

LESSON 11: Caring for Creation



AIM

To develop in the children a respect for God's creation and a knowledge that they are responsible for caring for the environment (6.1, 12.1.3)

OUTCOME

Learners understand that God is the creator of everything, and that God wants us to look after creation.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 **Story:** Tell a story about a hungry bin.

Once upon a time there was a beautiful new bin which stood in the school grounds. This bin was very sad and lonely. The bin was sad because no one came near him and no one gave him anything to eat.

The bins favourite food was paper, chip packets and sweet wrappers, but best of all, he liked the taste of plastic bags. The poor, sad bin could see this lovely food all around him and in the distance on the playground, but having no hands, he could not pick up this lovely food and eat it.

"If only these kind little boys or girls would give me the bits of paper. All they need to do is lift my lid and drop the lovely food into my mouth."

Then a wonderful thing happened! The Grade R class decided to do something about this particular hungry bin and all the other bins they came across. If they found any 'bin food' lying around they would pick it up and give it to the bin. They would even tell their friends and families the importance of feeding the bins.
- 2 **Make-believe:** Make it obvious that this is only a pretend story but the important point is that we should not leave litter lying around, even if we did not drop it there ourselves.
- 3 **From the Bible:** God said, "I will make some special friends. I will make people." And God told the people to take care of the earth, all the beautiful things of creation – plants, the flowers, the trees and all the fish, the birds and all the animals, both big and small, and also to take care of each other. God was happy and loved everything and everyone in the whole world. [see Genesis 1:26-30]
- 4 **Prayer:** Dear God, help me to care for our world and to keep the world a beautiful place.
- 5 **Sing:** *All Things Bright and Beautiful.*
- 6 **Action song:** 'This is the way we pick up litter.... 'to the tune of *Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush.* Make up words to fit the song. Begin with, 'Here we go round the school playground...'

WHAT YOU NEED

- * Pictures showing the beauty of the world (1)
- * A Children's Bible (3)
- * ♪ *All Things Bright and Beautiful* (5)
- * ♪ *Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush* (6)
- * Plastic bags for collecting litter: ask the children ahead of time to collect these items (7)
- * Toilet roll tubes, cardboard, paints, cotton wool, glue (8)
- * A collection of recyclable materials to use in craft activities (10)
- * Egg cartons, potting soil, fast growing seeds (11)

GRADE R

- 7 **Litter:** Arrange for the children to go to the playground – after break is a good time –and pick up litter. Let the children work in pairs. Give each pair a plastic bag. Make sure they wash their hands afterwards. Show appreciation for the clean up job they have done.
- 8 **A Bunny:** The children paint or cover a toilet roll tube. Make two slits, on either side of the top of the tube into which ears will be inserted. Cut the ear shapes out of cardboard, colour or paint them. Stick a dab of cotton wool on the face for a nose, and a bigger piece for a tail. Draw eyes and a mouth. Small bits of cotton wool can also be used to indicate front paws.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 9 **Recycling:** If your school does not have paper recycling, maybe you could arrange a system that would suit your school. Cans can also be recycled.
- 10 **Art and Craft:** Making animals or flowers out of throw away items, such as empty boxes, toilet roll tubes, plastic cold drink bottles, and so on.
- 11 **Make a planter:** Use recyclable materials. Cut an egg carton in half so as to form a row of three containers. Fill with potting soil and plant fast growing seeds.
- 12 **Caring for plants:** Plants need light, water and food in order to grow.
- 13 **Caring for pets:** Pets need love, food and water.
- 14 **Caring for others:** Talk about how show others love and respect.

LESSON 12: Sharing in Creation



AIM

To help the children understand the difference between things made by God and those made by humankind, and that we use our creativity to make things using the natural gifts God has given us. (2.3.2, 6.1)

OUTCOME

Learners understand that we share in creation is using the gifts that God has given us.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 **Rocks:** Have a selection of rocks of various colours, sizes and shapes. Let the children study the rocks. The children might enjoy grouping them according to colour, size, and texture. Talk about how rocks are part of God's creation, how they are formed in the crust of the earth and how they continue to be formed by nature, smoothed and worn down by the wind, heat and water. The rocks can be worn down to the point of becoming sand.
- 2 **God's love:** Say something like, "God loves everything that God created. If God loves rocks and sand, imagine how special God's love is for each of us."
- 3 **Action poem:** Add appropriate actions.

God gave me eyes so that I can see
The beautiful rocks God made for me.
God gave me hands so that I can touch
The rocks and sand I love so much.
- 4 **Look and identify:** Let the children decide what materials various objects in the classroom are made from. Many things come from the earth's crust and from under the earth. Everything we make comes originally from God's creation. Metals come from the earth's crust. Glass is made from sand.
- 5 **Clay:** How are bricks made? Who makes bricks? (People make bricks.) They use the clay that God has given us. Where does clay come from? (From the earth. It is a kind of mud.) Many things are made from clay. Can you guess which things are made of clay? (Bowls, cups, plates and so on.)
- 6 **Homes:** Show the children the pictures of homes built from bricks, and from mud. Point out the beautiful designs on the Ndebele homes. Maybe they can identify the shapes and colours.

WHAT YOU NEED

- * Rocks, sand and clay (1)
- * Action poem (3) ⇨
- * Clay pots and a few other examples of pottery (5)
- * Pictures of mud huts, and Ndebele houses (6)
- * Clay, bin bags, aprons (8)
- * Sand tray (9)
- * An assortment of smooth stones (10)
- * Clay, powder paints (11)
- * 🎵 *What a Wonderful World* or *Sing for Life – Thank You God for All* (p.19)(12)

7 **Prayer:** We thank you, God:
That we can play with sand and clay.
We thank you, God:
For the mountains tall and the stones so small
We thank you, God:
That people can make the things we use
And paint them with reds, greens and blues.
Amen.

8 **Art and Crafts:** Earth clay is available from craft shops and art supply shops. Remember that it is messy. Protect the desks with bin bags and make sure the children are wearing aprons. Let the children play with the clay at first to get a feel for it. Let them make various shapes and let them experiment with different textures by scraping or pressing different objects into the clay. If you are not able to use clay, play dough will form a substitute.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 9 **Sand tray:** Playing with sand; drawing in sand.
- 10 **Stones:** Smooth stones or large pebbles can be painted. They are usually available from plant nurseries.
- 11 **Paperweight:** Make a fish or any other shape out of earth clay. Flatten the bottom and let it dry. The top may be decorated with designs or textures. When the clay object has completely dried, it may be painted with powder paint. When the paint is dry, the paperweight may be painted with clear gloss. This should be done by the teacher.
- 12 **Song:** *What a Wonderful World* or *Sing for Life – Thank You God for All* (p.19).

LESSON 13: God Loves All Creation



AIM

To help the children appreciate God's concern for all creation, including themselves whom God cares for as a Mother and Father do. (2.1.2, 2.2.2, **10.2**)

OUTCOME

Learners understand that God cares for them as a loving parent.

WHAT YOU NEED

- * 🎵 *All Things Bright and Beautiful* (2) (9)
- * Action rhyme (3) ⇔
- * Play-dough or plasticine (8)
- * 🎵 *He's got the whole world in his hands* (9) (10)
- * Bible (10)
- * 🎵 Song of your choice (10)

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 **Introduction:** Find something good about this day (all days have something to wonder and marvel at) and point it out to the children. Be enthusiastic and joyful. Tell the children that all the things we enjoy about the world, God has given us, because we are so greatly loved by God.
- 2 **Sing** *All Things Bright and Beautiful*.
- 3 Let the children join hands to **form a circle**. They can skip or walk rhythmically as the sing or speak the following rhyme.

It's a wonderful day! (Before moving)
 We can sing
 We can dance
 In the sunshine
 And in the rain
 When it's fine
 Then again (Change direction)
 When it's cloudy
 When it's not
 When it's windy
 When it's hot
 We can sing
 We can dance – (Stop after this)
 On such a wonderful day! (Bow as this is said)

- 4 Talk briefly to the children about **God's great love for all creation**. When we look at the world around us, we can see how much God loves us, and all of creation.
- 5 Let the children stand. They could **repeat the words in italics** and add actions to the following:

The whole world shows us God's great love.
 The rain that falls pitter, pitter, patter
 The wind that blows puff, puff, puff
 The sun that shines bright, bright, bright
 The bees that fly buzz, buzz, buzz
 The birds that sing tweet, tweet, tweet
 The flowers that grow pretty, pretty

GRADE R

The elephant that walks stomp, stomp, stomp
The buck that jumps high, high, high
The cheetah that runs fast, fast, fast
And people who love, love me
Are some of the many things that show God's great love.

Ask the children if they can give any other examples and add them to the list.

- 6 Talk about **how God loves us** all the time. God never stops loving us. God is our Mother and Father and we are all brothers and sisters.

- 7 **Prayer:**

Loving Mother-Father God,
Thank you for your great love.
Dear God, I know you love me
Dear God, I know you care
Dear God I know you love me
Just the way I am.
Thank you for your great love. Amen.

- 8 **Reflection:** Give each child some play-dough or plasticine. At first let the children be free simply to play with the dough. Ask the children to think of something from God's creation that they would like to make. While the children are working, remind them that God loves them and that God loves all creation.

- 9 Conclude the lesson by **singing** *All Things Bright and Beautiful* or, *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 10 A **prayer service** to celebrate God's love: (Before you begin, teach the children the meaning of 'precious'.)

OPENING SONG *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*.

LISTEN TO A READING: God says, "I care for you because you are precious to me and because I love you, I make you special. Do not be afraid – I am with you." [Isaiah 43:4-5]

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD:

Each of us is precious to God. (R) Thanks be to God.

God made us special. (R)

We are special because God loves us. (R)

We are happy that God loves us. (R)

PRAYER: Thank you for your love, dear God. Thank you. Loving God. Amen.

SONG of your choice.