

Third Grade: Lesson 19

Taking Care of God's Creation

Lesson Objective:

Building on the themes of God's authority and the common good from the previous lesson, this lesson explores our responsibility for the care of creation and stewardship. It is important to teach these topics in the context of discipleship. Disciples of Christ do these things naturally and with love. Catechists are encouraged to explore the following Scripture passages to help reinforce the lesson: Acts 2:42-47, 1 Peter 4:10, Matthew 25:14-30.

Learning Outcomes: Students will ...

- Demonstrate care and respect for all of God's creation by responsible use of the Earth's resources.
- Explain ways of being stewards who gratefully share gifts of time, talent, and treasure.
- Illustrate how work is a gift and how through our work we make a gift of ourselves.
- Explain how the Scripture narratives are relevant in daily life
- Participate in school, church, and community service projects.

Materials Needed:

- Prayer space items, Bibles, pencils, crayons, blank white paper or light-colored construction paper
- Copies: Word search, Stewardship Storyboard, Serve Others: Be a Superhero

As Students Enter Class:

- Students may enjoy working on a word search while they wait for class to begin.
- [Taking Care of God's Creation](#)

Beginning of Class:

- Gather around your prayer space and pray the Our Father.
- Ask God to open your hearts and minds to hear His word.

Lesson Order	Implementation Idea
Lesson 19 Video	<p>This video is .44 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: In our last session we talked about the common good and God's authority. Today we are going to consider how living out the common good means we have responsibility to care for creation and to serve others. When we take care of God's creation, we take care of the Earth's resources. Being good stewards means we share our gifts of time, talent, and treasure.</p> <p>Discover how you are called by God to make the world a better place.</p>
Time, Talent and Treasure	<p>This video is 2:00 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: A priest narrates. Stewardship is so much more than financial giving. It is about recognizing that all we have and all we are is a gift from God. Our gratitude is shown by offering our gifts back to the world.</p> <p>The best example we have as to what good stewardship is comes to us from the Eucharist. We bring our gifts, talents, troubles, and concerns to the altar and join our lives together with Christ. When we come together in communion, we share that life-giving presence of Christ which truly becomes bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh.</p> <p>At the end of every Mass, we are missioned to take what we have become out into the world so that we can make the presence of the Risen Christ known to all we meet.</p>
Creation Meditation	<p>This video is 2:42 in length.</p> <p>This video has images and calming music without words. Students are encouraged to look at the various pictures about the world God created for us and think about ways we can</p>

	<p>care for people, animals, the physical world, etc... that God created for us.</p> <p>Discussion: What are ways we can care for God's creation? Students may enjoy drawing a picture on a blank sheet of paper and writing a sentence or two explaining their picture.</p>
<p>We are Called to Care for Creation</p>	<p>This video is 1:06 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: The Earth is our common home, and all creation gives praise to God. Yet, because of sin, creation also suffers. Pollution, climate change, unsafe water are examples.</p>
	<p>“Christians, in particular, realize that their responsibility within creation and their duty towards nature and the Creator are an essential part of their faith.”</p> <p>The Bible states the world is not ours, but God's:</p> <p>“The LORD God then took the man and settled him in the garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for it.”</p> <p>Discussion: What are ways we can care for Earth and show respect to God's wonderful creation?</p>
<p>Gratitude Leads to Hope</p>	<p>This video is 3:29 in length and is narrated by a priest.</p> <p>Highlights: The happiest people in the world are people who count their blessings, people who remember how God has blessed them. The virtue of gratitude is important because gratitude requires us to remember, and this helps to foster hope about what God will continue to do for us.</p>

	<p>If we remember blessings of the past, we are more confident and hopeful that we have more blessings.</p> <p>Discussion: How can we take Father's message about gratitude and hopefulness and apply it to today's learning objective that Disciples of Christ do things with love?</p> <p>(Help students understand that being grateful leads to deepening our love for God. When we recognize the good God gives us, we want to share that good with others).</p>
Read about Jesus and Make a Stewardship Storyboard	<p>Draw and write a sentence explaining how each scripture passage is about stewardship.</p> <p>Read a passage to the class and then provide a few minutes for sharing before students draw and write their sentences. Follow this format for each scripture passage.</p>
Serve Others, be a Superhero	<p>Read one of the story scenarios from this handout and have groups of 2 or 3 draw a picture and explain how their superhero will help their neighbor. Provide time for students to share with the class.</p>
Saint Report	<p>You may not have time for this which is fine, since we did Pope Saint reports last week.</p>