



Date: _____
Series: Discover the Design
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,] because the earth and everything on it belong to the Lord." (NCV)

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 rambutan, “kacang putih”, 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. Seow”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> costume for Dr. Seow Seow that might include a lab coat, crazy glasses, an oversized pen and clipboard, and wildly spruced hair Xiao Er, a crazy looking bird puppet hamster 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 hamster’s cage portable radio with headphones
Small Group Application 	4-5	<p>Make posters while you discuss taking care of God’s creation.</p> <p>Memory Verse Learning: “Canned Memory Verse” 1 Cor. 10:26 will be emphasized for lessons 2-4 to encourage children to honour God’s creation by taking care of His world.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> different colored pages of construction paper to make a poster (one for each child) colour pencils scissors glue tape several creative objects available for the children to use in making their poster. Labels that read “Take care of the Creator’s stuff” (one for each child) Seven soda cans with a portion of the Bible verse stuffed within and put into a shopping grocery plastic bag whiteboard or mahjong paper marker

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.

Supplies needed: snack of rambutan, “kacang putih”, and cups of water for each child; “You-Can-Use-It” story from the appendix

Serve the children rambutan slices, kacang, 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

Supplies needed: costume for Dr. Seow Seow that might include a lab coat, crazy glasses, an oversized pen and clipboard, and wildly spruced hair; Xiao Er, a crazy looking bird puppet; hamster 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 hamster’s cage; portable radio with headphones

Dramatic Presentation: “Take Care, Dr. Seow”

In today’s presentation, Dr. Seow 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. Dr. Seow will do an experiment trying to get a hamster to eat human food.

Throughout the sketch, Dr. Seow 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.

Have the kids make posters as you discuss the take home point, ***Take care of the Creator's stuff.** Read Genesis 1:28, 29 and 1 Corinthians 10:26. Then ask the following questions.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Who does this creation belong to? (God.)

Who does God put in charge of this creation? (Us.)

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

What has God given us to take care of our lives? (All that is made.)

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.)

Memory Verse Learning: 5 minutes

Purpose: *Help kids to memorize and keep scriptures at heart. Using creative ways to help kids enjoy learning the key verse and in small group setting.*

Supplies needed: Seven soda cans with a portion of the Bible verse stuffed within and put into a shopping grocery plastic bag; whiteboard or mahjong paper; marker

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 10:26 - "[Certainly,] because the earth and everything on it belong to the Lord."

MV Presentation: “Canned Memory Verse”

Take out the grocery bag of soda cans. Today's memory verse is in these cans so the children are to help take out the slips of paper and arrange them into the proper sequence. They can look into the Bible for help but they have five minutes to do all that has just been said. The shepherd gives the indication to start. When completed, have children help to write it on the whiteboard or on the mahjong paper. Have the children compete one more time. After that, reward the children with a snack.

Supplies needed: different colored pages of construction paper to make a poster (one for each child); colour pencils; scissors; glue; tape; several creative objects available for the children to use in making their poster; Labels that read “Take care of the Creator's stuff” (one for each child)

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.

Prayer Time:

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**.

“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 rice 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 Rambutani had an idea. You see, the village of Rambutani gathered together once a year to discuss how they would celebrate their harvest festival. This was the biggest event of the year. All year long the people of Rambutani grew rambutans and kacang. 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 rambutan in syrup and kacang.

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 kacang and rambutans 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 rambutans and kacang!”

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 bunches of rambutans were gathered and barrels of syrup were made. Buckets of kacang were gathered. Day after day, the people had a feast of rambutan in syrup, rambutans, and kacang.

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 kacang.

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

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

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

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

Still more people came. The people ate more and more kacang putih and rambutans and drank more and more rambutan syrup.

“Where should we throw our rambutan husks?” they asked.

A villager answered, “Just throw your rambutan husks 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 rambutan tree wood, cooked their reserve of kacang, and threw their rambutan husks into the well until one day . . . it was all used up!

There were no more trees to cut for firewood. There was no more kacang putih to fry. There were no more rambutans to be eaten. The people that came for the festival left on their way.

The next season things were quite different in Rambutani. The village came together to discuss their problem.

Ask:

What do you think their problem was?

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

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

“Even the water here tastes funny. It tastes like old, rotten rambutan husks,” villagers said as they remembered throwing rambutans 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 Rambutani. 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. Seow”

Dramatic Presentation

This is the third in a series of five utilizing a costumed character, Dr. Imonza Fritz. The name is adopted from Hokkien meaning “crazy” and this character brings out challenges as he learn the truth of God’s creation.

The actor playing the part of Dr. Seow 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, Xiao Er, who is a crazy looking bird that over-exaggerates the ridiculous.

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

In today’s presentation, Dr. Seow 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. Seow 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 hamster to eat human food (a soft drink and candy bar from which the can and wrapper are hastily discarded). The doctor 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. Seow 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

Teacher: **Good morning, boys and girls. Let’s welcome Dr. Seow Seow and his wonderful assistant, Xiao Er.**

(Dr. Seow and Xiao Er enter.)

Dr. Seow: **Good morning, children. I’m delighted to be here. Say good morning, Xiao Er.**

Xiao Er: Good morning, Xiao Er.

Dr. Seow: *That's not what I mean, Xiao Er.*

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

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

Teacher: Dr. Seow, what will we be experimenting with today?

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

Teacher: Is that why you have a hamster with you?

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

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

Dr. Seow: *Vat does zat matter? It is my hamster and I can do vith it vat I vant.*

Teacher: 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. Seow: *Vere does it say such a zing?*

Teacher: 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 over the fish in the sea and over the birds in the sky...'"

Xiao Er: Hey that's me!

Teacher: Right. "Rule over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Dr. Seow: *And zat is ze hamsters? Even ze hamsters God has given to us?*

Teacher: Yes, but He gave them to us so we can take care of them and use them well.

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

Teacher: How will you do that?

Dr. Seow: *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 hamster.*

Xiao Er: And if it's a three-foot Kit Kat, it's good for Xiao Er.

Litter and Recycle

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

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

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

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

Dr. Seow: *And I'll still give it to ze hamster.*

Xiao Er: *(Use hand to rub nose.)* I'm a hamster too! And see. I can even beg! Please Kit Kat, please Kit Kat, please Kit Kat...

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

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

Teacher: Excuse me, Dr. Seow Seow. What did you do with your candy wrapper?

Dr. Seow: *What candy wrapper?*

Teacher: The one you had.

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

Teacher: I know! You threw it on the ground.

Dr. Seow: *Yes, so vat?*

Teacher: You are not being a good caretaker.

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

Teacher: Excuse me again, Dr. Seow.

Dr. Seow: *Now vat?*

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

Dr. Seow: *A recycle bin?*

Teacher: Yes, a place where it can be recycled.

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

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

Dr. Seow: *Vell, vat do I care about that?*

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

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

Teacher: 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 all the plans that have grain for seeds. And I have given you all the trees whose fruits have seeds in them. They will be food for you."

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

Teacher: Listen again. (*Reading the Bible.*) Here in 1 Corinthians 10:26 it says, "[Certainly,] 'because the earth and everything on it belong to the Lord.'" 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. Seow: *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 hamster. Let's see if he eats and becomes smart like me.*

Teacher: I don't think that's being very nice to the hamster. Is soda and candy good for him?

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

Xiao Er: Me too! Me too!

Dr. Seow: *Aha! Ze hamster 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.

Teacher: Why not?

Dr. Seow: *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.*

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

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

Teacher: 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. Seow: *But it's my toys and my electricity!*

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

Xiao Er: I could sure use a Kit Kat now.

CONCLUSION

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

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

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

(Kids answer, "Yes!")

Teacher: These kids are pretty smart.

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

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

Dr. Seow: *But vhy?*

Teacher: 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. Seow: *Like ze soda and ze candy?*

Teacher: Yeah, even that.

Xiao Er: Even three-foot Kit Kat.

Teacher: I suppose so.

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

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

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

Xiao Er: Bye, kids!

Supplies:

Quantity (4)

Small Group Warm-Up:

- snack of rambutan, “kacang putih,” and cups of water for each child
- “You-Can-Use-It” story included in lesson

Large Group:

- costume for Dr. Seow Seow
- Xiao Er, a crazy looking bird puppet
- hamster in a cage
- small box containing a Kit Kat or other candy bar and a soft drink in a can
- glass
- small food dishes that will fit in the hamster’s cage
- portable radio with headphones

Small Group Application:

- 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.
- one label that reads “Take care of the Creator’s stuff” label for each child

Memory Verse Learning:

- 2” X 8” white paper strips where a portion of the Bible verse is written on it
- Seven soda cans where the strips of paper are rolled and stuffed into the can
- a shopping grocery plastic bag and all the cans are put into it to make it look like grocery shopping
- whiteboard or mahjong paper
- marker

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