God makes us and wants us to take care of our world.

Bible Verse
“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it” (Psalm 24:1a).

Growing Closer to Jesus
Children will
- hear how God gave us the gift of his beautiful world,
- learn ways to thank God for his special gift,
- discover ways to take care of God’s world, and
- help Pockets learn ways to care for God’s world.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis
- God gives Adam and Eve dominion over the earth.

Genesis 1:28-31; 2:19-20
When God placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, he made it clear that they were the highest beings in his creation. They were different from the animals. Notice in Genesis 1:28 that God described the three areas of creatures that his human creations were to rule over—all those in the water, in the air, and moving upon the ground.

In addition, God demonstrated his intent that humans rule over the animals in that he gave Adam the task of naming all the animals (Genesis 2:19-20). In the ancient Hebrew, as well as in many other cultures, the power to give a name resides with the owner, the one who is in charge.

It’s interesting to note that God gave Adam and Eve the responsibility of ruling over the animals, but at this point in time only gave them the plants to eat (Genesis 1:30). We see a change in that policy after the flood.

Prayer
- Read Acts 17:26.
- How does this verse connect with the task God gave to Adam and Eve?
- Pray: Lord, help me and my students do our part in taking care of the world you’ve given us by…

Before the Lesson
- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use. Refer to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies columns to determine what you’ll need.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned…” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.
# Lesson 3

## This Lesson at a Glance

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*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.*
Welcome Time

Welcome!

**SUPPLIES:** “World Name Tags” handout (p. 27), markers, tape or safety pins

- Bend down to make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them how they put last week’s lesson into practice. Use questions such as “How are you a special creation of God?” and “What makes the people in your family special?”
- Say: *Today we’re going to learn that God made us and wants us to take care of our world.*
- Hand out the world name tags children made in Lesson 1, and help them attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if children weren’t in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopiable handout.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.

Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct children’s conversation toward today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “What do you do to take care of God’s world?” or “Why does God want us to take care of the world?”

**Option 1: “Eggstra” Special Gardens**

**SUPPLIES:** empty egg cartons, spoons, potting soil, bean seeds, cup of water, scissors

Set out empty egg cartons, a bag of potting soil, spoons, and packets of bean seeds. Let children spoon potting soil into the cups of the egg carton and then press three or four bean seeds into each cup. Show children how to pour a little water on the seeds they’ve planted. As children work, ask questions such as “Do you help take care of the plants at your house?” and “Have you ever planted a garden?” Explain that today they’ll hear how God made us and wants us to take care of our world and that planting seeds for food and flowers is one way we can do that. Tell children that at the end of class you’ll cut apart the egg carton cups and let each child take some planted seeds home. Explain that they’ll need to take good care of their seeds and make sure they have enough water and sunlight to grow. When the bean sprouts grow, children can wash them and use them in a salad.
Option 2: Feathered-Friend Feeder

**SUPPLIES:** plastic plates, yarn, scissors, vegetable shortening, birdseed, plastic knives, permanent markers, hole punch

Before class, collect a plastic plate and three 12-inch lengths of yarn for each child. Punch three evenly spaced holes near the edge of each plate. On a worktable, set out the plates, yarn, vegetable shortening, birdseed, plastic knives, and markers. Have children write their initials on the underside of their plates. Show children how to spread a small amount of vegetable shortening on the plates and sprinkle birdseed over the shortening. Help children thread the strands of yarn through the three holes and knot them underneath securely. Then help kids tie the strands of yarn together at the top to form a hanger. Encourage children to hang their bird feeders outside their homes. Explain that taking care of God’s creatures is one way to care for our world. Say that today they’ll hear how God made us and wants us to take care of our world.

**Option 3: Handy Recyclers**

**SUPPLIES:** three paper grocery sacks, markers

Before class, collect three paper grocery sacks. Write “Plastic” on one, “Paper” on another, and “Aluminum” on the third. Set out the sacks, markers, and the world stamp and ink pad from the Learning Lab. Invite children to trace their hands on each sack and write their names inside the outlines. Let them take turns decorating the sacks with the world stamp. As children work, explain that recycling is one way to take care of our world. Say that today’s Bible story is about how God made us and wants us to take care of our world.

When everyone has arrived and you’re ready to move on to the Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they’re doing and get ready to clean up.

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**Pick Up Our Toys**

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

Lead children in singing “Pick Up Our Toys” (track 2) with the CD to the tune of “Skip to My Lou” as they help clean up the room.

If you want to include the names of all the children in your class, sing the song without the CD and repeat the naming section. If you choose to use the CD, vary the names you use each week.

**SING**

We will pick up our toys.
We will pick up our toys.
We will pick up our toys
And put them all away.

There’s [name] picking up toys.
There’s [name] picking up toys.
There’s [name] picking up toys,
Putting them all away.

(Repeat.)
Bible Story Time

Setting the Stage

**SUPPLIES:** clean recyclable items, large trash bag, masking tape, recycling bags from Option 3

Tell the children you’ll clap your hands to get their attention. Explain that when you clap, the children are to stop what they’re doing and focus on you. Practice this signal a few times. Encourage children to respond quickly so you’ll have time for all the fun activities you’ve planned.

Before class, fill a large trash bag with crumpled scraps of paper and clean recyclable items such as plastic and aluminum containers. Make sure there are no sharp edges on any of the items. Place the trash bag at one end of the room, and tape a starting line on the floor at the opposite end of the room. Have children form two lines behind the starting line. Place the three recycling bags from Option 3 between the two teams. Make sure children know which recycling bag is which.

Say: **We’re going to have a recycling relay! When I flip the lights, the first person in each line will hop to the other end of the room, pull something from the trash bag, hop back, and put it into the proper recycling bag. Then the next person in line will go.**

When everyone has had a turn, say: **Good job! You all deserve high fives!** Encourage children to give each other high fives, and then ask them to sit in a circle.

Ask: • **How does recycling help us take care of our world?** (It makes it cleaner; it keeps the world from filling up with trash; it keeps us from using up too many trees.)

• **What are some other ways we can take care of our world?** (Not dump things on the ground or in the river; not hurt little animals; keep the air clean.)

• **What might happen if we didn’t take care of our world?** (It would get very dirty; the water would get yucky; the world might get sick.)

Say: **If we don’t take care of our world we’ll all have a big problem, because this is the only place we have to live! Today in our Bible story we’ll learn that God made us and wants us to take care of our world.**

Bible Song and Prayer Time

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, construction paper, scissors, CD player, basket or box

Before class, make surprise cards for this activity by cutting construction paper into 2x6-inch slips. Prepare a surprise card for each child, plus a few extras for visitors. Fold the cards in half, and then stamp the world stamp inside one of the surprise cards. Bookmark Genesis 1:28-31; 2:19-20 in the Bible you’ll be using.

Have children sit in a circle. Say: **Now it’s time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today’s Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, I’ll pass out surprise cards. Don’t look inside your surprise card until the song is over.**

Lead children in singing “Read God’s Book” (track 3) with the CD, to the tune of “The Muffin Man.” As you sing, pass out the folded surprise cards.
Now it's time to read God's Book,  
Read God's Book, read God's Book.  
Now it's time to read God's Book.  
Let's hear a Bible story.  
(Repeat 3x.)

After the song, say: You may look inside your surprise cards. The person with the world stamped in his or her card will be our Bible person today.

Identify the Bible person, and have the rest of the children clap for him or her. Ask the Bible person to bring you the Bible. Help the Bible person open the Bible to the marked place and show children where your story comes from. Then have the Bible person sit down.

Say: [Name] was our special Bible person today. Each week we’ll have only one Bible person, but each one of you is a special part of our class! Today we’re all learning that God made us and wants us to take care of our world.

Let’s say a special prayer now and ask God how we can take care of his world. I’ll pass around this basket. When the basket comes to you, put your surprise card in it and say, “God, please show me how to take care of your world.”

Pass around the basket or box. When you’ve collected everyone’s surprise card, set the basket aside and pick up the Bible. Lead children in this prayer: God, thank you for the Bible and all the stories in it. Teach us today that you made us and want us to take care of our world. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up the Bible. Say: Today’s Bible story comes from the book of Genesis in the Bible. Our Creation poster shows us pictures of our Bible story and will help us learn that God made us and wants us to take care of our world. Let’s review our Bible story with the “Days of Creation” rhyme. I’ll need four volunteers to hold the poster and open the doors as we say the rhyme.

When the four volunteers are in place, lead the children in the following rhyme.

One is for the day and night. God knew how to make them right! (Hold up one finger.)

Two is for the beautiful sky. God made it blue. Oh me, oh my! (Hold up two fingers. Lift arms toward the sky.)

Three is for each flower and tree. God made them all for you and me. (Hold up three fingers. Point to someone and then to yourself.)

Four is for the moon and sun. God made them bright for everyone! (Hold up four fingers. Hold arms above your head like a shining sun.)

Five is for the birds and fish, with wings that fly and fins that swish! (Hold up five fingers. Act out birds and fish.)
Six is for animals; people, too. I'm glad that God made me and you! (Hold up six fingers. Point thumbs at yourself; point index fingers at two others.)

Seven is for God's day of rest. I thank you, God, for the world you blessed. (Hold up seven fingers. Fold hands and look up.)

Choose four different volunteers to hold the poster and open the doors, and then repeat the rhyme.

Then say: Good job remembering all about God's creation. Our Bible verse is from Psalm 24:1, and it says, “The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.” Have children repeat the verse with you. God created everything, and everything belongs to him—including people!

Ask: • What was God's most special creation? (People; Adam and Eve; us.)
• What's so special about people? (We're made like God; we can think and know what's right and wrong; we can love God.)

Say: Thank you for your answers! God made people special. God made us! And then he gave us a very special job to do.

Close all the doors on the posters except the last one.

Ask: • What were the names of the first two people God made? (Adam and Eve.)
• Where did God put Adam and Eve? (In a garden with lots of animals; by some trees.)

Say: God placed Adam in a beautiful garden called the Garden of Eden. The garden was filled with all kinds of wonderful plants and animals. God brought all the animals to Adam and let Adam give each of them a name.

Return the Creation poster to the Learning Lab.

Say: Let's pretend I'm Adam. You line up and come to me one by one. I'll tell you what animal you are, and then you pretend to turn into that animal as you go back to your seat.

Have the children come to you one by one, and assign an animal role to each one. Say, “You're a tiger” or “You're a puppy dog” or “You're a dove with a beautiful song.” After all the children are seated, say: Naming all the animals must've been a big job! But God gave Adam and Eve an even bigger job to do. “Fill the earth and govern it,” God said. “Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.” Wow! That was a big job! And do you know what? That job didn't stop with Adam and Eve. Taking care of God's creation is a job that God still wants us to do today. God made us and wants us to take care of our world.

Ask: • How do you think Adam and Eve took care of the world when they lived? (Picked fruit off the trees; made sure the animals had enough to eat; took care of baby animals.)
• How can we take care of the world today? (Don't throw trash on the ground; use things again—recycle; don't waste food.)
• Why is it important to take care of our world? (Because God told us to; because if we don't, the world will get sick; because we need to live in our world.)
• How do you think God feels when we don't take good care of our world? (Sad; unhappy.)
Lesson 3

God gave us something very special when he made the world and put us in charge of it. He really trusted us, didn’t he? And he gave us something even more special—his Son, Jesus! God loved the world and the people he created so much that he sent us Jesus to be our forever friend. We can ask Jesus, our forever friend, to help us remember to take care of our world and show God how much we appreciate it. Let’s have some fun thinking of ways we can do that.

Do the Bible Story

**SUPPLIES:** masking tape, CD player

Make a masking-tape line across the center of the floor. Form two teams and have the teams stand on either side of the line. Hold up the *inflatable globe* from the Learning Lab.

Say: *It’s time to play World Volleyball! I’ll toss the globe in the air. If the globe comes your way, bop it over the line to the other side. Try to keep the globe bopping from side to side without letting it fall to the ground. If the globe touches the ground on your side of the line, huddle together with your group to think of a way we can take care of our world. After you’ve told your idea, toss the globe to me and we’ll start over.*

Play several rounds, and then have children sit in a circle. Put the *inflatable globe* aside for later in the lesson.

Say: *You all did a good job of keeping the world from falling down. It’s a little harder to take care of our real world, isn’t it? But you had good ideas! Let’s listen to a song now that tells us why it’s important to remember that God made us and wants us to take care of our world.*

Play “The Earth Is the Lord’s” (Psalm 24:1) (track 4) on the CD, and encourage the children to sing along. Lyrics are at the back of this book. Then say: *I wonder if Pockets would like to help us take care of God’s world. Let’s ask her.*

Closing

**Pockets’ Predicament**

**SUPPLIES:** fly swatter (made from a drinking straw and paper), tape

Before class, make a small fly swatter from a drinking straw taped to a small square of poster board or construction paper. Tape the fly swatter to Pockets’ paw. Bring out Pockets the Kangaroo, and go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, put Pockets away and out of sight.
God Made the World

SUPPLIES: CD player

Have children sit in a circle. Hold up the inflatable globe from the Learning Lab.

Say: Today we’ve all been learning how God made us and wants us to take care of our world. The world is a gift from God, and we can praise him for being so good to us. Let’s sing a song together about what a wonderful gift God has given us and pass around the globe as we sing. Sing “God Made the World” (track 5) with the CD to the tune of “God Is So Good.”

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God made the world. 
God made the world. 
God made the world. 
God is good to me. 

God made the day. 
God made the night. 
God made the light. 
God is good to me. 

God made the sea. 
God made the sky. 
God made the clouds. 
God is good to me. 

God made the plants. 
God made the trees. 
God made the flowers. 
God is good to me. 

Return the inflatable globe to the Learning Lab, and say: Our Bible verse, which is from Psalm 24:1, tells us, “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.” God made everything on earth, and we want to take good care of the world God made. Find partners and tell each other one way you’ll help take care of our world this week. Give children a few moments to share. Then say: I heard some good plans! Let’s all remember that God made us and wants us to take care of our world. Before we go, let’s thank God for the gift he gave us when he made our world. Pray: Dear God, thank you for making such a wonderful world for us. Please help us to take care of it for you. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week’s topic.
For Extra Time
If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

Lively Learning: Care for Our Church
Get permission to borrow a bucket of cleaning supplies from your church’s kitchen or supply closet. Gather supplies such as paper towels, sponges, and spray glass cleaner. Say: God made us and wants us to take care of our world. And one part of our world we can take care of is our church! We’re going to form a cleaning brigade and see how much we can clean in five minutes. Lead children to the church kitchen or another area where they can clean cupboard doors and countertops. Compliment children on their efforts, and encourage them to look for other places they can make God’s world sparkle this week.

Make to Take: Creation Bookmarks
Before class, cut 3x6-inch strips of construction paper and clear self-adhesive paper and one 4-inch length of yarn for each child. Bring a variety of small leaves and blossoms, or take children on a brief nature walk and let them collect their own. Set out the leaves, self-adhesive paper, yarn, and a hole punch. Let children select their leaves and blossoms and arrange them on construction paper strips. Then help them peel the backing from the self-adhesive paper and press the self-adhesive paper in place over the leaves and flowers. Punch a hole in the top of each bookmark, and demonstrate how to thread a length of yarn through the hole and tie the ends together. Explain that children can use the bookmarks to remind them that God made us and wants us to take care of our world.

Treat to Eat: Pretzely Piles
Pour raisins, pretzels, and chocolate chips together in a large mixing bowl. Have children clean their hands with wet wipes or at a nearby sink, and then give each child three paper muffin cups and a napkin. Place a scoop of snack mix on each child’s napkin. Let children sort their “pretzely piles” into their three muffin cup “bins.” Talk about how sorting their piles is like sorting things for recycling. As children enjoy their sorted treats, encourage them to tell you how they recycle at home and at their schools. Remind them that God made us and wants us to take care of our world and that recycling is one way we can all help.

Story Picture: A Global Gift
Hand each child a copy of the “Today I Learned…” handout. Set out markers, glue, blue glitter, safety scissors, and short lengths of ribbons. Allow children to cut and glue ribbons on the world to make it look like a present. Help children write their names on the gift tags. Have them spread glue on the oceans and sprinkle on blue glitter to make the oceans look sparkling clean.
Today your child learned that God made us and wants us to take care of our world. Children learned that the world is a gift from God and talked about ways we can take care of our world.

Verse to Learn
“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it” (Psalm 24:1a).

Ask Me...
- Who did God put in charge of the world?
- What’s one new thing we can do this week to take better care of God’s world?
- How can we encourage our neighbors to help take care of God’s world?

Family Fun
- Go on a nature scavenger hunt. Find something older than you, something younger than you, something living, something not living, and something that smells good.

Put the items you gather on your scavenger hunt on a tray in the center of your table. Each night at dinner, thank God for all the wonderful things he put in our world for us to enjoy, and ask God to help you find new ways to care for our world.

God Gave Us the World to Care For (Genesis 1:28-31; 2:19-20)