

An Earth Day Sermon

PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

Theme: Earth Day

Scripture: Genesis 2:15

Memory Verse: God put Adam in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. -
Genesis 2:15

The Children's Sermon

How are we supposed to take care of the Earth? That's a good question. Fortunately, the Bible provides help. In Genesis, when God placed the man in the garden and states "till it and keep it." This means we have the right to till the Earth in order to make it fruitful. But does this mean we are to till all of it? No, we also have the duty to "keep it" which means to protect it – to "keep" the Earth by conserving it. "Till it" yes, but know when to stop.

God speaks to me through the mountains – always has. Perhaps for you, you feel closest to God at the beach or the lake. For me, and perhaps for you, nature is the most real sign of God's presence. Our spiritual journey is still more mystery to me than understanding. But day by day, one step at a time, with God's help, the understanding grows, if we will take the time to listen for his guidance and read his holy word.

Now, let's talk a bit more about this special day, Earth Day. Earth Day is like a big birthday party for our planet. It's a day we set aside to think about the Earth and how we can take better care of it. Just like you might clean up your room or help out at home, Earth Day reminds us to clean up our planet and help it out too.

You see, every little thing we do can make a big difference. When we recycle our paper, plastic, and cans, we're helping to keep the Earth clean. When we turn off lights when we leave a room, or turn off the water when we brush our teeth, we're saving energy and water. These are small actions, but if everyone does them, they add up to a big help for our planet.

God gave us this beautiful Earth to live on, and it's our job to take care of it. We can think of ourselves as Earth's helpers. Just like superheroes, we have the power to make a positive change. We can plant trees, clean up trash in our parks, and even use less plastic by choosing reusable bottles and bags. Every choice we make can help protect our Earth.

Sometimes, we might wonder if our small actions really matter. But they do! Imagine if every kid around the world did one kind thing for the Earth every day. That would be a lot of kindness, and it would help our planet a lot. We can be leaders in taking care of the Earth, showing others how easy and important it is.

Let's remember, too, that taking care of the Earth is not just for Earth Day. It's something we can do every day. Every morning when we wake up, we can think, "What can I do today to help the Earth?" Maybe it's choosing to walk or ride a bike instead of asking for a ride in a car. Maybe it's picking up litter we see on the ground. There are so many ways we can help.

In the Bible, God talks about how everything on Earth is connected. The trees, the animals, the water, and us – we're all part of God's creation. When we take care of one

part of creation, we help all of it. It's like a big family. And just like in a family, we need to work together and take care of each other.

So, let's make every day Earth Day. Let's promise to be kind to our planet, to take care of it, and to love it just like God loves us. We can be Earth's superheroes, making sure our planet is healthy and happy for many, many years to come.

Let's pray: Dear God, thank you for the beautiful Earth you've given us. Help us to remember to take care of it every day, not just on Earth Day. Guide us to make choices that protect your creation, and inspire others to do the same. Help us to be superheroes for the Earth, showing love and kindness to everything you've made. Amen.

Bible Memory Verse

God put Adam in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. - Genesis 2:15

You Will Need:

- Construction paper (green, blue, brown)
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Crayons or markers
- Stickers of animals and plants

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into various shapes beforehand, including circles for the Earth, tree shapes, and animal shapes.

-Set up a table with all the materials spread out for easy access by the children.

Do This:

1. Start by explaining the memory verse to the children in simple terms, emphasizing that God wants us to take care of our planet.
2. Give each child a circle (representing the Earth) and ask them to glue on the green and brown shapes to make land and sea.
3. Let them decorate their Earth with animal and plant stickers, and draw people taking care of the Earth with crayons or markers. Encourage them to share how they can help take care of God's creation in their daily lives.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Small pots or recycled containers (like yogurt cups)
- Potting soil
- Seeds (flowers or easy-to-grow vegetables)
- Watering cans or cups
- Stickers or markers to decorate pots
- Genesis 2:15 printed on paper or a poster

Get Ready:

- Fill a table with the small pots or recycled containers.
- Have potting soil in a large, accessible container with a scoop.
- Set out seeds, watering cans or cups, stickers, and markers on the table.
- Display Genesis 2:15 where all the children can see it.

Do this:

1. Start by reading Genesis 2:15 aloud to the children, explaining that God wants us to take care of the Earth.
2. Let each child pick a pot or recycled container and decorate it with stickers or markers.
3. Help the children fill their pots with soil, plant the seeds, and gently water them.
4. Encourage the children to take their planted seeds home, care for them, and watch them grow as a reminder of our responsibility to care for the Earth.

Snack Activity: Edible Earths

You'll Need:

- Round crackers or rice cakes
- Blue cream cheese or frosting (use food coloring to achieve the blue color)
- Green grapes (cut in halves or small pieces for younger children to avoid choking hazards)

Get Ready: Mix a small amount of food coloring with cream cheese or frosting until you get a nice earthy blue. Ensure grapes are washed and cut appropriately for the age group.

Do this:

1. Spread the blue cream cheese or frosting on the round crackers or rice cakes to create the base of your 'Earth'.
2. Place green grape pieces on the blue base to represent the continents, creating an edible version of the Earth.
3. Enjoy your edible Earths as you talk about Genesis 2:15 and how God wants us to take care of our planet.

Game Activity: Garden of Eden Cleanup

You'll Need:

- Safe, non-toxic artificial plants and flowers
- Small baskets or buckets
- Laminated pictures of animals and insects (bees, butterflies, etc.)

Get Ready: Scatter the artificial plants, flowers, and laminated pictures around a designated play area to simulate the Garden of Eden. Make sure the area is safe and accessible for small children.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that God gave us the Earth to take care of, just like He put Adam in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it. Today, they will help clean up the Garden of Eden.
2. Give each child a basket or bucket. Their task is to collect the artificial plants, flowers, and pictures of animals and insects, and put them back in their 'natural' places, which can be marked with simple signs or areas designated with colored tape on the ground.
3. After the cleanup, gather the children and talk about how taking care of the Earth makes it a beautiful place for all creatures. Encourage them to think of ways they can help take care of the Earth every day.

Craft Activity: God's Beautiful World

You'll Need:

- Green and blue construction paper
- Cotton balls

- Glue

Get Ready: Cut the blue construction paper into a circle to represent the Earth. Tear the green paper into shapes that resemble continents.

Do this:

1. Have the children glue the green 'continents' onto the blue circle to create an Earth.
2. Spread glue lightly over the Earth and stick cotton balls on for clouds.
3. Talk about Genesis 2:15 and how God wants us to take care of our beautiful Earth, just like they are taking care of creating their Earth craft.

Prayer Activity: Thank You, Creator, for Our Earth

You'll Need:

- Small potted plant
- Watering can with water
- Picture of Earth or globe

Get Ready: Place the potted plant, watering can, and picture of Earth or globe on a table where all the children can see them.

Do this:

1. Gather the children around the table and show them the picture of Earth, explaining that God made the Earth and everything in it, including us. Refer to Genesis 2:15, simplifying it to 'God wants us to take care of our Earth.'
2. Encourage each child to take a turn watering the plant, helping them understand that this is one way we can take care of the Earth God has given us.

3. Lead the children in a simple prayer, encouraging them to repeat after you: 'Thank you, God, for our Earth. Help us take care of it. Amen.'