gardens. They lived in the kingdom of You-Can-Use-It and they did not abuse it. There was plenty of clear blue water, bright sunshine, and happy days for they lived in the kingdom of You-Can-Use-It, and they did not abuse it.

All was well throughout the land until someone in the village of Applesburg had an idea. You see, the village of Applesburg gathered together once a year to discuss how they would celebrate their fall harvest. This was the biggest event of the year. All year long the people of Applesburg grew apples and popcorn. You can imagine at the end of the season what fun they had as they gathered together for their harvest. It was a wonderful party of apple cider and popcorn.

This year as they discussed their fall harvest, someone came up with a new idea. He said, “Let’s not just have a little harvest day. Let’s have the biggest, best, and longest harvest day in the entire kingdom. In fact, let’s not just make it a day. Let’s make it a whole month! Look at all the popcorn and apples we have. We can invite everyone throughout the land of You-Can-Use-It.”

The villagers thought about the idea for a moment. Then someone said, “Wait a minute! Didn’t the king say, ‘You can use it. Just don’t abuse it’?”

“What do you mean? Said the first villager. “Even if it is the king’s land, we are to choose it how we will use it.”

Ask the kids,

“What do you think will happen next?

“Yes!” others agreed. “We are to choose it how we will use it. Let’s use all the apples and popcorn!”

Soon plans were underway for the biggest, best, and longest harvest festival in the kingdom. Villagers came from miles around as they heard that this was to be the best festival ever.

So it was that bushels of apples were gathered and squeezed to make barrels of cider. Buckets of popcorn seeds were gathered. Day after day, the people had a feast of apple cider, apples, and popcorn.

It seemed that the more the people of You-Can-Use-It provided, the more people from throughout the land came. Soon they were running out of firewood to cook their popcorn.

A villager suggested, “Let’s cut the apple trees down. After all, we can choose it how we will use it.”

“Sure,” said others. “We have plenty.” Soon an apple tree was cut and made into firewood.

Still more people came to the festival. Soon they were running out of popcorn.

One villager spoke up, “There are always the seeds that we save for planting in the spring. Let’s use that. After all, we can choose it how we will use it.” Soon the popcorn seeds that were saved for planting were brought to the fire to be roasted as popcorn.

Still more people came. The people ate more and more popcorn and apples and drank more and more apple cider.

“Where should we throw our apple cores?” they asked.

A villager answered, “Just throw your apple core in that well over there. After all, the well belongs to us and we can choose it how we will use it.”

Night after night, the villagers built fires with apple tree wood, cooked their reserve of popcorn, and threw their apple cores into the well until one day . . . it was all used up!

There were no more trees to cut for firewood. There was no more popcorn to pop. There were no more apples to be eaten. The people that came for the festival left on their way.

The next spring things were quite different in Applesburg. The village came together to discuss their problem.

Ask:

What do you think their problem was?

“Where will we pick our apples? All the trees have been cut and burned,” they said as they remembered the bonfires of the last festival.

“Where shall we get popcorn seed to plant in the fields?” others asked as they remembered eating their popcorn seed supply at the last festival.

“Even the water here tastes funny. It tastes like old, rotten apple cores,” villagers said as they remembered throwing apples in the well last festival.

A villager spoke up, “I remember saying, ‘We can choose it how we will use it.’ But I think we made the wrong choices. We used it and then we abused it. Now we can’t hold out for long.” The villagers realized that, though they could use it, they could also abuse it and be left in an awful way.

News had spread throughout the kingdom of the mistake made by Applesburg. The king soon came to visit. Though he found his land bare, his orchards ruined, his fields unplanted, and his water polluted, he cared most about the villagers. They had realized their wrong and asked the king for help.

“Though it’s true that you can use it, I think you have found that you can abuse it,” said the king. “It will take time for the trees to grow, to gather enough popcorn to sow. The water is foul it is true. And it just takes time to be renewed. Another place I will send you while I let this land rest. But I hope you remember what is best. Here in the land of You-Can-Use-It, take care of my stuff and don’t abuse it.”

Large Group Presentation

“Take Care, Dr. Fritz”

Dramatic Presentation

This is the third in a series of five featuring the costumed character, Dr. Imonza Fritz. This character is truly on the Fritz as he is challenged to learn the truth of God’s creation.

The actor playing the part of Dr. Fritz can have lots of fun creating the character. The costume might involve a lab coat, crazy glasses, an oversized pen and clipboard, and wildly spruced hair. He would also do well to speak with an accent. The script is written with some accent changes such as turning the word “the” into the word “ze” and “where” into “vere.”

Accompanying the crazy scientist is his puppet, Albie, who is a crazy looking bird that over-exaggerates the ridiculous.

The large group presenter, Mr. King, is present to provide the correct answers and the serious questions.

In today’s presentation, Dr. Fritz will give examples of how one might fail in taking care of God’s stuff. He will 1) litter; 2) be unkind to an animal; 3) fail to recycle; and 4) waste electricity. If it seems ridiculous that all of this can be done in one short sketch, it is probably because it *is* ridiculous.

The plot calls for Dr. Fritz to enter the room carrying a guinea pig in a cage describing to the children an experiment he is doing in trying to get the guinea pig to eat human food (a soft drink and candy bar from which the can and wrapper are hastily discarded). The doctor also wastes electricity by failing to turn off his radio, much in the same way he fails to turn off the lights at home.

Throughout the sketch, Dr. Fritz is reminded of two simple truths: 1) God owns all that we have, and 2) God trusts us to take care of his stuff.

Introduction

Mr. King: **Good morning, boys and girls. Let’s welcome Dr. Imonza Fritz and his wonderful assistant, Albie.**

(Dr. Fritz and Albie enter.)

Dr. Fritz: **Good morning, children. I’m delighted to be here. Say good morning, Albie.**

Albie: Good morning, Albie.

Dr. Fritz: *That's not what I mean, Albie.*

Albie: That's not what I mean either. What I really wanted to say is, "I need a three-foot Butterfinger candy bar. Does anyone have one?"

Dr. Fritz: *All zat you can zink about, silly bird, is your silly food. Ve must do ze experiment today!*

Mr. King: Dr. Fritz, what will we be experimenting with today?

Dr. Fritz: *Vell, as you can see, ve have quite ze experiment to conduct. Ve vill study how ve take care of things.*

Mr. King: Is that why you have a guinea pig with you?

Dr. Fritz: *Yes. This is ze guinea pig that is mine. I vill see if it vill become more like me if I feed it people food.*

Mr. King: That sounds quite interesting. I hope you'll be kind to it.

Dr. Fritz: *Vat does zat matter? It is my guinea pig and I can do vit it vat I vant.*

Mr. King: I don't know about that, Doctor. The Bible says all of creation belongs to God the Creator. We are supposed to be caretakers of it.

Dr. Fritz: *Vere does it say such a zing?*

Mr. King: Here in the very first chapter of Genesis in verse 28. "God blessed them (Adam and Eve) and said, '...fill the earth and be its master. Rule the fish in the seas, the birds in the sky...'"

Albie: Hey that's me!

Mr. King: Right. "...and all the animals that crawl on the earth."

Dr. Fritz: *And zat is ze guinea pigs? Even ze guinea pigs God has given to us?*

Mr. King: Yes, but he gave them to us so we can take care of them and use them well.

Dr. Fritz: *Fine. I vill use zis one for ze experiment. I vill see if ze guinea pig can become more like me.*

Mr. King: How will you do that?

Dr. Fritz: *I vill feed it zis special brain food zat I eat all ze time. If it is good for Imonza Fritz, it is good for the guinea pig.*

Albie: And if it's a three-foot Butterfinger, it's good for Albie.

Litter and Recycle

Dr. Fritz: *Quiet! Time for ze experiment. First, I will show ze guinea pig ze kind of food that makes Dr. Imonza Fritz as healthy and as intelligent as he is. It is in zis box. First, zere is a candy bar. (Removes a Butterfinger from his box)*

Albie: Yahoo! Now you're talking! That's Albie food.

Dr. Fritz: *But it is not for you.*

Albie: Well, I don't care if it's not three-feet long. I'll still take it!

Dr. Fritz: *And I'll still give it to ze guinea pig.*

Albie: Oink, oink. I'm a guinea pig too! And see. I can even beg! Please Butterfinger, please Butterfinger, please Butterfinger...

Dr. Fritz: *Silly bird. Zis is ze food for ze experiment. I vill get ze guinea pig to eat it. (Dr. Fritz unwraps the candy bar, throws its wrapper on floor, and takes a bite out of it.)*

See, guinea pig? Ze candy bar tastes so good and makes you smart like me. You must try it.

Mr. King: Excuse me, Dr. Fritz. What did you do with your candy wrapper?

Dr. Fritz: *What candy wrapper?*

Mr. King: The one you had.

Dr. Fritz: *I don't have one anymore.*

Mr. King: I know! You threw it on the ground.

Dr. Fritz: *Yes, so vat?*

Mr. King: You are not being a good caretaker.

Dr. Fritz: *And you are not being a good scientist. I am in the middle of an experiment. Now vatch ze guinea pig. Okay, little guinea pig, I vill show you vat ve drink. (Opens soda can, pours it into a glass, and throws the can aside.)*

Mr. King: Excuse me again, Dr. Fritz.

Dr. Fritz: *Now vat?*

Mr. King: What about the soda can? Don't you know you should put it in a recycle bin?

Dr. Fritz: *A recycle bin?*

Mr. King: Yes, a place where it can be recycled.

Dr. Fritz: *You mean zey make bicycles out of these?*

Mr. King: No. Recycle, not bicycle. They melt the cans down and use the metal again.

Dr. Fritz: *Vell, vat do I care about zat?*

Mr. King: The Bible says that we are to take care of the stuff that the Creator gave us.

Dr. Fritz: *Vat? Vat are you talking about? The Creator did not give me zis soda. I bought if from ze machine.*

Mr. King: The Creator gave us all the things we need to make the drink and the can. It says in Genesis 1:29, "I have given you every plant with seeds on the face of the earth and every tree that has fruit with seeds. This will be your food."

God gave us all the stuff to make soda. And he gave us all the minerals to make the can. He just wants us to take care of things and use them wisely, like recycling the can.

Dr. Fritz: *But I thought I could use vatever I vanted because I vas ze one who owned it.*

Mr. King: Listen again. (*Reading the Bible.*) Here in 1 Corinthians 10:26 it says, "The earth is the Lord's and everything it contains is his." It all belongs to God. He just lets us use it. So we should **take care of the creator's stuff.*

Failing to Conserve Electricity

Dr. Fritz: *Vell, I vill pick up ze litter. Now can ve go back to ze experiment? Vat I vill do is put ze soda and ze candy bar in little dishes and put zem into ze cage with ze guinea pig. Let's see if he eats and becomes smart like me.*

Mr. King: I don't think that's being very nice to the guinea pig. Is soda and candy good for him?

Dr. Fritz: *I eat zem, don't I? Look vat it does for me!*

Albie: Me too! Me too!

Dr. Fritz: *Aha! Ze guinea pig is not eating it. But I know of an experiment zat vill make him do zat. I vill let him listen to my music. Here is my radio and my headphones. I will turn on my radio, put ze headphones in ze cage, and zen he will hear ze commercials about soda and candy. Zen he will feel like the people who need to have zese zings. (Tries to turn on radio.)*

Vait a minute. My radio is not vorking.

Mr. King: Why not?

Dr. Fritz: *Oh, I guess I left it on all night after I vas listening to it. I hate it ven it runs out of batteries. Ven I leave the lights on in my room, zey never run out. But my battery does.*

Mr. King: But you are wasting electricity when you leave the lights on or the batteries running.

Dr. Fritz: *I vaste electricity ven I leave ze batteries on!*

Mr. King: That too. God's word says that the Creator even made electricity and we shouldn't waste it. We should turn the lights off when we are not using them. We should also turn our toys off so we don't run down the batteries.

Dr. Fritz: *But it's my toys and my electricity!*

Mr. King: The Bible says everything belongs to the Creator. He gives it to us to use.

Albie: I could sure use a Butterfinger now.

Conclusion

Dr. Fritz: *Zis whole experiment is not going vell. All you can talk about is how we should be using ze Creator's stuff and all Albie can talk about is ze candy bar!*

Mr. King: Well, all of this is the Creator's stuff. We are supposed to **take care of the Creator's stuff.*

Dr. Fritz: *(to the audience) Is that true, boys and girls?*

(Kids answer, "Yes!")

Mr. King: These kids are pretty smart.

Dr. Fritz: *Yeah. Maybe zey have been eating lots of soda and candy.*

Mr. King: Or maybe they have been learning God's word that says we should **take care of the Creator's stuff.*

Dr. Fritz: *But vhy?*

Mr. King: Because the Creator has given us all we need to live here on earth. He gives us food and water and air and clothes and all the stuff we need to make other stuff.

Dr. Fritz: *Like ze soda and ze candy?*

Mr. King: Yeah, even that.

Albie: Even three-foot Butterfingers.

Mr. King: I suppose so.

Dr. Fritz: *Zen zis experiment is a success!*

Mr. King: Even if you did not get the guinea pig to eat soda and candy?

Dr. Fritz: *True, but I got to eat soda and candy! So I vill go now. Bye, boys and girls.*

Albie: Bye, kids!