

God's Creation

Child's Bible Study

Ages 4-6



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A ROCHA
Christians in Conservation

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A Rocha Background

Founded in 1983, A Rocha is an international family of Christian conservation organizations committed to caring for all of God's creation. We do this through scientific research, community-based conservation initiatives, and educational programs. A Rocha is active in 19 countries on six continents. Our initiatives have been supported by churches, international conservation organizations, the United Nations, inter-governmental agencies, and individuals worldwide. A Rocha is the only Christian organization member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)—an umbrella organization with 1,000+ organizational members. The name 'A Rocha' is Portuguese meaning 'The Rock'—named after our first Center in Portugal.

A Rocha has five core values:

- **Christian:** We worship, love and serve the God of the Bible, who made the world, loves it and entrusts it to the care of human society.
- **Conservation:** We conserve and restore the natural environment for the benefit of human and non-human species.
- **Community:** We ground our efforts in local communities—working with local people on issues of local importance.
- **Cross-cultural:** We draw on the insights and skills of people from diverse cultures, both locally and around the world.
- **Cooperation:** We partner with a wide variety of organizations and individuals who share our concerns for a sustainable world.

In the USA, A Rocha is building a nationwide network of community-based educational programs, and hands-on conservation projects with which to mobilize Christians (and all who will work with us), to steward the Earth.

Lesson Contents

Each lesson includes the following:

1. Opening Question
2. Summary of the lesson and objectives
3. Questions or a short paragraph to start things off
4. Bible Verse Back-up
5. Conclusion of the lesson
6. Prayer to end the lesson
7. Extras (activity, craft and snack ideas)

LESSON 1: God Created the Universe

Opening Question

What do you think about when you hear the word Universe? Do you think of something big or small? Colorful or dark? Exciting or scary? (Show children pictures of the universe, the galaxies etc.- Pictures from HubbleSite are recommended: http://hubblesite.org/the_telescope/).

Summary

Today we are going to start learning about God's Creation. We are going to be looking at the things God created and what we can do to make sure His creation remains healthy and beautiful. The earth is a pretty amazing place. God not only created the earth and everything in it, including every tiny ant, every blade of grass, and every hair in your nose, he also created all the planets, the stars, all the galaxies and the entire universe. That's HUGE!! Today we are going to learn more about the universe God created and all that's in it.

Start Things Off

What is your favorite thing that God has created? Why?

God created the entire universe. We are a part of that universe. What else is apart of the universe?

Bible Back-up

Verse: *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."* (Genesis 1:1)
What did God create? The first line of the Bible says that God created the heavens and the earth. What do you think heaven is going to be like? Do you think it will be similar to earth? No one on earth knows exactly what heaven will be like. Imagine the most beautiful place you have ever been to. God created that place. So, do you think heaven will be even more beautiful? I bet it will.

Verse: *"In wisdom you made them all, the earth is full of your creatures. There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number - living things both large and small... When you send your Spirit, they are created and you renew the earth."* (Psalms 104:25, 30)

Do you think that God made the earth in a hurry? What does it say? God made the earth in wisdom. That means that he took his time, perfecting every living thing so that it all fits perfectly together.

Verse: *"All things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things and in Him all things hold together."* (Colossians 1:16-17)

Why were things created? All things were not created for our pleasure. They were created for God and for his pleasure and glory. You were even created to please God and give Him glory. Since God created everything to please and glorify him, it is very important to Him and He holds it all together.

To Finish

God created all things, the heavens, the stars, the fish, the earth and us too. He wants the earth to remain beautiful for us and the animals to enjoy. It is our job as God's chosen people to care for the earth and everything in it. In the coming weeks we are going to learn more about God's creation and what we can do to make sure that it stays the way He intended it to.

Prayer

End the lesson praying for the children and thanking God for creating the universe and all that it contains.

Extras

- **Activity– Toss the Earth**
 - Get a blow up ball of the earth or a big blue ball and play catch with it. Pretend that God might do the same thing at his pleasure because he holds the earth in the palm of his hands!

- **Snack –Earth and heaven Grahams**
 - Have graham crackers up with some peanut butter (or jam/ Sunbutter if there are allergies). Pretend the graham crackers are like the ground of the earth and God's love is spread on the earth like the peanut butter.

- **Craft – Earth decoration**
 - Have a picture of the outline of the earth. Give the kids stickers and pictures of plants and animals and crayons and markers and let them fill in the earth the way they think God intended it to look like. Is there pollution in that drawing? Smog? Cars? Etc. Let them be creative.

LESSON 2: Everything God Created Belongs to Him

Opening Question

How do you feel when someone mistreats something that belongs to you? Why do you feel that way?

Summary

Last week we talked about how God created the universe and everything in it. What are some things that God created? Today we are talking about how everything belongs to God. Does the grass belong to God? YES! What about all the fish in the ocean? YES! Do the birds in the air belong to God? YES! Does your heart belong to God? YES!! Everything that God created belongs to HIM.

Fun Fact: Did you know that there are over 6.7 BILLION people in the world and there are 1 million ants to every human!! That's a lot of ants. Did you know that they all belong to God?

Start Things Off

Talk about what belonging means. (Your clothes belong to you and your mom's car belongs to her. If you have a pet that belongs to you you love it and have to take care of it.) What does it mean when we say that everything that God created belongs to him? God created the heavens and the earth. He created our minds to create things like cars and video games. He created every petal on every flower and every single blade of grass. He created every drop of rain, every feather on every bird, every hair on your head.

Bible Back-up

Verse: *"Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours." (1 Chronicles 29:11)*

Why do you think everything belongs to God?

Everything belongs to God because God created everything! So, because He created it, it is His. If you had some clay and made a model of the earth, it would be your model because you made it. It is the same with God. He formed the earth, the seas, the rivers, the oceans, the mountains and all the plants and animals. So, these all belong to Him. We are going to learn a little later how God entrusts us to take care of His things, like the rivers and oceans and animals.

Verse: *"To the Lord your God belongs the Heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it." (Deuteronomy 10:14)*

What belongs to God in this particular passage?

This passage says that the highest heavens, the earth, and everything in it belong to God. Wow! Even the heavens and all the angels are God's too!

Verse: *"For the Lord is the Great God...In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land."* (Psalm 95:3-5)

In this passage, what is God holding in his hands? What did his hands form? God is so great and amazing that he can hold all of the depths of the earth in his hands! Did you know that the deepest point of the earth is the Mariana's Trench? It is located near Indonesia and Japan in the Pacific Ocean and is over 36,000 feet deep! The tallest mountain in the world is Mount Everest at over 29,000 feet high! Imagine 9,000 of you standing on each others' shoulders! That's how tall Mount Everest is! And God can hold that in his hand!

To Finish

God is pretty amazing! We learned last week that He created the entire universe. And today we see that everything he created belongs to him. So all of the blades of grass, the pigeons, the hairs on your head, everything on earth and in heaven, belongs to God. Not only that, but God can hold all of creation in his hand! He must be a pretty strong and powerful God. We should be so thankful that he lets us be a part of his wonderful creation!

Prayer

Remember to pray for your children thank God for everything that belongs to Him (including us!)

Extras

- **Snack-Wormy dirty snacks!**
 - Gummy worms and brownie crumbles (or Oreo cookie crumbles) to show how everything, even worms, belongs to God.
- **Craft-Clay mold-**
 - Mold something out of clay. (Preferably something from nature, a plant or an animal or the earth.) Let the kids take them home.

LESSON 3: God Loves What He Created

Opening Question

How important is something or someone that you love to you? What would you do to protect them and keep them safe?

Summary

We have already talked about how God created the universe and everything in it. We also learned that everything that God created belongs to Him. We are now going to talk about how God loves everything that He created. What does love mean? What do you think God loves? What do you think is the most important thing that God loves? US!! God created us, people, in His image and he loves us! We are so lucky to have a God that cares about us and loves us! God also loves every blade of grass and every flower petal. He loves every ant and every fish. He even loves rocks! He loves all of these things because he created them for his glory. He also loves us so much that he asks us to help him take care of everything that he created and loves.

Fun Fact: God loves all the plants and trees and flowers in the world too! Can you name any plants that are in the Bible? Apples, mustard seeds, roses, corn, wheat, grapes, olives, lilies, almonds, figs, etc.

Start Things Off

How do you think God loves us?

God loves people more than anything in the world. However, every single thing that He created is very important to him. In fact, God loves everything that he created. He loves us so much that he sent his son to Earth to die for our sins. Who was that? Jesus!

Bible Back-up

Verse: *"The Lord is good to all. He has compassion on all he has made...The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving towards all he has made." (Psalm 145:9, Psalm 145:17)*

What do you think it means when the Bible says that the Lord has compassion and is faithful? How can we have compassion and be faithful? Compassion means caring deeply for something or someone. The Lord cares about everything that he created. God is also faithful to his promises. That means that he NEVER ever breaks a promise. We can have compassion and be faithful by following God's footsteps. We can care about everything that God created, including the flowers and the grass and the bugs and even each other! After all, God created us too!! We can also be faithful by keeping our promises and making good choices for ourselves, each other and the environment.

Verse: *"He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord." (Psalm 33:5)*

What are things that are on the earth that God created? Things like dirt and leaves, trees and water. Did you ever think that the earth is covered with God's love? Imagine all of the beautiful places in the world. Blue oceans with colorful fish. Big mountains covered with snow and trees. Now imagine the hand of God covering all of these things with his love. Where are you standing? Are you covered in God's love too? You bet you are!

Verse: *"Look at the lilies of the field. They do not labor or spin. Yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed like one of them." (Luke 12:27)*

Do you like the way lilies are dressed? They have big beautiful petals. God dresses each one of these flowers. He loves everything so much that he provides it with everything it needs to live. Does he provide you with everything you need to live? A home, a bed, clothes to wear every day? People that love you? God is so good to everything that he created.

To Finish

God's love is infinite! We already learned that He created the entire universe and that everything He created belongs to Him. Today we understand the He loves everything that he created. Every ant on a log, every tree, every flower and even every rock. But we also learned the God loves us! He provides for the plants and animals and also provides for us. We are truly blessed to be a part of His creation!

Prayer

Remember to pray for your children and thank God for his infinite love.

Extras

- **Activity-Hug A Tree-**
 - Have kids run outside and see how many trees they can hug in a certain amount of time!

- **Snack-Snack-Ants on a Log!**
 - This classic kids snack includes celery, peanut butter (or Sunbutter for those with allergies) and raisins!

- **Craft-Painted Rocks-**
 - Get a bag of medium sized rocks (or have the kids go find one outside) and paint LOVE on each rock

LESSON 4: God Loves Animals

Opening Question

Do you have a pet that you take care of? What kind of pet is it? Do you want one? What would you need to do to take care of it?

Summary

We have already talked about how God created the universe and everything in it. We also learned that everything that God created belongs to Him and about how God loves everything he created. Do you have a pet that you love? A puppy? A rabbit? A fish? God loves your pets and all the other animals in the world. Do you think he even loves the spiders? What about the rats? What about sharks? God loves every single creature in this world and he knows them ALL by name! Today we are going to learn some fun facts about the animals from God's point of view. Don't forget, God loves us so much that he asks us to help him take care of everything that he created and loves.

Fun Fact: Do you know what the biggest animal in the world is? The blue whale! It can grow over 100 feet long. Its tongue weighs more than an elephant!

To Start Things Off

How do you think God loves us? How do you think God loves the animals? God loves everything that he created. He loves the animals differently than he loves us. He loves us so much that he allows us to take care the animals he created.

Bible Back-up

Verse: *"I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you- the birds, the livestock (cows and pigs) and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you, every living creature on earth." (Genesis 9:9-10)*

What story does this remind you of in the Bible? Why is this verse so special? This is the story of Noah's Ark. God make a covenant, or a promise, that he will love and care for everything that was on the ark. What was on the ark? All the animals in the whole world. Who remembers how many of each animal was on the ark with Noah and his family? 2 of each. This verse is important because it recognizes that God wants to make a promise to love not only Noah and the humans but all of the creatures on earth. That is a lot of animals!

Fun Fact: Did you know that in 4000 years, no new animals have been domesticated? God is amazing!

Verse: *Read the story of Noah's ark. (A summary of Genesis 6-9)*

Why do you think it was important for God to save every single creature in the world? Because he loves every single animal in the world. Every animal is important to God and they all serve a purpose in this world. For example, without bees, we would not have flowers because bees pollinate flowers!

Verse: *"Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?" (Matthew 6:26)*

Did you see any birds flying today? Where do birds live? What do birds eat? Birds have nests made out of simple things like sticks. They eat bugs and worms. God provides the sticks for their nests and food for them to eat because he loves them. What does God provide you? A warm bed to sleep on. Food to eat every day. Even ice cream sometimes. God loves the animals a lot!! He loves you so much that he gives you all of these things to keep you safe and keep your belly full. God is a wonderful God.

To Finish

God's love is infinite! We already learned that He created the entire universe and that everything he created belongs to him. We learned that He loves everything that he created. We learned today that he even loves every single animal in the entire world. And God loves us too! We know that we can trust him because he is faithful and count on him to watch over us, just like he watches over all of the animals in the world.

Prayer

Remember to pray for your children and thank God for all of the animals in the world.

Extras

- **Activity-**
 - Duck duck goose or shark shark minnow- or caterpillar caterpillar butterfly. Be creative!
- **Snack-**
 - Animal crackers and goldfish!
- **Craft- Egg carton caterpillars**
 - Each child needs a piece of an egg carton, with 4 egg holders in a line. Get some paint and paint it green. Stick two small pieces of pipe cleaners in it for the antennae and stick two googly eyes on it.

(If you have time, you can color a coffee filter with markers and glue it to a Popsicle stick or a pipe cleaner and make a butterfly wand too)

Fun fact: Did you know that the taste buds of a butterfly are on its feet?!

LESSON 5: Everything on Earth Praises God

Opening Question

Can you name some plants and animals that look beautiful, sing beautiful songs, smell beautiful, maybe even taste beautiful?

To Start Things Off

We have already talked about how God created the universe and everything in it. We also learned that everything that God created belongs to Him and how God loves everything he created, especially the animals. We know that God loves every single creature in this world and he knows them ALL by name! But did you know that every single animal and all of the wonderful parts of nature that God created know and praise God too?! Isn't that amazing?! We are going to see today how even the trees and the birds, the fish and the heavens declare God's glory.

Fun Fact: Each species of grasshopper has its own song! (Do you think they might be singing praises to God?)

We know that God loves all creatures, every plant, every tree, every bug and every bee. How can these plants and animals praise God?

God loves everything that he created. And every part of nature realizes how amazing God is! They reveal His glory through their beauty! That means that birds sing songs not only to attract a mate but also to praise God. Flowers bloom for God's glory and the sun shines on all of God's wonders.

Bible Back-up

Verse: *"Ask the animals and they will teach you, or the birds of the air and they will tell you; or speak to the earth and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind."* (Job 12:7-10)

What do you think the birds might tell you? How do you think the earth might speak to you or the fish inform you? Can you go up to a fish and ask it a question? Or put your head on the ground and find out a secret?

Every single creature is held in God's hand. He loves each one and cares for each one. Even though we may not get an answer from a fish that we might get from a teacher, by just being in nature and enjoying all of the sights, sounds, smells and feelings, we can find God's glory throughout.

Fun Fact: No two cows will be found with the identical pattern of spots.

Verse: *"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the works of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge." (Psalm 19:1-4)*

So, not only the creatures proclaim God's glory. What else do we learn for this passage that reveals how great God is?

Even the heavens and the skies proclaim the works of his hands! This means that everything on earth knows how great God is. And we, as humans, get to see all of the great things that nature does when it is praising God! We get to see rainbows and butterflies, flowers, flocks of birds, dolphins swimming and waves crashing. Everything in nature that you look at and go "wow" are all praising God. When you experience these sites in nature it helps you realize God's glory too! How do you praise God?

Verse: *"Ever since the creation of the world, his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things He has made." (Romans 1:20)*

Did you see anything today outside that made you go "wow"? Maybe a cool cloud or a whispering tree? A squirrel gathering nuts or a ladybug in the grass?

God has great power. He can move mountains, make rain, create rainbows in the sky, make our hearts beat and babies breathe. Even though we may not realize all of the wonderful things God has done, we can see it if we only take the time to look. So, next time you see a rainbow or a ladybug, even a spider's web, look at it really close and understand that God created it, and that these animals, plants and forces of nature give to praise God.

To Finish

Wow, we learned a lot these last few weeks! We learned that God created the entire universe and that everything he created belongs to him. We learned that He loves everything that he created. We also learned that creation and nature show God that they love him too! When we see smell, taste and even touch these things in nature, it helps us realize how amazing God is! I hope that when you leave today you keep your eyes, ears and nose open to experience all of the wonderful things in nature that are praising and loving God so that you can love Him too!

Prayer

Remember to pray for your children and thank God for being able to enjoy His creation.

Extras

- **Activity- Outside scavenger hunt**
 - Take any extra egg cartons and cut them in half so that each child has 1/2 of an egg carton with 6 different places for eggs. Have them find as many items outside and place them in the proper egg holder. These items include: 3 small sticks, 4 different shaped leaves, 3 different colored rocks, 7 blades of grass, 1 monkey ball, 1 flower (make sure the items are small enough to fit in the egg holders.)

- **Snack-**
 - Have sweet smelling and brightly colored fruit to eat, like oranges, peaches, etc. Have each child really smell and taste how sweet they are. Tell them even these oranges are praising God through their smell and taste.

- **Craft- Collage of outside scavenger hunt**
 - Take everything that you found and glue it to a piece of paper in the shape of a heart.

LESSON 6: We Are Responsible for Caring for God's Creation

Opening Question

What is included in God's Creation?

Summary

We have already talked about how God created the universe and everything in it. We also learned everything that God created belongs to Him and God loves everything he created. We know that God loves all the creatures in this world and he knows them ALL by name! Every single animal and all of the wonderful parts of nature that God created know and praise God. Today we are going to learn about our role in God's Creation and our responsibility to care for it.

Fun Fact: Every single type of sea turtle is endangered (there are not many of them left) because they accidentally eat plastic bags thinking that they are jellyfish.

To Start Things Off

Everything that God Created Belongs to Him. He loves us so much that he trusts us to take care of his creation. How do we know that we are supposed to take care of creation? God loves everything that he created. He wants it to remain beautiful until He decides to create a new heaven and a new earth. He tells us in the first few chapters of the Bible that it is our duty to take care of creation.

Bible Back-Up

Verse: *"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." (Genesis 2:15)*

What did God ask Adam to do? Why do you think he asked him that? God asked Adam to work the land and care for the land. He asked this of Adam because he made him (and us) in His image and loves us more than anything else in the entire world. He knows that we have the capacity (brain power and ability) to take care of the other people, plants and animals on this earth.

Fun Fact: Recycling just one aluminum can saves enough energy to operate a TV for 3 hours! ~Eco Cycle

Verse: *"You shall not pollute the land in which you live..." (Numbers 35:33)*

What does the word pollute mean? Have you ever thrown a piece of trash on the ground? Is that polluting?

To pollute means to make something unclean or harmful. God says not to pollute the land. But did you know that thousands of plastic bags go into the ocean every single day from people throwing them on the ground? Lots of trash goes into the ocean and into other parts of nature. How do you think God feels when his beautiful creation is dirty? Pretty bad, right? Since it is our job to take care of creation, we can do lots of things to make our world beautiful. When we do that, we honor God and we help creation praise God.

What can we do to make our world more beautiful for God?

God created and loves this great earth. We should thank him for this beautiful earth by keeping it clean and healthy. We can do simple things to make sure that the earth stays beautiful and becomes healthier. People sometimes forget how important it is to clean the earth. They think it is okay to throw their trash on the ground and pollute the earth. But we, as Christians, have a responsibility to take care of our earth. And we can start today. We can do simple things like pick up trash when we see it on the ground, make sure our trash goes into the trash can and not on the floor, etc. Did you know that these simple acts give praise to God?! Just think, every piece of trash you pick up is not going into the ocean but is making the world more beautiful. I bet when you clean the earth you make God smile. What are some things that you can do today to clean the earth?

To Finish

We learned so much this series. We discovered that God created the entire universe and that everything he created belongs to him. We learned that He loves everything that he created. We also learned that creation gives praise to God too! When we open our eyes to nature and see God's glory in all these things, it is quite amazing. We come to realize that God loves us so much that he wants us to take care of this beautiful place called earth. By caring for creation, we are showing God that we love him. What can you do to show God you love him today?

Prayer

Remember to pray for your kids and help them to be good environmental stewards to God's amazing and wonderful creation.

Extras

- **Activity- Recycling Relay**
 - Line up children in two teams facing two empty bins. Give each team an equal pile of recyclables such as empty plastic bottles, cereal boxes, etc. Tell each child as they step to the front of their line to toss an item into the appropriate bin for paper or plastic. The

team that finishes with the most items making it into the correct bin wins.

- **Snack- Organic Fruits and Veggies**
 - o Tell the kids what organic means (made without pesticides or chemicals) so those chemicals don't get into your body either! It is good for the environment because the chemicals don't harm the environment either.

- **Craft- Litter Bug**
 - o Need one egg carton holder per child, sticks or straws, googly eyes, bottle caps and other "clean" trash items. Glue googly eyes or bottle caps for eyes, straws for legs and whatever else you might want and make a litter bug.