Taking Care of God’s Creation

Genesis 1:27-28; 2:8-15

CHOOSING OPTIONS
Each option below is designed to take 10 minutes. The option used to tell the Bible story is designated with the Bible image. Always do this option first in your large-group time. Use the chart below to plan the rest of your large-group time in whatever order fits your needs. Check the options you want to use.

Large Group

You’ll Need

Bible • TV or video projection unit (VPU) • DVD player • CD player

Choose Your Options

Get Your Supplies

Planning Notes

Welcome
Connect With Groups

• Large-Group DVD

Praise & Worship
Sing It Out

• Large-Group DVD

Object Lesson
Share With Care

• Large-Group DVD
• Inflatable Leaves (provided in kit)

Either the activity, object lesson or game module could be used for AWANA Sparks Counsel time. They will want to read about creation first.

Activity
Grow in Respect

• Large-Group DVD
• 1 sheet of newspaper
• tape
• scissors

Game
Balloon Bounce

• Large-Group DVD
• 1 ball or skein of yarn per small group
• 1 inflated balloon per small group

• Large-Group DVD

DVD Drama
Watch Your Step

Small Group

What Groups Will Need

Preschool Supplies

Lower Elementary Supplies

Upper Elementary Supplies

• 2 pieces of wax paper per child
• glue sticks
• multiple colors of tissue paper
• scissors

• scissors
• 2 small paper plates per child
• hole punch
• 2 feet of string per child
• 1 empty paper towel or toilet paper roll per child
• glue
• clear tape

• old newspapers
• 1 or 2 clean, empty plastic bottles
• masking tape
• markers

Teach the Key Verse anytime during large group.

The Point

We respect God’s creation.

Key Verse

“Respect everyone.” —1 Peter 2:17

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Taking Care of God’s Creation

A PERSONAL TOUCH
It’s interesting to note that humans were the first creation not simply spoken into being. God personally formed Adam out of the earth. Then one more difference appears: God breathed life into Adam, and Adam became a living person. Many here translate being as “soul,” and no other creature was given that designation. Genesis 1:27 even tells us that humans were created in God’s image. And after the creation of humans, God announced that his creation not only was “good,” it was “very good” (Genesis 1:31).

A SPECIAL GIFT
Adam’s need for a mate, someone to stand alongside him, didn’t come as a surprise to God. The parade of animals for Adam to name had a purpose beyond the naming: It pointed out to Adam that he was alone, that he didn’t have a mate like him—someone who could share his life. He didn’t have someone who, with him, could carry on the procreation of humankind. After helping Adam come to this realization, God created woman.

A FULL-TIME JOB
God created a wonderful earth and capped off his creation by forming Adam and Eve. Then God gave Adam and Eve a major task: to be responsible for the earth! God essentially turned his wonderful creation over to these two humans—and to all the humans who have followed them. The idea contained in Genesis is not to “reign” by destroying and wasting the earth’s resources, but instead to be good stewards of all God created. Our job is to take care of what God has created and to use it wisely for God’s purposes.

A PERFECT PLAN
In six days, God created all that we see in nature. Then he gave the earth over to humans to take care of it. God’s plan is perfect, and now the responsibility for carrying out that plan and caring for the earth is ours.
Taking Care of God’s Creation

Genesis 1:27-28; 2:8-15

Welcome

YOU’LL NEED

TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD

1 COUNT DOWN
Play one of the countdowns. Have children get with their small groups, and get them excited to worship!

2 GREET
Have small-group leaders greet kids in their groups—especially guests. At the end of greeting, do the "mingle question" that gets put on the screen.

3 ANNOUNCE
Make any announcements (including birthdays), and collect offerings.

Praise & Worship

YOU’LL NEED

TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD

1 SING
“Living Inside Out” (Song 1)
“Respect Everyone” (1 Peter 2:17) (Song 2)
“Doin’ It for the Lord” (Colossians 3:23) (Song 5)
“Only a Prayer Away” (Song 6)

2 PRAY
Thank God for creating our world, trusting us to take care of his creation, and forgiving us even when we forget to be careful.

3 MAKE THE CONNECTION
Say: Imagine you walked into a toy store and the owner handed you the latest, greatest video game that everyone’s been waiting for. Now imagine the owner told you, “It’s all yours! Do whatever you want with it—just be sure you take care of it!” God entrusted us with something much bigger and better than a video game. He gave us the whole world to take care of! Today we’re learning about the different ways we respect God’s creation.

Leader Tip

Easy Options:
• Sing along with DVD lyrics and motions.
• Sing along with the CD.
• Show media slides provided on the CD.
Object Lesson

YOU’LL NEED

Bible • TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD • Inflatable Leaves (provided in kit)

Share With Care

1. INTRODUCE

Read Genesis 1: 27-28. Say: God made the world for all of us to enjoy—the birds, the fish, the animals, and the earth. How can we show thanks for such an incredible gift?

2. EXPLAIN

Hand the Inflatable Leaves to two kids. Say: God wants us to take care of his creation. It’s beautiful! Listen to how beautiful it is. Read Genesis 2:8-9. Have kids stand like big, tall trees. Read Genesis 2:10-14, and have kids lie on the ground and pretend they’re flowing rivers of water. Say: What an amazing creation! Read Genesis 2:15. Say: God wants us to watch over his creation. On those trees God created were beautiful leaves, like ones we have here. Let’s share these Inflatable Leaves with everyone in this room. When I say “go,” my helpers will toss the leaves out to the middle of the group. Then all of you will bat them around gently so everyone has a chance to tap them.

3. PLAY

Say “go” and have kids toss the Inflatable Leaves toward the center of the group. Let kids bat them around for a couple of minutes. Don’t try to monitor how hard they hit them or whether everyone touches them—that’ll be part of their discovery at the end of the activity.

4. DISCUSS IN GROUPS

Cue the question screen for kids to answer each of the following:

• Talk about how you treated the leaves in this activity.
• How was that like or unlike the way you treat God’s creation?
• Why is it important to respect God’s creation?

5. MAKE THE CONNECTION

Say: The world God created for us is exciting and fun! Sometimes, though, we enjoy using his creation so much that we forget to treat it gently. God wants us to share this world with everyone, so we need to respect it and take good care of it. We respect God’s creation by handling it with care.
Grow in Respect

1. **INTRODUCE**
   Say: God’s creation includes mighty things like mountains and oceans, as well as fragile things like flowers and butterflies. Because we respect God’s creation, we try not to harm these things. Let’s see what happens when we take care of the world God gave us.

2. **GET STARTED**
   Hold up the newspaper cylinder that you prepared beforehand. Say: What do you think of my creation? It doesn’t look like much, but maybe it’ll improve as we take care of it. If you can think of a way to respect God’s creation, raise your hand and share your idea with us. I’ll start.

3. **GROW!**
   Offer a suggestion such as “Don’t litter” or “Turn the water off when brushing your teeth.” Then, using either your finger or the eraser end of a pencil, push up on the inner end of the cylinder and gently twist. As each person suggests a way to respect creation, repeat this motion. Before long, the tube will sprout into a tree!

4. **DISCUSS IN GROUPS**
   Cue the question screen for kids to answer each of the following:
   • What was it like to think of ways to take care of our world?
   • Why do you think it pleases God when we respect the things he’s made?
   • What can you do this week to take care of God’s creation?

5. **MAKE THE CONNECTION**
   Say: We can each respect God’s creation. Respecting creation means taking care of it, and taking care of it can help it survive and grow. What a good way to show God we appreciate the world he made! ► We respect God’s creation.
Balloon Bounce

INTRODUCE
Give each group a ball or skein of yarn. Say: When God created people, he gave us the entire world—but with that gift came responsibility.

EXPLAIN
Have one child in the group hold the yarn. Explain that the person holding the yarn has to tell the group something in God’s creation that he or she respects. Say: For example, you might mention a waterfall that you saw when you were hiking, or you might tell about a beautiful sunset. After you’ve shared your idea, hold on to the end of the yarn and pass the ball of yarn to someone on the opposite side of the circle from you. That person will share an idea, hold on to the yarn, and pass the rest of the yarn to someone else. We’ll do this until the yarn is used up, so you’ll each have more than one turn to share.

PASS
Let kids play until the yarn is completely unwound. Have kids continue to hold their yarn in their hands. Say: Wow! It looks like you formed a sunburst! Now we’ll toss a balloon onto your sunburst. Hold tightly to your ends of the yarn as you bounce the balloon into the air. Bounce it as many times as you can, but you must protect it by not letting it fall to the ground. Give a balloon to each small group, and allow about two minutes for kids to play.

DISCUSS IN GROUPS
Cue the question screen for kids to answer each of the following:

- How was treating the balloon with care like treating God’s creation with care?
- Pick one thing God created and tell what you’d do to respect it.
- Why is it important to respect God’s creation?

MAKE THE CONNECTION
Say: God’s creation is huge and amazing, and you gave great examples of things we respect! But not only do we respect God’s creation, we can also help each other take care of it—just as you helped each other take care of the balloon.
Watch Your Step

GET STARTED
Say: There are lots of reasons to respect God’s creation. First reason: because God said so! But also, this world would look pretty boring without all the beautiful plants and cool animals God made. There are some people who actually make a living by watching out for God’s creation. Let’s meet one of them now.

WATCH DVD Watch Your Step
Play the video Watch Your Step.

DISCUSS IN GROUPS DVD Watch Your Step Questions
Cue the question screen for kids to answer each of the following:

• What did you learn about taking care of God’s creation?
• What might happen if we’re not careful about respecting God’s creation?
• What’s one thing you can do this week to show that you respect God’s creation?

MAKE THE CONNECTION
Say: You may think that taking care of the entire earth is too big a job for just one person. But if everyone thinks that way, no one will do anything to take care of our world. Instead, let’s each do a small part to show that we respect God’s creation. You can even start today!

5. Review the Bible Point - We respect God’s Creation
6. Review the Bible Verse: Respect Everyone - 1 Peter 2:17
7. Dismiss Kids - start with 1st grade, 4th grade, 3rd grade, 2nd grade