

God Loves the World

Engage: Page 197

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Open the Bible and read aloud Daniel 3:72–81. Then say: **The Word of the Lord.** Invite your child to respond *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Provide drawing paper and crayons and ask your child to draw his or her favorite plant, animal, or object. When your child is finished, say: **You made something wonderful using only the paper and crayons I gave you. God created everything, and he created it out of nothing!**
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs on page 197. Say: **Everything God creates is a gift that shows his great love for us.** Ask: **What does God want us to do with our world?** (to care for it)
- ▶ Ask your child to prepare for prayer. Then pray aloud the prayer. Pause briefly so your child can reflect. Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross and *Amen.*

Explore: Page 198

- ▶ Ask: **What is one of your favorite things in God's world?** Say: **God is so good to give us all the wonderful things he does!**
- ▶ Look at the pictures on page 198. Ask: **What is happening in these pictures?** (Children are caring for flowers and animals.)
- ▶ Read aloud the title and paragraph. Ask: **How can we care for the world God gave us?** (care for animals and plants, recycle, feed the birds, pick up litter, conserve water) Point out the boldface word *neighbors* and have your child repeat it after you. Ask: **Who are our neighbors?** (all people) **Why do our neighbors deserve our care and respect?** (because God made every person in his image) Remind your child that although all people are our neighbors, your child should not talk to strangers unless he or she is with you or a guardian. Then say: **When we take good care of the world, we show God and our neighbors our love and appreciation for God's world.**
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Say: **When we protect the forests, we are protecting the plants, animals, and people that God created.**

Explore: Page 199

- ▶ Ask your child to name some wild animals. Offer some of your favorite wild animals and why you like them.

- ▶ Read aloud the title and paragraph. Ask: ***How can we show that we care about wild animals?*** (returning wild animals to their natural environment, treating them with respect, protecting them) Say: ***You should always be careful around unfamiliar animals. Make sure to ask me or another adult for help when you are around unfamiliar animals.***
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Then read aloud the story and the two different endings while your child follows along in the book. Have your child circle the ending that shows how to care for God's creatures. Ask your child to explain his or her choice.
- ▶ Give your child a large piece of air-dry clay. Say: ***Let's make some turtles to remind us to care for all of God's creatures.*** Have your child keep his or her turtles in a safe place to serve as a reminder to respect the animals in God's creation.

Art Print: Page 200

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a picture that shows the Garden of Eden from the Bible. Ask: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the animals. Say: ***This picture shows the Garden of Eden. The Garden of Eden is the name of the first garden that God made when he created the world.***
- ▶ Read aloud the title, first paragraph, and verse from Genesis. Next, say: ***Let's thank God for all the wonderful animals he created.*** Ask your child to fold his or her hands and close his or her eyes. Say: ***Dear God, we thank you for the wonderful world you have created and for the creatures in it. I thank you for the tiger because of its beautiful, striped fur.*** Invite your child to thank God for an animal and tell why it is special. Afterward, conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross and *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Have your child complete the activity and share his or her answers with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***Let's think about all that God has given us and thank him for his creation!***
- ▶ Help your child make a picture of God's first garden. Have your child choose an animal and then make their animal from construction paper, art supplies, and miscellaneous objects. Then have your child make an interesting or exotic plant, flower, or tree from construction paper, art supplies, and various objects. Attach your child's animal and plant to a green poster board. Add the title *God's First Garden: The Garden of Eden*. Display the poster prominently in your home.

Reflect: Page 201

- ▶ Together look at the picture on page 201. Say: ***The boy in the picture looks happy to be outside with his puppy. We can thank God every day for his beautiful creation.***
- ▶ Read aloud the title and two paragraphs. Say: ***We've been talking about the first garden and all the amazing things God made.*** Have your child prepare for prayer. Say: ***Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. Think about the many beautiful things in nature.***
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph of the prayer, pausing briefly after each sentence or question to allow your child to imagine what you are describing. Pray aloud the second paragraph. Pause briefly to allow time for silent reflection. Then conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross and *Amen*.

Reflect: Page 202

- ▶ Ask: ***Why is it important to care for God's world?*** (to show God how much we love him)
- ▶ Read aloud the title and paragraph. Have your child answer the question. Discuss the different ways we can care for plants and animals.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Invite your child to choose one of God's creations to care for. Have your child finish the sentence at the bottom of the box and draw a picture showing how he or she will care for that creation. As your child works, offer any help he or she may need.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Ask: ***What are some ways we can show our love for God and all of creation?*** (don't litter, care for plants and animals, plant new flowers and trees) Say: ***When we take care of all the gifts God gives us, such as plants, animals, and clean air, we are showing our love for God and his creation.***

Respond: Pages 203–204

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 203. Review the Words I Learned with your child. Then read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can care for God's creation.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions on page 203 and invite your child to complete each line of the prayer. When he or she has finished writing, invite children to read aloud his or her prayer. Respond *Praise God above all forever*.
- ▶ Invite your child to prepare for prayer. Say: ***Let's praise God for his creation and promise to do our part to care for it.*** Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays silently. Then say: ***Spend a few moments silently telling God what is in your heart.*** Pause briefly. Close by praying together the Sign of the Cross and *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph of With My Family on page 204. Next, read aloud and discuss Psalm 98 as suggested in the next paragraph.
- ▶ Discuss Faith on the Go. Then complete the activity together.
- ▶ Conclude by praying together the Family Prayer.