

# CREATION

## “God Wants Us to Enjoy and Care for Our World”

**Series Objective:** Students will learn:

- God created the world and everything in it
- God provides growth
- God wants people to enjoy and take care of the world
- God made us special

**Series Theme Verse:** “In the beginning God, created the heavens and the earth.” Genesis 1:1

**Lesson Objective:** Students will discover and understand:

- This earth was created by God out of His love for us.
- God created it for us, He has entrusted His creation to our care.

**Lesson Passage:** Genesis 2:15-25

**Materials Needed:** Bible, shaving cream, glue, food coloring, paper plates, paint brushes, earth template to use as a guide in painting our world, 3-4 plastic shopping bags, newspapers, laptop or iPad,

**Lesson Plan:**

**The Story Retold:** Today we're going to make a copy of the Garden of Eden-where God put the first people he ever made. Have kids volunteer for the following parts by raising their hands. Explain that kids will stay in their seats now and then play their roles when you read through the Bible passage.

- **First of all, our garden has a man named Adam. Who wants to be Adam?**
- **The Bible talks about a river running through the garden. We need two or three people to stretch out on the ground to make the river.**
- **Now we need a couple of trees. Who wants to be a tree?**
- **Now we need two more trees-the tree of life and the tree of knowledge and evil.**
- **Last of all, we need people to be all kinds of birds and animals.**

Be sure all kids who haven't been chosen for another part become birds and animals.

**Great! Now we're all ready. Listen for your part and be ready to take your place in the garden as I read the story from the Bible.** Read Genesis 2:15-25 aloud, pausing to cue kids to perform their assigned parts. Some students may be excited about this kind of Bible study and want to do it again. If time allows, do it again.

- **What do you think the Garden of Eden was like?** (full of beautiful trees and flowers and friendly animals)
- **I think Adam enjoyed living in the garden, taking care of it, and watching over all the animals. But soon Adam and Eve sinned, and God made them leave the garden. Then more and more people were born, and they began to spread all over the earth.**

**Now we have the whole world to take care of. God wants us to take care of his world.**

- **What do you think of how we're taking care of God's world?** Responses will vary.

### **Clean Sweep Game**

Say: **Let's see what kind of job we're doing taking care of the part of God's world we live in. We're going to go outside for a "look and listen" walk. I want you to be totally silent—no talking at all. Listen for all the sounds you can hear, and look around for any garbage or pollution you can see. Don't talk until we're sitting here in our places again.**

Take the kids for a two-minute walk. Then bring them back inside and discuss what they saw and heard. Ask about the natural sounds and the human-made sounds. Talk about natural beauty and human-made pollution. If you want, have kids go back outside and pick up any trash they saw on the walk.

Ask:

◆ **How do you think God feels when he sees how people have messed up the beautiful world he created?** (Sad; angry; disgusted.)

Say: **Let's play a game called Clean Sweep and see if that will help us understand.**

Have kids count off by threes. Have "Ones" and "Twos" form a big circle together. Give each child in the circle a sheet of news- paper. Give "Threes" each a paper grocery bag, and have them get on their hands and knees in the middle of the circle.

Say: **When I say "go," Ones and Twos will start tearing their newspapers into little pieces and throwing the pieces into the circle. The Threes will try to keep the circle clean by picking up all the paper shreds and putting them in their bags. I'll call time after one minute, and then we'll see if the Threes were able to keep the circle clean. Ready? Go!**

After the minute is up, have everyone help the Threes gather the paper shreds. Then ask:

◆ **What was this game like for you?** (It was fun, but I felt bad about making the other group work so hard.)

◆ **How is this game like what's happening in the real world?** (A lot of people are polluting and only a few are trying to clean it up; not everyone is taking care of the earth.)

◆ **How does being a Christian make a difference in the way we feel about keeping the earth clean?** (We know God made the earth so we should want to work hard to please God.)

Say: ★ **God wants us to care for his world. Tell me about the things you do to help care for the earth.** List kids' responses on newsprint.

Ask: ◆ **What else can we do to help care for the earth?** If kids haven't already mentioned these things, bring them up: we can recycle, walk or ride a bike instead of asking for a ride in a car, correctly take care of our trash, use water and other resources carefully.

**The Story and Me:**

- Review series verse by watching video:

[https://youtu.be/7-\\_NjL2zbVA?list=PLcfqhOkX9IJf1DvwDJGEtE21\\_pgsD5FQi](https://youtu.be/7-_NjL2zbVA?list=PLcfqhOkX9IJf1DvwDJGEtE21_pgsD5FQi)

- Provide each student with a paper plate with a template of the earth glued in the center.
- Mix together "puffy paint" by blending shaving cream, glue, and food coloring.
- Paint water on the template blue and the land green.
- Glue series verse on the back of the plate.