

GOD MADE US TO LOOK AFTER HIS WORLD WITH LOVE AND CARE

BIG IDEA

God gave us special responsibility to care for His creation 'Lord you have made so many things! - how wisely you made them all.' Psalm 104:2-4

PREP *(Kids can help!)*

Buy a packet of animal biscuits or animal lollies

Find things for a parent to dress as an artist (such as a beret, apron or paintbrush which will also be used next session)

Write 4 clues for a treasure hunt (e.g. Dad's favourite chair, where sausages are sizzled, Mum warms her coffee in this, where you lay your weary head)

Wrap one animal biscuit in gladwrap or a clear bag with the first clue

Hide the remaining three clues so that they will lead you to the remainder of the packet of animal biscuits or lollies

Print out an artist's masterpiece from the web (or use a beautiful picture/child's drawing you have at home that you don't mind being spoiled!)

Put everything into the Faith Box before you start

INTRO

THE DRESSED UP 'ARTIST' PARENT OPENS THE FAITH BOX and takes out the beautiful painting, pretending to have just completed it.

Be really delighted with the work, then ask the children to take care of it. Put it back in the box for safe keeping.



God put Adam in charge of His world. He told him to rule over it as a good King/Shepherd would. First of all He brought all the animals to Adam and let him name them.

"Nature is God's other book" - Anon

PLAY

CALL OUT THE LETTERS OF THE ALPHABET and ask everyone to join in calling out an animal or creature God made that begins with that letter. Begin with 'A' and go quickly through the alphabet.

We still don't know much about some of the amazing things God made. But we do know that our world was created with each part depending on other parts. And that Adam and Eve were given special responsibility to look after the world and its delicate balance.

When God made the flowers and fruit trees, He knew that bees would be needed to pollinate them, so He organised it that way.*

READ

“ At the time God made Earth and Heaven, God formed Man out of dirt from the ground and blew into His nose the breath of life. The Man became alive, a living soul!

Then God planted a garden in Eden. God made all kinds of trees grow, trees beautiful to look at and good to eat. The Tree-of-Life was in the middle of the garden, also the Tree-of-Knowing-Good-and-Evil. A river flows out of Eden to water the garden and from there divides into four rivers.

God took the Man and set him down in the Garden of Eden to work the ground and keep it in order.

God commanded the Man, "You can eat from

any tree in the garden, except from the Tree-of-Knowing-Good-and-Evil. Don't eat from it. The moment you eat from that tree, you're dead." God said, "It's not good for the Man to be alone; I'll make him a helper, a partner." So God formed from the dirt of the ground all the animals of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the Man to see what he would name them. Whatever the Man called each living creature, that was its name. The Man named the cattle, named the birds of the air, named the wild animals; but he didn't find a partner. God put the Man in a deep sleep. As he slept he removed one of his ribs and God then used the rib to make Woman and brought her to the Man. The Man said, "Finally! My partner! Name her Woman for she was made from my flesh and bones." That's why a man leaves his father and mother and embraces his wife. They become one flesh. The two of them, the Man and his Wife, were naked, but they did not feel ashamed. ”

Genesis 2, My First Message, Eugene Petersen, pages 18-22, NavPress © 2007

** Note to parents*

We want kids to know that they don't need to separate God and science. We can and must talk about the wonders of creation, and the Creator behind it all.

Extra illustration for older children: Scientists are studying the mantis shrimp because it has the most incredible eyes in the animal world. Its eyes can each move independently and focus on three different areas of an object, giving it 'trichromatic vision'.

While we see in three colours, it sees in twelve, and it can tune individual light-sensitive cells depending on local light levels.

God designed the mantis shrimp this way because it lives far under the sea and needs these special abilities.

EXPLORE

God knows we need a family and He gave Adam a partner Eve. He wanted them to share his forever happiness. He made them different from the animals.

QUESTIONS

How are we different from the animals?

God created us with a **mind**. Our brain helps us to think and to learn. Our minds are different from animal minds. We have the responsibility to 'rule' or care for the animals, and every living thing. We also have the ability to communicate and talk with God.

People were created with a **soul**. We often talk about it as our 'heart'. It is our heart or our soul which makes us unique and that's what makes you YOU!

People were also created with a **will**. This means we can choose to do things God's way or our own way.

Do you think God trusted Adam and Eve?

God gave them responsibility because He knew they could do it.

God has given us this amazing world – with all its plants and creatures. He wants us to take care of them.

GAME

Treasure Hunt

TAKE THE ICED ANIMAL BISCUIT WITH FIRST CLUE OUT OF THE FAITH BOX. Choose the child with the largest shoe size to be 'clue-reader' and hand them the clue. Together the children go on the treasure hunt that leads to the packet of biscuits. When they bring the packet back, put the biscuits on a plate.

Each child takes one and tells the others how they would take care of that particular creature.

EXPLORE

Adam and Eve were given responsibility for the garden. What responsibilities do you have?

What are you responsible for at home?

- Make a list of the responsibilities you have in the family.
- Read it out to everyone.
- How do you think you are doing with your responsibility?
- Share something you have done this last week where you have done a good job with the responsibility you have been given.
- How does it feel to be responsible?

Congratulations! You are being responsible when you do things as well as you can.

PRAY

Dear God, please help me to do things to the best of my ability. If I make a mistake, please help me to say sorry and fix it.

FAITH BOARD



OTHER IDEAS

- 1** *Talk about the way recycling helps look after God's world – the environment. Make a special effort this week to recycle more.*
- 2** **Play – What I Did Well Today**
Encourage each family member to share what he or she did during the day that they feel good about. This could take place over the meal.
- 3** *Serve dinner on a special plate one night this week to reward one of the children for their responsible attitude.*

BUY FOR NEXT SESSION

- *A packet of snake lollies*