

STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION

Bible Text: Genesis 1:28-31; 3:17-20; Psalm 148; Romans 8:18-25; Revelation 5:11-14; 22:1-5

Lesson Focus: We are called to help take care of God's creation.

Big Question: With all the problems facing the environment, what can one person really do?

Key Words: CREATION, STEWARDSHIP, PRAISE

BIBLE CONNECTION

-] God created the world and all that is in it, and it was good (Genesis 1:31).
-] God gave humans dominion over creation (Genesis 1:28-30). Another name for this is stewardship.
-] A steward is someone who manages the property or possessions of someone else. The steward does not own the property but is in charge of it.
-] Nature and the whole universe bear witness to their Creator (Psalm 148).
-] When we look at the creation, we are reminded of how much God loves us (Psalm 8).
-] Because of sin, not just humans but all of creation now have a broken relationship to God (Genesis 3:17-20).
-] All of creation, just like all people, yearns for redemption (Romans 8:18-25).
-] Christ died to reconcile all of creation back to God.
-] We look forward to a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 5:11-14).
-] Because we have been redeemed in Christ Jesus, we work with God to bring about the new heaven and the new earth.
-] Stewardship of creation is an integral part of the Christian faith.

CARTOON CONNECTION

-] What are some problems facing God's creation today, big and small?
-] Do you think one person can do very much to help clean up creation? Why or why not?
-] What are some ways you are already helping to take care of creation?



STUDENT BOOK CONNECTION

Here We Stand Student Book page 271: How to Tell the Difference between Justice and Charity

-] What can you do in your daily life to show justice and charity to others?

Here We Stand Student Book page 85: How to Tell When the Apocalypse Is Imminent

-] What do you think Martin Luther meant when he said he'd plant a tree?
-] Would *you* plant a tree?

LIFE CONNECTION

Talk as a family about what you are currently doing to conserve energy, recycle, and take care of God's creation. What more could you do? Make a checklist of what you could all do daily/weekly/monthly to be better stewards of God's creation.

STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION

Earth Ball

Take turns reading the lines of the following poem. Create “Earth Balls” of your own using blue, green, and white balloons. Decorate them with markers and share the reason for your decorations. Talk about the different things you could now do with your “Earth Balls.” Whether you pass them gently around or tie them to your ankles and play a stomping game, talk about how those activities made you feel about our planet.

“Earth Ball” by Olaf Skarsholt

If the earth
were only a few feet in
diameter, floating a few feet above a
field somewhere, people would come from
everywhere to marvel at it. People would walk
around it marveling at its big pools of water, its little
pools and the water flowing between the pools. People
would marvel at the bumps on it, and the holes in it, and they
would marvel at the very thin layer of gas surrounding it and the
water suspended in the gas. The people would marvel at all the
creatures walking around the surface of the ball, and in the water.
The people would declare it precious because it was the only one,
and they would protect it so that it would not be hurt. The ball
would be the greatest wonder known, and people would come
to behold it, to be healed, to gain knowledge, and to know
beauty and to wonder how it could be. People would love
it and defend it with their lives, because they would
somehow know that their lives, their own
roundness, could be nothing without it.
If the earth were only a few
feet in diameter.

“Earth Ball” by Olaf Skarsholt, as found in *Ecotherapy: Healing Ourselves, Healing the Earth* © 1996 Augsburg Fortress.