

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference Genesis 2:4-25 Lectionary Sunday/ Church Season **Pentecost** Lesson Focus God created an amazing world, and we help care for it.



If you are using the Semi-Continuous version of the Revised Common Lectionary (ELCIC, Episcopal Church USA, Anglican Church of Canada, PCUSA, United Methodist Church, United Church of Christ), the lesson for this Sunday is Jesus Blesses the Children (Mark 10:13-16). The leader material for this lesson is found on page 95. The leaflet for this lesson is included with all other leaflets for this quarter.

Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Play Time Kids create plants and animals from art supplies, create a "zoo" where they can move like and/ or care for animals, and focus on green creation items.	Coloring Pages	Chenille craft stems, construction paper (various colors, including green), crayons or markers, kid- safe scissors, glue or glue sticks, stuffed animals
Circle Time Kids sing a song as they gather and relate activities to the story of Adam and Eve.	None	Fabrics in various colors and textures
Prayer Time Kids echo leader as they open with prayer.	None	None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Adam and Eve Storytelling Kids hear the story of Adam and Eve in the garden.	Spark Story Bibles	Stuffed animals
Thumbprint People, Animals, and Plants Kids add thumbprint people, animals, and plants to story art of the garden.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	Ink pads, moist towelettes, markers

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Create a Garden Kids add three-dimensional elements to create a garden.	Leaflets	Tissue paper, pencils, chenille craft stems, glue or glue sticks, construction paper (various colors), scissors
Caring People Pictures Kids cut and glue images of people caring for creation.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	Kid-friendly magazines, scissors, glue sticks
Made Wonderful to Care Wonderfully Kids play a game about caring for creation.	Leaflet	None

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Good-bye Time Kids review together the day's lesson and sing a song together.	Leaflets	None
Prayer Time Kids pray together and add names of animals to the prayer.	Family Pages	Stuffed animals



Visit www.sparksundayschool.org for more Spark content! Watch a short Lesson Prep video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find four downloadable resources for this lesson: a Coloring Page, a Family Page, and two additional in-class activities.

Gather (10 minutes)

Play Time

Before kids arrive, set out materials for them to begin exploring things God created. Make a sample chenille stem animal and set it out by the supplies. As kids enter, direct them to use chenille stems, paper, crayons or markers, scissors, and glue sticks to create animals, plants, or people. In another area, set out stuffed animals. Invite kids to act like animals or to care for the stuffed animals in "the zoo." Encourage kids to use whatever materials are available to create images of their favorite parts of the world God created. As kids create, say: **We are in the church season of Pentecost, and the color for this season is green. Most plants have some green on them, and some animals do, too. Did any of you make a salamander, frog, or fish? They are some of God's green animals! Provide copies of the downloadable Coloring Page for this lesson for the kids to color. Be sure to help them put their names on their papers.**

Once kids have had a chance to play, ask them to put the supplies away and then gather together. As they do so, have them choose a silent animal, such as a rabbit or giraffe, and move as that animal does. **We've had a good chance to play. Now it's time to clean up and get ready to hear our story! Please clean up your supplies and join me for Circle Time. As you do, choose an animal to act like. As you move to the circle, move like that animal.**

Spark Resources



Supplies Chenille craft stems Construction paper (various colors) Crayons or markers Scissors

Glue sticks Stuffed animals

Circle Time

When everyone has joined the circle, you may begin. **Hi everyone! I'm very happy** to see each of you today! We're going to have a lot of fun together, so let's get started by singing a song!

Stand in a circle together. Sing this song to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."

Here we are today, God's children everyone! We'll learn and play and sing and laugh. In God's name we'll have fun!

Sing this several times, encouraging kids to join you.

What did you make already today? Let's see! Invite kids to show and tell about the things they made. What is another word for "make"? Create! Today we are going to talk about God 's creation of EVERYTHING in the world.

Discuss God's creation using the following questions, allowing time for kids to respond to each question. What kinds of plants, animals, and other things did God make? Which are like what you made? If the things you made were living, how would you care for them?

Today we are going to hear about God creating the world and ways we help God care for everything in the world. Before we do that, let's imagine some things God created using these pieces of fabric! Hold up a piece of fabric. What did God make that was like this? Describe the fabric: blue and soft, brown and furry, etc., and invite kids to name things that they are reminded of in God's creation (water and a furry bear). Continue, using different pieces of fabric.

God made everything in the whole wide world! We have a special job in God's creation—to help take care of everything. Let's dig deeper into our Bible story!

Prayer Time

Before we read our story, let's start with a prayer. Invite kids to mimic your motions as you pray:

Dear God, (fold hands) Thank you for making the world! (move arms around in a large circle) Thank you for making butterflies (wave arms like a butterfly) And tigers (roar and "paw" the air) And trees (stand on tiptoe, raise arms above head) And me! (point to self) I love you! (cross arms as if hugging) Amen. Spark Resources

Supplies

Fabric pieces in various colors and textures

Spark Resources

Supplies None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Adam and Eve Storytelling

We are going to hear the story of God creating amazing things—including people. God gave the people a very important job to do. Listen very carefully to find out what it was!

The story I am going to read to you comes from the very first book in the Bible the book of Genesis. That book tells us about things that happened a very long time ago! As I read the story, I want you to use some special "glasses" to look at the things God made as you hear about them. Show how to make circles with fingers and hold them to your eyes to suggest glasses. Are you ready?

Distribute copies of the Spark Story Bible. Help the kids find the story of Adam and Eve on page 8 and put the open Bibles on their laps. Read the story aloud, inviting the kids to follow along and encouraging them to look through their "glasses" at the different things mentioned.

After the story, ask kids the following, allowing time for them to answer each question. What kinds of things did God create? What were the names of the people in the story? What was the important job God gave to them? (to care for creation and name the animals)

Show kids the stuffed animals. **Let's pretend that these are alive and we are Adam and Eve. Let's have fun and give these animals names that are different from the ones Adam gave them.** Encourage kids to create names for the animals without giving them too many guidelines. Their names might vary from pet names, such as Spot, to wild, nonsensical names. **How could we help God care for these animals?** Allow time for kids to respond. Answers will vary.

God made an amazing world, and we can help God take care of it!

Spark Resources Spark Story Bibles

Supplies Stuffed animals As a group, move to a table where kids can spread out and work. Distribute leaflets and look together at the illustration on the front page. **Where have you seen this picture before?** (*in the Spark Story Bible*)

What is missing from the picture? (God's creation!) Let's add an Adam and Eve sticker, and then add more people, plants, and animals in a fun way, using thumbprints! Just as God made everything in the world one-of-a-kind, God made a one-of-a-kind you! Your thumbprint is different from everyone else's!

Distribute the stickers, invite kids to place them within the illustration. Then demonstrate how to make thumbprints on the leaflet using an ink pad. After finger clean up, show kids how to create animals, plants, and people with multiple thumbprints, using markers to add details (stems, arms and legs, ears). As kids work, talk together about how people can care for each of the things God created.

God created an amazing world! Let's see your creations. Invite kids to hold up their creations. **Wow! What amazing creations!**

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

Create a Garden

Show kids the image of the incomplete garden on the back page of the leaflet. **Who made a beautiful garden?** (*God*) **What are the plants in this garden missing?** (*beautiful color*) **Let's add some color to the beautiful garden God created!**

Distribute the supplies and encourage kids to use a variety of supplies to add color to their garden. Kids can cut and collage construction paper or tissue paper, wrap small pieces of tissue paper on the end of a pencil, dab with glue, and stick to the picture, add chenille craft stems as flower stems, etc. As kids work, ask, **What would you want in your garden?** Answers will vary.

When they finish, invite them to share their work. Ask the following, allowing kids time to respond to each question. Answers will vary. **How would you care for a garden? How would you care for the favorite things you added?**

God gave us a beautiful creation to live in. Thanks, God!

Spark Resources Leaflets

Lesson Stickers

Supplies

Ink pad Markers Moist towelettes

Spark Resources Leaflets

Supplies

Tissue paper Pencils Chenille craft stems Glue or glue sticks Construction paper (various colors) Scissors

Caring People Pictures

God cares for people, animals, and plants, and we can, too. Show kids the empty frame in the leaflet. What shape is this frame? (*a heart*) What does a heart remind you of? (*love, caring*) One way we can show love to God and to each other is to care for God's world and all of the people in it. What are some ways to do that? Allow kids time to answer.

Let's add stickers of creation in the heart frame. Distribute the circle stickers, and invite kids to put the stickers inside the frame. These are things that God created that we can take care of.

Now let's cut out magazine pictures of people doing things to care for each other and creation, and glue them in the frame, too. Distribute the materials, and allow time for kids to do the activity. As they work, rove the space with willingness to help and praise as needed.

Made Wonderful to Care Wonderfully

Hold up a leaflet, showing kids the season of Pentecost icon. **Today we are in the church season called Pentecost. The color for Pentecost is green. Pentecost is a time to celebrate growth and life. What a great time to read today's story when we are celebrating God's amazing creation!**

God made us to care for creation—and it's fun to do! Gather in a circle in a space where kids can move freely. Stand in the center of the circle. God made each of us wonderful, with hands and feet and arms and legs that we can use to help care for creation.

Let's play a game! I am going to name a body part. Then I will close my eyes, spin around, and point to someone. If I point to you, name something you can do with that body part to help care for God's world. Once you name something, it's your turn to be in the center of the circle, name a body part, close your eyes, spin around, and point to someone else.

Name a body part, such as hands, close your eyes, spin around, and point to someone. When that person names something he or she can do with the body part to care for creation, repeat the process with that person in the center. Play until everyone has had a turn or as long as time allows.

Spark Resources Leaflets Lesson Stickers

Supplies Kid-friendly magazines Scissors Glue sticks

Spark Resources Leaflets

Supplies None

Send (5 minutes)

Good-bye Time

Gather in a circle. Let's remember together what we learned today. What did God create? (*animals, plants, people, the world*) God created plants and trees. Point to some plants on our leaflet. God created animals. Point to some animals on your leaflet. What were the names of the man and woman God created? (*Adam and Eve*) Point to them on your leaflet, and then hug someone else God created—YOU!

What did God ask Adam and Eve, and all people, to do? (*take care of the world*) What are some ways we can help God take care of the world? Allow kids time to answer. We've had a lot of fun today. I'm glad all of you were here!

Show kids where the Faith on the Go! idea is printed on the leaflet. **This activity** is something for you to do at home. When you do this, you can help your family learn to care for creation, too!

As we get ready to leave, let's sing a closing song. Sing this song to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"

Now it's time to go, God's children everyone! We learned and played and sang and laughed. In God's name we had fun!

Sing this several times, encouraging kids to join you.

Prayer Time

Give each kid or pair of kids a stuffed animal to hold as you pray together.

Let's close with a prayer. When it is your turn, name the animal you are holding as we thank God for creating it!

Dear God, thank you for making the world. Thank you for making plants and trees. Thank you for making animals, like ______. Thank you for making us! We love you! Amen.

Be sure to send the leaflets and Family Pages home with kids, dismissing them as appropriate.

Spark Resources Leaflets

Supplies None

Spark Resources

Leaflets Family Pages



Supplies Stuffed animals