

An Earth Day Sermon

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Earth Day

Scripture: Genesis 2:15

Memory Verse: Genesis 2:15 - 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.'

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.

For many, 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.

Let us pray.

Lord, we thank you for this occasion to think about your creation and our duty to be good stewards of these gifts. Help us to know that each of us has a key job in caring for the earth, by the choices we make and by the actions we take. Give us good judgment

to choose thoughtfully, and to act with care, to show our love for you, and your love of this good Earth, our home. Have a happy Earth Day. Amen.

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 again.

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.

Remember, every little action counts. You have the power to make a difference. Let's celebrate Earth Day not just today, but every day, by being the best Earth helpers we can be. Happy Earth Day, everyone! Let's go out there and show the Earth some love.

Bible Memory Verse

Genesis 2:15 - 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.'

You Will Need:

- Construction paper (green, blue, brown)
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers or crayons

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into various shapes beforehand: green for leaves, blue for water, and brown for soil and trees.
- Set up a table with all the materials spread out for easy access.

Do This:

1. Explain to the children that God made humans to take care of the Earth, just like He put Adam in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.
2. Ask the children to create their own 'Garden of Eden' on a piece of construction paper using the shapes you've prepared. They can glue the pieces to form trees, rivers, and plants.
3. Encourage them to share their creations with the class and talk about one way they can help take care of the Earth, like recycling, saving water, or planting a tree.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Small pots or recycled containers (like yogurt cups)
- Potting soil

- Seeds (flowers, herbs, or easy-to-grow vegetables)
- Watering cans or cups
- Stickers and markers for decorating
- A printed copy of Genesis 2:15 for each child

Get Ready:

- Prepare a workspace with a table covered in newspaper or a plastic sheet to protect the surface.
- Pre-fill the pots or containers with potting soil to save time and minimize mess.
- Have the seeds, watering cans, and decorating materials ready on a separate table.
- Print out Genesis 2:15 on colorful paper to hand out to each child.

Do this:

1. **Introduction (5 minutes):** Begin by reading Genesis 2:15 aloud to the group. Explain that God wants us to take care of our planet, just like He took care of the Garden of Eden. Today, we're going to be little gardeners for Earth Day!
2. **Decorate Your Pot (10 minutes):** Let each child choose a pot or recycled container. Provide stickers and markers for them to decorate their pot. Encourage them to draw things they love about nature or Earth.
3. **Planting Seeds (10 minutes):** Guide the children in filling their pots with a little more soil (if needed), planting their seeds according to the packet instructions, and gently watering them. As they work, remind them that taking care of plants is one way we can take care of Earth, just like God asks us to.
4. **Discussion and Cleanup (5 minutes):** While cleaning up, ask the children to share one new way they can help take care of the Earth. Hand out the printed Genesis 2:15 papers and tell them this verse is a reminder of our responsibility to look after our beautiful planet.

5. ****Take Home:**** Encourage the children to take their planted seeds home, place them in a sunny spot, and watch them grow. Remind them that every time they water their plant, they're helping take care of the Earth, fulfilling God's command in Genesis 2:15.

Snack Activity: Edible Earths

You'll Need:

- Round crackers
- Blue cream cheese (mix blue food coloring with cream cheese)
- Green grapes (cut in half)
- A butter knife or spreader

Get Ready: Mix a small amount of blue food coloring into the cream cheese until you get a nice 'earth blue'. Slice the green grapes in half.

Do this:

1. Spread the blue cream cheese onto the round cracker using the butter knife or spreader. This represents the Earth's oceans.
2. Place the green grape halves onto the blue cream cheese to represent the continents. You can look at a map to try and make it look like the Earth!
3. Share your Edible Earth with a friend and talk about how Genesis 2:15 teaches us to take care of our planet, just like we take care of our special snack.

Game Activity: Garden Guardians

You'll Need:

- Chalk

- Bean bags
- Pictures of animals and plants (real or drawn)

Get Ready: Draw a large circle on the ground with chalk, dividing it into several sections like a pie. Each section represents a part of God's creation (trees, rivers, animals, etc.) based on Genesis 2:15. Place the pictures in the corresponding sections.

Do this:

1. Each player takes a turn tossing a bean bag into one of the sections of the circle.
 2. When the bean bag lands in a section, the player must say one way they can help take care of that part of God's creation (e.g., 'I can help trees by planting more' or 'I can save water to help the rivers').
 3. After sharing, the player retrieves their bean bag and the next player takes their turn.
- The game continues until everyone has had multiple turns. The aim is to encourage discussion and ideas on how to be guardians of the Earth, as inspired by Genesis 2:15.

Prayer Activity: Prayers for Our Planet

You'll Need:

- A globe or world map
- Small sticky notes
- Markers

Get Ready: Before the activity, write Genesis 2:15 on a large poster or whiteboard where all the children can see it. This verse reminds us that God placed humans in the Garden of Eden to take care of it, just as we should take care of the Earth today.

Do this:

1. Start by reading Genesis 2:15 together as a class. Discuss what it means to take care of the Earth and why it's important. You can talk about simple actions like recycling, planting trees, and not littering.
2. Give each child a sticky note and a marker. Ask them to think about one specific way they can help take care of the Earth, inspired by what they've learned from Genesis 2:15. It could be a promise to recycle more, save water, or plant a flower.
3. Have each child come up to the globe or map, place their sticky note on it, and say a short prayer out loud for the Earth, focusing on the commitment they've written down. This can be a simple prayer, asking God to help them fulfill this promise and to protect our planet.

This activity combines prayer with actionable commitments, teaching children the importance of caring for the Earth as stewards of God's creation.