

LESSON 3: Our World

AIM

To help the learners recall the story of creation, and understand why the world is damaged and in need of healing. (6.1, 8.4.1)

OUTCOME

Learners are aware that the world is damaged and in need of healing.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

(This may take more than one lesson time allocation.)

- 1 Arrange an area to display a class or group **mural**. Split the class into groups to paint certain parts of the creation story.

GROUP 1 paints the sky – the whole length of display area

GROUP 2 paints the sun, stars and moon

GROUP 3 the land and ocean to fit under the sky

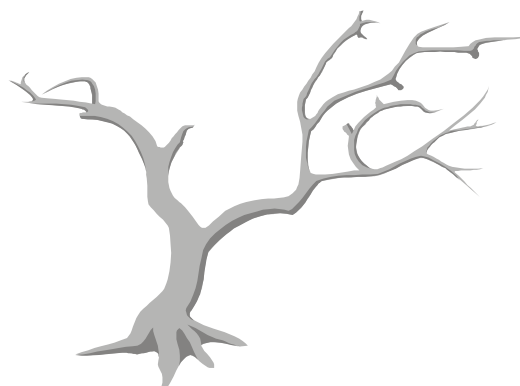
GROUP 4 flowers, trees, plants to place on the backdrop (remember the Tree of Life, and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil)

GROUP 5 paints different types of animals

GROUP 6 paints Adam and Eve

Each group will paint on their own, but they must be given an idea of size so that the whole mural will fit together. Make an example of a tree, animal or person that groups 4, 5, and 6 will have an idea of scale. Cut the paper for groups 1 & 3 so that they will immediately have an idea of size. Group 2 must work next to group 1 to see how the sun, moon and stars will fit.

- 2 When each group has completed their painting allow time for the paint to dry. The seventh day God rested! Now **tell the story** of how God created a wonderful place of happiness called the Garden of Eden. Place the groups work on the display area as you tell the story. [Genesis 1:1-2:4a]. A children's Bible usually has lovely pictures to show the children. During this activity have an outline of a tree drawn as below. Put leaves and fruits on the one half as you tell the story. Thorns and dead branches will make up the other half as you tell the story in ACTIVITY 3.



WHAT YOU NEED

- * Paint, newsprint (1)
- * Bible (2)(3)(8)
- * Books with pictures of the world (2)
- * Outline of a tree (2)
- * 🎵 *All Things Bright and Beautiful* (6)

- 3 Include how and why Adam and Eve were sent out of the Garden of Eden. [Genesis 3]
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ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 4 On small pieces of cardboard ask different teachers what their **favourite thing** is in the world. Stick these onto the creation mural.
- 5 Thank you **letters to God** for creating a beautiful world.
- 6 **Songs:** *All Things Bright And Beautiful*.
- 7 The murals could be made in **smaller groups** and on a smaller scale (shoe box size) Use different types of materials instead of just painting.
- 8 **Scripture reading:** John 15: 12 – 17. Adam and Eve did not listen to God. Keeping God's commandments is how we love God.
- 9 The mural could also be **made large**, for example, on a wall in the playground.

LESSON 4: Caring for Our World

AIM

To help learners see the links between greed, poverty, and environmental degradation in the world, and will to encourage them to take the situation of the poor to heart. (12.1.3, 12.3.1)

OUTCOME

Learners see the links between greed, poverty, and environmental degradation in the world



WHAT YOU NEED

- * Bible (1)(6)
- * Pictures from magazines and newspapers (3)
- * Pictures of human beings (4)
- * Party invitations (5)
- * Newspaper articles (7)

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 Tell or read the story of the **multiplication of the loaves and fishes**. There are four versions in the gospels: [Matthew 14:13-21, Matthew 15:32-38, Mark 6:34-44, Luke 9:10-17].
- 2 **Discuss the story** with the learners. What do we learn? Jesus encourages us to share what we have with others. If we share, God will make sure that we all have enough. If we refuse to share what we have, we make the world a worse place because we leave others hungry.
- 3 Present a **picture of today's world** as follows. Using pictures from magazines and newspapers, make a large collage in two halves. The contents are suggested in the table below.

WEALTH	POVERTY
pictures of beautiful scenery	pictures of ugly scenery
mountains	squatter camps
running streams	polluted rivers
fields of flowers	smoggy skies
tall trees	eroded dongas
beautiful houses	sandy wastes
suburban streets	township streets
office blocks	factories

Ask the children to talk about the collage. What does the picture tell us about our world?

- 4 Have a collection of **pictures of human beings** from a variety of situations and walks of life. Give each child a picture, and invite him or her to say in which half of the collage picture, their person(s) would be found living. Stick the picture up according to the child's suggestion. Again discuss the final picture that emerges. Do we share?
- 5 Plan a **bring-and-share party** either for the class itself, or as a class, to share with an underprivileged group. Choose your guests as Jesus would have. (See ADDITIONAL

ACTIVITY (6)) After the party ask the children how they felt as Jesus' friends came closer together.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

6 Tell the following story to the children.

One day Jesus was invited to one of the Pharisees' house for a meal. Jesus noticed that as the people came in they tried to get the best places at the table. Jesus said, "When you are invited to a wedding feast, don't think you are the most important guest and pick the best place. If you do and someone more important arrives, you will feel very silly when they ask you to go to a lower place. No, take a lower place, so you will be told 'Come, take a higher place'".

"When you give a meal don't invite only those you know will invite you back. No, invite the poor, the lame, the blind. They will not pay you back on earth, but my Father will repay you in heaven!" [Luke 14:7-14]

7 Our greed affects those around us as well as our natural environment. The teacher should find relevant news features from newspapers, or video- tape the news. (These news features should show how man's greed destroys our natural environment, and leads to poverty for others.) Ask the children to find examples of their own to paste into their RE books. The collage from ACTIVITY (3) could be used for the same purpose.