

# Preschool Curriculum

## Lesson One – To Protect God’s Creation

### Story Time

- Biblical readings – Genesis 1:26-29; Psalm 96:11-13a
- Book - *This is the World That God Made* by Martha Streufert Jander (Concordia Publishing)
- Book - *In the Beginning* by Dandi Daley Mackall (Thomas Nelson Publishers)

### Activities

- Learn to care for classroom pets (fish, turtle, hamster, gerbil, etc.)
- Plan a day when the children can bring their pets at the beginning or end of the day and ask the pastor to participate in a short “Blessing of the Pets”
- Provide a variety of items or pictures of items for children to sort into those made by God and those made by man
- Plant seeds in peat pots so the children can watch them grow and then set them into the ground when it is warm enough
- Plan a cooking project that involves a food, such as wheat or milk, and then teach the steps involved for that food to go from being wheat in the field or milk from the cow to being bread or ice cream
- Go on a “Creation Scavenger Hunt” by giving the children a picture list of things to find while they are outside such as a rock, leaf, bird, tree, flower, cloud, etc. Volunteers could assist in leading small groups.
- Work with a globe to show the children the separation of land and seas, how the moon goes around the Earth, and how the Earth goes around the sun

### Music

- “The Creation Song” (Melody: *This is the Way*) with motions for each verse and posters relating to each day of creation to help the children remember the order of creation

God made the sun and moon and stars, moon and stars, moon and stars.

*(Arms in circle over head for sun and moon. Arms over head and wiggle fingers for stars)*

God made the sun and moon and stars, and saw that it was good.

God made the earth and sky and seas, sky and seas, sky and seas.

*(Touch floor for earth, arms up for sky, wave arms in front for seas)*

God made the earth and sky and seas, and saw that it was good.

God made the seeds and plants and trees, plants and trees, plants and trees.

*(Crouch down and slowly stand with arms above head)*

God made the seeds and plants and trees, and saw that it was good.

God made the fish and birds and bees, birds and bees, birds and bees.

*(Palms together and wiggle for fish, flap arms for birds and bees)*

God made the fish and birds and bees, and saw that it was good.

God made the cows and creepy things, creepy things, creepy things.

*(Fingers up at temples for cows, wiggle fingers and move hands forward for creepy things)*

God made the cows and creepy things, and saw that it was good.

God made people like you and me, you and me, you and me.  
*(Point to others and then to self)*

God made people like you and me and saw that it was good.

God rested on the seventh day, seventh day, seventh day.  
*(Hold hands under head as if sleeping)*

God rested on the seventh day, for it was very good.

- "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"

### **Chapel**

Prayer – Dear God in heaven, we thank you for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, all the animals that you made, and the food you give us. Help us to care for all you have given us. Amen.

Reading – Genesis 1:26-29

Dialog Sermon – "My Hands Do God's Work" (Children share how they do God's work by helping at home, caring for a pet, etc. and then the pastor blesses their hands)

Song – "The Creation Song"

Prayer – Dear God, creator of our world, you have made so many wonderful things for our world. Help me to use my hands to care for all that you have made. Amen.

## Lesson Two – To Be A Disciple

### Story Time

- Biblical Reading – Matthew 10:1-4
- Book – *Jesus Helps Me to Help Others* by Carolyn Bergt (Concordia Publishing)

### Activities

- Jesus called out the disciples' names. Stress the importance of their names by practicing first and last names (you might laminate these and have them find their name, say the letters in their name, match first name with last name, etc.), names of their parents (not just Mommy and Daddy), names of other important people in their lives (teachers, pastor, caregiver, etc.).
- Research the meaning of each child's name and talk about it
- Ask the parents why they selected the name for their child (named after a relative, particular meaning, from a favorite book, etc.)
- The disciples were called to follow – so play "Follow the Leader"
- Discuss what they can do to help at home and then give them a certificate that says, "I'm a disciple, and I can follow Jesus by \_\_\_\_\_." Write in what each child says he/she can do at home and send it home with the child.
- Guest Speaker – Invite a community helper (fireman, policeman, in to tell the children about what they do and why they think Jesus is pleased with how they help people

### Music

- "God Chose Me"  
God chose me and God chose you (Point to self and then to another)  
We have special work to do.  
We can . . . . .  
God chose me and God chose you.  
We have special work to do.
- "Won't You Be My Friend"  
(Getting to Know Myself by Hap Palmer)  
An instrumental phrase is followed by the line, "Won't you be my friend."  
During the instrumental phrase, someone sings one or two names of people in the room, then everyone sings, "Won't you be my friend." Each person stands and claps his hands when his name is called. This continues until everyone is standing and clapping.  
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- "Jesus Loves Me"  
Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so  
Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.  
Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.
- "Jesus Called" (Melody: *This is the Way*)  
Jesus called men to follow him, follow him, follow him.  
Jesus called men to follow him, like Peter, James, and John.  
  
Jesus called women to follow him, follow him, follow him.

Jesus called women to follow him, like Susanna, Joanna, and Mary.

Jesus calls us to follow him, follow him, follow him.

Jesus calls us to follow him like (*Name each child in your class.*)

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### **Chapel**

Prayer – Dear Jesus, I have a very special name and I know that I am special to you. Thank you for calling me to follow you. Amen.

Reading – Matthew 10:1-4

Dialog Sermon – “Called to Follow” (Signs with the children’s names are held up and read. As each child comes forward, they share what they know about their name, they are anointed with water from the baptismal font with the words “I remind you that you are called to be a follower of Jesus the Christ,” and they are given a picture of Jesus to put in their bedroom.)

Song – “God Chose Me”

Prayer – Dear Jesus, I thank you for choosing me to be your follower. Please help me to always be a good helper. Amen.

## Lesson Three – To Care For One Another

### Story Time

- Biblical Readings – Matthew 25:35-36; Matthew 5:9
- Book – Emily’s Sharing and Caring Book by Cindy Post Senning, Peggy Post, and Leo Landry

### Activities

- Make caring cards for the homebound or those in nursing homes. The child can trace their hand on the card and then decorate it. A message such as “We prayed for you in chapel today” or “I just wanted you to know that I care about you” could be glued inside the card. The child signs their name to the card. These can then be mailed.
- Visit a nursing home or shut-ins, perhaps one of the people to whom they mailed a card
- Dress up time using costumes of community helpers (policeman, fireman, doctor, nurse, mail person, etc.) so that they can pretend that one child is lost and goes to the policeman for help, calls 911 for the fire department, etc.
- Invite the parish nurse in to share with the children how she/he cares for people
- Make an outline of each child’s hand and explain how you are going to watch for times when they are caring or helpful toward another child. Then write that on their hand outline for them to take home

### Music

- “Jesus’ Love” (Melody: *Jingle Bells*)  
Jesus’ love, Jesus’ love, helps us every day,  
Helps us do the things we should, helps us learn to pray.

Jesus’ love, Jesus’ love, helps us learn to share,  
Helps us to grow in his love, helps us learn to care.

Jesus’ love, Jesus’ love, helps us to forgive,  
Helps us love as we are loved, helps us learn to give.

- “God Takes Care of Me”  
God takes care of me. He’s with me all the time.  
Night time, day time, home time, away time  
God takes care of me.

God takes care of me. He’s with me all the time.  
Meal time, play time, pray time, hooray time  
God takes care of me.

God takes care of me. He’s with me all the time.  
Ride time, walk time, listen time and talk time.  
God takes care of me.

## **Chapel**

Prayer – Dear Jesus, I know how much you care for me. Please help me to be kind and to use my hands to care for others. Amen.

Reading – Matthew 25:35-36

Dialog Sermon – “We Care” (Children come forward one at a time with the card they have made for a shut-in or nursing home resident. These have been addressed and stamped. The chapel leader tells the child about the person and then has them say a prayer for that specific person. The child could then place the card in a mailbox.)

Song – “Jesus’ Love”

Prayer – Dear Jesus, we thank you that we can care for others. Please help the people we prayed for today. Amen.

## Lesson Four – To Be People of Peace

### Story Time

- Biblical Reading – Mark 4:35-39
- Book – *The Peace Book* by Todd Parr
- Book – *Peace Begins With You* by Katherine Scholes

### Activities

- Have the children hold the edges of a parachute or large blanket. Place a toy boat on it to illustrate a raging sea (shake it very hard) and then a peaceful, calm sea (move it gently)
- Put boats in the water table and have the children make waves with their hands and then let the boats float on calm waters with a gentle breeze (children blow gently on the boats)
- Discuss emotions and how when they are feeling upset they can say a prayer like the disciples did and Jesus will help them to calm down
- Teach children how to do the “Sharing of the Peace” from the worship service
- Poem -- Arms are for hugging, not for shoving.  
Arms are for giving, not for grabbing.
- Children can draw peace signs on paper plates, and decorate them with glitter, markers, paint, etc. They might even add streamers on the bottom of the plate for additional decoration.
- Children’s hands can be cut from different colors of tagboard and then used to form a wreath of joined hands showing their commitment to be peaceful

### Music

- “The Lord Bless You” (Melody: *Clementine*)  
The Lord bless you.  
The Lord keep you.  
The Lord watch you from above.  
The Lord’s peace be with you always.  
The Lord keep you in his love.
- “May God Bless and Keep You Always” (Melody: *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*)  
May God bless you now, as you go on your way.  
May he look on you with love and give you peace today.

### Chapel

Prayer – Dear Jesus, we ask you for peace in our hearts, peace in our homes, and peace in the world. Amen.

Reading – Mark 4:35-39

Dialog Sermon – “Bringing Peace” (Children talk with the chapel leader about how they might bring peace in different circumstances – when a baby or a friend is crying, someone is afraid of the dark, two children are wanting the same toy, a new child comes to the class, etc.)

Song – “The Lord Bless You”

Prayer – Dear Jesus, we thank you because when we are frightened or angry we know we can say a prayer to you and ask you for peace. Amen.