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Songs and Music

• Songs included on the *Songs for KINDERGARTEN* music cassette tape and CD prepared for the Fifth Edition by Jack Miffleton

Song Title	Tape/CD	Page	Sequence No.
• A Happy Heart	M-3	(1)	
• A Helper Kind and Good	M-1	—	
• Alphabet Prayer	M-4	(2)	
• Amen, Alleluia	M-5	(3)	
• Away in a Manger	M-1	—	
• Christmas Candle	M-7	(4)	
• Classroom Prayer	M-8	(5)	
• Crunch, the Crocodile	M-9	(6)	
• Dance Around the Christmas Tree	M-10	—	
• Everybody's Got to Grow	M-13	(7)	
• For Each Happy Day	M-15	(8)	
• Give Thanks to God Every Day	M-16	(9)	
• Handy Hands	M-17	(10)	
• Here Is the Way We Walk to Church	M-1	—	
• I Am Special (simple version)	M-1	—	
• I Am Special	M-18	(11)	
• If You're Happy and You Know It	M-2	—	
• Jesus Is Alive	M-1	—	
• Jesus Is My Helper	M-19	(12)	
• The Joy Song	M-21	(13)	
• Kum Ba Ya	M-2	—	
• Let's Be Friends	M-23	(14)	
• Life Returns	M-24	(15)	
• Mountain of Love	M-25	(16)	
• Praise God with a Big Bass Drum	M-27	(17)	
• Pussy Willow	M-2	—	
• Sharing	M-1	—	
• Simple Gifts	M-29	(18)	
• Sing a Doodle	M-31	(19)	
• Sometimes It's Good to Cry	M-32	(20)	
• Stand Up!	M-33	(21)	
• Sunday, Sunday!	M-35	(22)	
• Think of How God Loves Us	M-36	(23)	
• Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star	M-1	—	
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• Your World Is Wonderful	M-38	(25)	

Teacher Patterns

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LESSON 5

Creation: Light, Water, Plants



Adult Faith Commentary

A fundamental truth of our Christian faith is that God created the world in order to show and tell us about divine goodness and love. (Cf. CCC 293)

We know that creation of the world and human beings did not happen by accident. God willed it so! God wanted us! In fact, we are loved so much that we are invited to share in God's own divine love, wisdom, and goodness. (Cf. CCC 295)

God is revealed to us through creation. When we see the variety, beauty, and wonders of creation, when we study the order and harmony in our complex universe, we can only admire the greatness and beauty of God our Creator.

(Cf. CCC 341) The sacred writer of the Book of Wisdom summarized God's revelation through creation over 2,100 years ago when he wrote: *For from the greatness and beauty of created things comes a corresponding perception of their creator.* (Wis 13:5)

Because everything in creation is good and thereby reflects some aspect of God's goodness and wisdom, it is only just and right that we should respect, cherish, and care for all of God's creation. (Cf. CCC 339)

God is good and God's love is forever. Let us give thanks! (Cf. Ps 136:1)

Helpful Teaching Notes

In this first lesson about creation the themes of *light, water, and plants* will be introduced. The second lesson will focus on the creation of *fish, birds, animals, and people*.

When teaching young children about God's marvelous creation, you will surely spark their natural sense of wonder and amazement. Using their key senses of seeing, hearing, touching, tasting, and smelling, as a means of discovery learning, the children should become increasingly aware of both the *variety* of God's creation and also the *usefulness* of God's gifts in their daily lives.

Plan your lesson activities, whenever possible, to include *live* examples of flowers, trees, fruits, vegetables, animals, fish, and birds. Also, help the children think and talk about the many uses of water, plants, fish, and animals in their daily experience. Allowing them to experience God's gifts first-hand will not only delight young children, but also provide evidence of God's great love for them and lead them to a spirit of appreciation and thankfulness for all the good things that God has provided.

As the children's teacher, you not only have the opportunity to introduce them to our loving Creator, but also the responsibility to encourage them to take care of what God has provided for everyone's benefit and enjoyment. Teaching the children about caring for plants, animals, water resources, birds, fish — and especially each other — can stimulate and help nurture respect for all of God's creation.

Enjoy the children's wonder and awe as they discover more of God's wonderful world in your class and join you in offering joyful praise and thanksgiving to God in prayer, song, and positive actions.

✓ **Note:** A prayer celebration about creation could be held after the second creation lesson. A creation prayer celebration is included in our book *Prayer Celebrations for Young Children* available from Our Sunday Visitor.

Teaching Objectives

- ✓ To increase the children's knowledge about the truth, purpose, and wonders of God's creation.
- ✓ To increase the children's awareness of light, water, and plants as gifts from God.
- ✓ To help the children respond to God's gift of creation with a sense of wonder and appreciation through a story, discussion, and activities.
- ✓ To help the children express their thankfulness to God our Creator through Scripture, music, and prayer.

➤ Core Lesson

Materials

- ❑ Bible, candle, picture of Jesus, and prayer table.
- ❑ Green plant(s).
- ❑ Vase of cut flowers.
- ❑ Watering can.
- ❑ Activity books, pp. 19-22.
- ❑ Materials for choice of water activities (refer to step 10).
- ❑ Scissors.
- ❑ Glue / glue stick.
- ❑ Gold glitter (optional).
- ❑ Crayons (optional).
- ❑ Flannel board.
- ❑ Flannel-board story: "A Surprise for Peter," p. 66.
- ❑ Music cassette tape or CD player.
- ❑ Music cassette tape or CD: Songs for KINDERGARTEN, 5th Edition.
- ❑ Lesson 5 Parent Letter and Take-Home Story.

Flannel-Board Figures

- ❑ 1. Peter.
- ❑ 2. Peter's mother.
- ❑ 3. Carolyn.
- ❑ 6. Tony.
- ❑ 7. Amy.
- ❑ 10. School building.
- ❑ 21. Sun.

- ❑ 22. Apple tree.
- ❑ 26. Squirrel.
- ❑ 29. Puzzle.
- ❑ 30. Picnic basket.
- ❑ 31. Picnic table.
- ❑ 32. Flowers.
- ❑ 33. Pond with fish.
- ❑ 34. Moon and stars (for *Creation Prayer*, step 7).
- ❑ 35. Cloud (for *Creation Prayer*, step 7).

Opening

1. Action Poem and Songs:

Have the children act out "This Is the Circle That Is My Head," p. 334. Then sing the "I Am Special" song on p. M-18 {11} and the song, "Think of How God Loves Us," p. M-36 {23}. Stress that God loves us and wants us to enjoy all the wonderful things in creation.

Development

2. Lesson Theme:

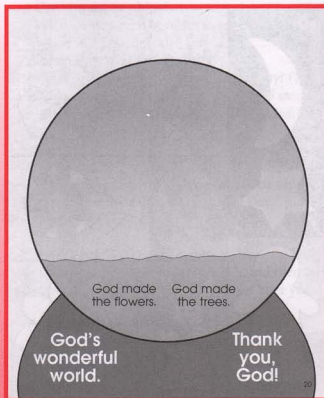
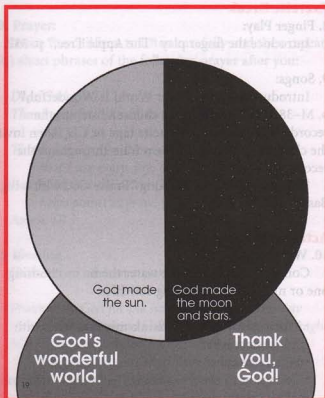
Have the children sit quietly and close their eyes.

Then ask:

- Can you see anything?
- What do you need in order to see? (*Light.*)
- When is it light outside? (*Day.*)
- When is it dark? (*Night.*)
- What lights the sky for us during the day? (*Sun.*)
- What lights the sky at night? (*Moon and stars.*)
- Who made the sun, moon, and stars? (*God.*)

Have the children sit quietly and close their eyes.

Then ask:



3. Songs:

Sing "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," p. M-1. Then have the children listen to the music cassette tape or CD recording of the song "For Each Happy Day," p. M-15 [8].

4. God's Gift of Water:

Begin a discussion about God's gift of water by asking: When the sun makes us hot, what helps to cool us off? (*Water.*)

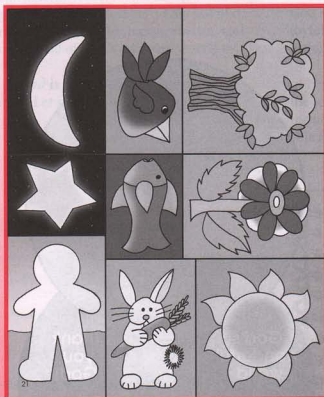
Next, review the various uses for water from the previous lesson, such as Baptism, washing, drinking, cooking, growing, and swimming.

5. Water for Plants and Flowers:

- Explain that the water God provides helps plants to grow. Ask the children to name some of the many kinds of plants God has given us. (*Flowers, trees, bushes, grass, vegetables, fruits.*)
- Invite one or more children to pour small amounts of water on the green plant(s).
- Invite everyone to take turns smelling the cut flowers in the vase.

6. Flannel-Board Story:

Read the flannel-board story "A Surprise for Peter," and follow up the story with the discussion questions provided on p. 66.



7. Creation Prayer:

Invite the children to gather around your prayer table and join you in a thank-you prayer about creation. Begin by teaching the children their response adapted from Psalm 136:1: *God is good. Let us give thanks!*

Have the children practice this verse and then begin the following Creation Prayer adapted for children from the Genesis account in Scripture, using your flannel-board figures:

Teacher: "God made the sun to light up our days."
(*Place sun, #21, on the flannel board.*)

Children: "God is good. Let us give thanks!"

Teacher: "God made the moon and many stars to shine at night."
(*Place moon and stars, #34, on the flannel board.*)

Children: "God is good. Let us give thanks!"

Teacher: "God made all kinds of plants to grow on the land."
(*Place flowers, #32, and tree, #22, on the flannel board.*)

Children: "God is good. Let us give thanks!"

Teacher: "God sends rain clouds to water the land and help plants grow."
(*Place cloud, #35, on the flannel board.*)

Children: "God is good. Let us give thanks!"

Then end the prayer with the *Sign of the Cross*.

Exercise Break

8. Finger Play:

Introduce the finger play "The Apple Tree," p. 332.

9. Songs:

Introduce the song "Your World Is Wonderful," p. M-38 [25], by having the children listen to the recorded version on the cassette tape or CD. Then invite the children to join in on the refrain throughout the recording.

Sing and dramatize the song "Praise God with a Big Bass Drum," p. M-27 [17].

Activity Time

10. Water Experiences:

Continue developing the water theme by choosing one or more of the following activities:

- Mix water with a fruit drink-mix and serve with cookies or crackers.
- Watch ice cubes melt.
- Boil water to observe steam. Use the hot water to make a gelatin dessert.

- Mix red food-coloring in water. Then place a stalk of celery in colored water to observe the gradual change in color of the celery leaves.

11. Creation Centerpiece:

The completed centerpiece will have eight facets, four of which are explained in this lesson. The other four will be completed in the next lesson (6). Each facet is labeled with a sentence indicating which creation picture the children should glue on it.

Begin by distributing p. 21 from the activity books and having the children cut out the sun, moon, star, flower, and tree. (If desired, the children could draw apples on the tree.)

Next, using small amounts of glue or a glue stick, instruct the children to glue the cut-out figures to the appropriate facets of the centerpiece on pp. 19-20. (If desired, gold glitter could be added to the sun.)

Lay the pages aside for drying and inform the children that they will be completing their centerpieces in the next lesson, which is also about creation.

Optional Activities (see p. 63)

Closing

12. Song:

Introduce the first verse of the song "Give Thanks," p. M-16 {9}.

13. Prayer:

Invite the children to listen carefully and then repeat (R.) short phrases of the following prayer after you:

Dear God, (R.)
Thank you for the sun, moon, and stars (R.)
that give us light. (R.)
Thank you also for the water (R.)
that I use every day. (R.)
I am glad that the water (R.)
helps plants to grow. (R.)
Amen. (R.)

14. Blessing

Gather the children around you for a blessing.
Praise be to God for the sun that brightens our day
and for the moon and stars that brighten our night.
May God bless you and help you bring joy and
happiness to your family and friends with your
big, bright smiles. Amen.

End by having the children join you in saying and making the *Sign of the Cross*.

15. Take-Home Materials:

Distribute the *Parent Letter* and *Take-Home Story* for today's lesson.

Session One

Materials

- Bible, candle, picture of Jesus, and prayer table.
- Activity books, pp. 19-22.
- Scissors.
- Glue / glue stick.
- Gold glitter (optional).
- Music cassette tape or CD player.
- Music cassette tape or CD: *Songs for KINDERGARTEN*, 5th Edition.

Procedure

1. Action Poem and Songs:

Have the children act out "This Is the Circle That Is My Head," p. 334. Then sing the "I Am Special" song on p. M-18 {11} and the song, "Think of How God Loves Us," p. M-36 {23}. Stress that God loves us and wants us to enjoy all the wonderful things in creation.

2. Lesson Theme:

Have the children sit quietly and close their eyes.

Then ask:

- Can you see anything?
- What do you need in order to see? (*Light*.)
- When is it light outside? (*Day*.)
- When is it dark? (*Night*.)
- What lights the sky for us during the day? (*Sun*.)
- What lights the sky at night? (*Moon and stars*.)
- Who made the sun, moon, and stars? (*God*.)

3. Songs:

Sing "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," p. M-1. Then have the children listen to the music cassette tape or CD recording of the song "For Each Happy Day," p. M-15 {8}.

4. Prayer:

Invite the children to listen carefully and then repeat (R.) short phrases of the following prayer after you.

Dear God, (R.)
Thank you for the sun, moon, and stars (R.)
that give us light. (R.)
Thank you also for the water (R.)
that I use every day. (R.)

*I am glad that the water (R.)
helps plants to grow. Amen. (R.)*

5. Creation Centerpiece:

The completed centerpiece will have eight facets, four of which are explained in this lesson. The other four will be completed in the next lesson (6). Each facet is labeled with a sentence indicating which creation picture the children should glue on it.

Begin by distributing p. 21 from the activity books and having the children cut out the sun, moon, and star. Next, using small amounts of glue or a glue stick, instruct the children to glue the cut-out figures on the appropriate facets of the centerpiece on pp. 19-20. (If desired, gold glitter could be added to the sun.)

✓ **Note:** This centerpiece will be completed during forthcoming sessions. Save the pictures of the tree and flower for use in session three of this lesson.

► Session Two

Materials

- ☐ Bible, candle, picture of Jesus, and prayer table.
- ☐ Materials for choice of water activities.
- ☐ Flannel board.
- ☐ Flannel-board story: "A Surprise for Peter," p. 66.
- ☐ Music cassette tape or CD player.
- ☐ Music cassette tape or CD: *Songs for KINDERGARTEN*, 5th Edition.

Flannel-Board Figures

- ☐ 1. Peter.
- ☐ 2. Peter's mother.
- ☐ 3. Carolyn.
- ☐ 6. Tony.
- ☐ 7. Amy.
- ☐ 10. School building.
- ☐ 21. Sun.
- ☐ 22. Apple tree.
- ☐ 26. Squirrel.
- ☐ 29. Puzzle.
- ☐ 30. Picnic basket.
- ☐ 31. Picnic table.
- ☐ 32. Flowers.
- ☐ 33. Pond with fish.
- ☐ 34. Moon and Stars (for song, step 1).

Procedure

1. Song:

Place the moon and stars (flannel-board #34) and the sun figure (flannel-board #21) on your flannel-board.

Then invite the children to gather and sing "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," p. M-1.

2. God's Gift of Water:

Begin a discussion about God's gift of water by asking: When the sun makes us hot, what helps to cool us off? (*Water.*)

Next, review the various uses for water from the previous lesson, such as Baptism, washing, drinking, cooking, growing, and swimming.

3. Water Experiences:

Continue developing the water theme by choosing one or more of the following activities:

- Mix water with a fruit drink-mix and serve with cookies or crackers.
- Watch ice cubes melt.
- Boil water to observe steam. Use the hot water to make a gelatin dessert.
- Mix red food-coloring in water. Then place a stalk of celery in colored water to observe the gradual change in color of the celery leaves.

4. Prayer:

Thank you, God, for the water that I use everyday. I use water _____ (invite the children to respond).

5. Flannel-Board Story:

Read the story "A Surprise for Peter," which is included with this lesson on p. 66. After reading the story, ask the questions that follow the story.

► Session Three

Materials

- ☐ Bible, candle, picture of Jesus, and prayer table.
- ☐ Green plant(s).
- ☐ Vase of cut flowers.
- ☐ Watering can.
- ☐ Activity books, pp. 19-22.
- ☐ Materials for choice of water activities.
- ☐ Scissors.
- ☐ Glue / glue stick.
- ☐ Crayons.
- ☐ Flannel-board.
- ☐ Flannel-board figures: #21, #22, #32, #35, and #34.
- ☐ Music cassette tape or CD player.
- ☐ Music cassette tape or CD: *Songs for KINDERGARTEN*, 5th Edition.
- ☐ Lesson 5 Parent Letter and Take-Home Story.

Procedure:

1. Songs:

Have the children sing one or more of the following songs:

- "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," p. M-1.
- "For Each Happy Day" p. M-15 [8].
- "Think of How God Loves Us" p. M-36 [23].

2. Water for Plants and Flowers:

- Explain that the water God provides helps plants to grow. Ask the children to name some of the many kinds of plants God has given us. (*Flowers, trees, bushes, grass, vegetables, fruits.*)
- Invite one or more children to pour small amounts of water on the green plant(s).
- Invite everyone to take turns smelling the cut flowers in the vase.

3. Finger Play:

Introduce the finger play "The Apple Tree," p. 332.

4. Song:

Introduce the first verse of the song "Give Thanks," p. M-16 [9].

5. Creation Prayer:

Invite the children to gather around your prayer table and join you in a thank-you prayer about creation. Begin by teaching the children their response adapted from Psalm 136:1: *God is good. Let us give thanks!*

Have the children practice this verse and then begin the following Creation Prayer adapted for children from the Genesis account in Scripture, using your flannel-board figures:

Teacher: "God made the sun to light up our days."

(Place sun, #21, on the flannel board.)

Children: "God is good. Let us give thanks!"

Teacher: "God made the moon and many stars to shine at night."

(Place moon and stars, #34, on the flannel board.)

Children: "God is good. Let us give thanks!"

Teacher: "God made all kinds of plants to grow on the land."

(Place flowers, #32, and tree, #22, on the flannel board.)

Children: "God is good. Let us give thanks!"

Teacher: "God sends rain clouds to water the land and help plants grow."

(Place cloud, #35, on the flannel board.)

Children: "God is good. Let us give thanks!"

Then end the prayer with the *Sign of the Cross*.

6. Song:

Introduce the song "Your World Is Wonderful," p. M-38 [25], by having the children listen to the recorded version on the cassette tape or CD. Then invite the children to join in on singing the refrain throughout the recording.

7. Creation Centerpiece:

Distribute the activity book pp. 19 to 22 from the first session and have the children cut out the flower and tree. (If desired, the children could draw apples on the tree.) Next, using small amounts of glue or a glue stick, instruct the children to glue the cut-out figures on the appropriate facets of the centerpiece on p. 20.

Lay the pages aside for drying and inform the children that they will be completing their centerpieces in the next lesson (6), which is also about creation.

8. Blessing:

Gather the children around you for a blessing.

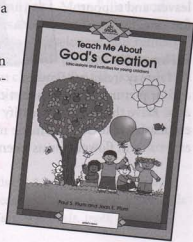
*Praise be to God for the sun that brightens our day
and for the moon and stars that brighten our night.
May God bless you and help you bring joy and
happiness to your family and friends with your
big, bright smiles. Amen.*

End with the *Sign of the Cross*.

Optional Activities

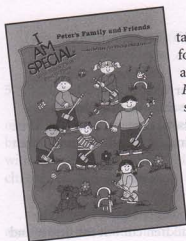
1. Teach Me About God's Creation Book:

Introduce children to a more detailed scriptural account of Creation with this 24-page book, written by the authors of this program and published by Our Sunday Visitor. The illustrations, text, discussions, and activities help children to learn additional information about the purpose of creation and the beauty and variety found in nature.



2. Peter's Family and Friends Book:

Peter's Family and Friends, written by the authors of this program and published by Our Sunday Visitor, con-



tains a variety of activities for children to complete and color. Each page in *Peter's Family and Friends* supports a lesson theme in this program. Pages 6, 7, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 in *Peter's Family and Friends* relate to the Creation theme for this lesson and the next.

3. Nature Walk:

Depending on the weather and your time schedule, take the class on a nature walk. Along the way, point out the variety in plants and animals. Also, have the children take notice of their shadows on a sunny day.

4. Seasonal Changes:

Use a copy of TP-17 or colored pictures of trees as they appear during each season of the year. Have the children identify the tree for the season that you are presently having.



5. Story:

The Swinging Tree by Carol Therese Plum depicts a tree during each season of the year and also delightfully shows the use of trees for shade, jumping in leaves, and support for a swing.



6. Flower Show:

Display fresh-cut flowers and/or pictures of flowers that commonly grow in your area. Have the children identify them by name, and emphasize that God has made many kinds of beautiful and colorful flowers for us to enjoy.

7. Vegetable Snack:

Bring various fresh vegetables to your class. Have the children identify them by name and emphasize that God has made many kinds of plants for us to eat. The children will also enjoy tasting some of them.

8. Fruit Snack:

Bananas, oranges, apples, cherries, grapes, plums, or pears could be served for a tasting party to celebrate the variety of fruits God created for us to eat and enjoy.

9. Songs:

The songs "Sunflower" and "It's Incredibly Unbelievable!" from the record album *What Time 'Til Recess?* are delightful and celebrating songs appropriate for this lesson.



10. Fun Book Activities:

Pages 10 to 14 in the *I Am Special® Fun Book* support the creation themes in this lesson and involve drawing, tracing, coloring, and discussion.

► Supplemental Resources

Music Tape/CD:

Songs for KINDERGARTEN, 5th Edition (Our Sunday Visitor).

Songs:

"Sunflower" and "It's Incredibly Unbelievable" from *What Time 'Til Recess?* (Resource Publications).

Teacher Resource Books:

Joan E. Plum, *Prayer Celebrations for Young Children* (Our Sunday Visitor).

Joan and Paul Plum, *I Am Special® Fun Book* (Our Sunday Visitor).

Joan and Paul Plum, *Peter's Family and Friends* (Our Sunday Visitor).

Paul and Joan Plum, *Teach Me About God's Creation* (Our Sunday Visitor).

5 TAKE-HOME STORY A Surprise for Peter

Children love to be outside, where the wonders of God's creation are everywhere, waiting to be discovered. In this story, a picnic becomes an opportunity for Peter and his friends to experience surprise and wonder in exploring the world around them. In the process, they learn to thank God for creating their world.

Peter Matthews was bored. Sitting on his swing and kicking his feet in the dust, he could think of absolutely nothing to do. He didn't feel like playing with his ball or riding his bicycle, and Shadow was sleeping in his doghouse. Hoping his mother would have an idea, Peter went to the kitchen to find her. She and Carolyn were making dinner.

"Mom, I'm bored," Peter complained.

"We'll have something fun to do tomorrow," Mrs. Matthews promised.

"What?" Peter asked.

"It's a surprise," his mother replied with a smile.

"Wait and see."

"But what can I do now?" Surprises were all very interesting, but at the moment, they didn't help.

Carolyn suggested, "We can put your new puzzle together."

Peter had forgotten about the puzzle. "Great!" he said.

At school the next morning, Peter wondered what the big surprise could be. The time seemed to go by so slowly! Finally, kindergarten was over for the day, and Peter found his mother waiting for him outside the school.

"Hi, Mom!" Peter called. "What's the surprise?"

Mrs. Matthews laughed. "You certainly are eager!" she said. "The surprise is that we are going on a picnic, and your friends Tony and Amy are coming with us."

Then Peter noticed the big picnic basket in the back seat of the car. What a great surprise! It was a beautiful day for a picnic. The warm sun beamed from a cloudless blue sky, and birds sang cheerfully in the trees. When they arrived at the park, Peter, Amy, and Tony searched for a good picnic spot.

"Let's eat here!" Amy shouted. She had found a picnic table hidden away in a grove of apple and maple trees. Nearby, a little creek splashed over a pile of rocks and ran briskly around a bend.

"Good work, Amy," said Mrs. Matthews.

Everyone helped to spread the tablecloth, to set out paper plates and cups, and of course, to eat the sandwiches, cookies, and bananas that Peter's mother had packed.

After lunch, Peter, Amy, and Tony explored the

area. They found an old apple tree with limbs growing close to the ground. Tony climbed onto one of them and called to his friends, "Look at me!"

Peter and Amy ran toward the tree and scrambled onto a limb. "Look at those apples," said Peter, pointing to several red apples dangling from a branch above their heads. "They're ready to eat."

Tony looked up and saw a squirrel scrambling among the branches high above them. It peered at him for a moment, then disappeared into the treetop with a swoosh of its bushy tail.

"I just saw a squirrel!" Tony cried.

"Where?" asked Peter, searching all around.

"He just ran away," Tony replied. "Maybe we'll see another one."

"Let's go to the pond," Amy suggested. There, looking into the water, they could see several little fish swimming. The fish gave Peter an idea. He ran to his mother and asked for a leftover slice of bread. He returned to the pond, tore off a small bit of crust, and tossed it into the water. Instantly, a fish popped up and ate it.

"I want to feed them," said Tony.

"So do I," said Amy.

Mrs. Matthews gave each of them a piece of bread. After the fish had gobbled up all the crumbs, Mrs. Matthews announced, "It's time to leave now."

As Mrs. Matthews drove home, Peter said to her, "Thanks for such a great surprise, Mom." Tony and Amy added, "Thanks, Mrs. Matthews."

She smiled and said, "You're welcome. But remember to thank God, too. He gave us the birds and animals you saw, the tree that you climbed, the fish you fed, and this wonderful day we enjoyed together."

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Discussion Questions

- What was Peter's surprise? (*A picnic with his friends.*)
- What parts of God's creation did Peter and his friends see during the picnic? (*Sun, sky, birds, trees, water, squirrel, and fish.*)
- If you went on a picnic, what would you like to see?

God is good and God's love is forever. Let us give thanks!

(Cf. Ps 136:1)

Adult Faith Commentary

A fundamental truth of our Christian faith is that God created the world in order to show and tell us about divine goodness and love. (Cf. CCC 293)

We know that creation of the world and human beings did not happen by accident. God willed it so! God wanted us! In fact, we are loved so much that we are invited to share in God's own divine love, wisdom, and goodness. (Cf. CCC 295)

God is revealed to us through creation. When we see the variety, beauty, and wonders of creation, when we study the order and harmony in our complex universe, we can only admire the greatness and beauty of God our Creator. (Cf. CCC 341) The sacred writer of the Book of Wisdom summarized God's revelation through creation over 2,100 years ago when he wrote: *For from the greatness and beauty of created things comes a corresponding perception of their creator.* (Wis 13:5)

Because everything in creation is good and thereby reflects some aspect of God's goodness and wisdom, it is only just and right that we should respect, cherish, and care for all of God's creation. (Cf. CCC 339)

Learning Objectives

- To increase the children's knowledge about the truth, purpose, and wonders of God's creation.
- To increase the children's awareness of light, water, and plants as gifts from God.
- To help the children respond to God's gift of creation with a sense of wonder and appreciation through a story, discussion, and activities.
- To help the children express their thankfulness to God our Creator through Scripture, music, and prayer.

Faith Development at Home

Read the *Take-Home Story* to your child provided for this lesson and use the discussion questions that follow the story.

Children can use all of their senses to discover the variety, beauty, and usefulness of God's marvelous creation. Through God's gift of creation God's greatness and loving concern for us are revealed. Allowing children, for example, to experience God's gifts first-hand through a walk in nature will not only delight young children, but also provide visual evidence of God's great love in all that has been provided for us. As a follow-up activity, your child might also enjoy examining with you any plants or flowers that are in or around your home and then, under your supervision, watering them.

Ask your child to tell you about the creation centerpiece that he or she is working on in class. It will be completed after the next lesson on creation. As parents, you not only have the opportunity to introduce them to our loving Creator, but also the responsibility to encourage them to take care of what God has provided for everyone's benefit and enjoyment. Teaching the children about caring for plants, animals, water resources, birds, fish — and especially each other — can stimulate and help nurture respect for all of God's creation.

