

Creation

Main Idea: The Bible story of Creation helps us develop a sense of wonder and awe over what God has made and helps us discover our Christian responsibility to take care of our world.

Unit Description: The Creation unit uses the Bible story included in Genesis 1:1 - 2:4. It is the story of the beginning of the universe and this passage tells us:

- That all of it came into being through God's creative activity;
- About the six days of creation (light and darkness; sky and water; land, sea, and plants; sun, moon, and stars; fish and birds; animals and humans) and the seventh day, a day of rest;
- That God "saw that it was good";
- That humankind was created in God's image and that God blessed them and asked them to take responsibility of the world.

Scripture: Genesis 1:1 - 2:4

Objectives:

Children will:

- Discover God created the world and everything in it.
- Understand that they are created in the image of God.
- Recognize that everything God created is good.
- Understand that God provides for all of creation.
- Learn to gain an appreciation for God's world.
- Realize the interconnection of all God's creativity.
- Learn to accept responsibility for God's world.

Noah

Main Idea: The Bible story of a faithful man named Noah reminds us that God loves all creation and that God made a special covenant with Noah and all living things.

Unit Description: The Noah's Ark unit uses the Bible story included in Genesis 6:9 - 9:17. In the story of Noah, God destroyed the world with a flood. God told Noah to build an ark to save his family and the animals. Noah obeyed God, built the ark, and gathered two of every animal. When the flood was over, God promised Noah that God would never again send a flood to destroy humankind. The rainbow set in the clouds was a reminder of God's promise.

Scripture: Genesis 6:9-9:17

Objectives:

Children will explore the following concepts:

- God loves and cares for all living things.
- Noah obeyed God and completed a difficult job.
- Because he trusted God, Noah completed a difficult job.
- Noah worshiped God.
- Faithful people make choices that honor God and show love and concern for others.
- A covenant is a promise or agreement.
- God made a covenant with Noah that a flood will never again destroy all living creatures.
- The rainbow is a sign of God's covenant with Noah.

Jesus Is Baptized

Main Idea: Baptism is a gift from God, given to us in love. Our acceptance of that gift is our acknowledgment of God's love for us and our place in God's family.

Unit Description: The Jesus Is Baptized unit uses the Bible story included in Matthew 3:1-17. Jesus' cousin, John, was baptizing in the Jordan River, most likely near the Dead Sea. One day Jesus went to his cousin and asked to be baptized. John was reluctant and said, "Why did you come to me? I should be baptized by you!" Then he consented. When Jesus rose out of the water, God's Spirit came upon him. A voice announced: "This is my Son! I am pleased with him!" Jesus' public ministry began shortly afterward.

Scripture: Matthew 3:1-17

Objectives:

Younger and older elementary children will hear the story of Jesus' baptism in a variety of ways so that they might discover and recognize that:

- Jesus was baptized as a sign of belonging.
- We participate in the same sacrament.
- The shell and dove are symbols of baptism.
- John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus.
- God's presence is with us always.

Teach Us How to Pray (The Lord's Prayer)

Main Idea: Prayer is talking with God. Jesus taught his disciples to pray and gave the example that we use today.

Unit Description: Prayer is talking with God. There are many ways to talk with God and many different kinds of prayers. Jesus taught his disciples to pray and gave them as example that we still use today. We call this examples the Lord's Prayer.

Scripture: Luke 11:1

Objectives:

Children will discover that:

- the Bible tells us that Jesus was a man who frequently talked with God;
- the disciples were curious about how Jesus prayed;
- Jesus taught the disciples a special prayer;
- Christians today still pray this prayer; it is called the Lord's Prayer;
- talking with God helps us feel closer to God;
- we can talk with God at any time about anything;
- there are many ways to pray.

Journey to the Cross

Main Idea: Jesus, during the last week he lived on earth, journeyed to the cross in order to show God's powerful love for us.

Unit Description: The Journey to the Cross unit uses the Bible story included in Matthew 21:1 - 27:54. In the last week of his life on earth, Jesus rode triumphantly into Jerusalem. The crowds waved palm branches and shouted "Hosanna" (which means "save us").

At the Passover supper Thursday night, Jesus warned the disciples of his death. He told them he would be betrayed. He warned them they would all desert him. Later in an olive grove, Jesus agonized in prayer while the disciples fell asleep. When Jesus was arrested, the disciples ran away.

After a late-night trial before the Jewish council, Jesus was taken to Pilate, the Roman governor. Pilate believed that Jesus was innocent, but succumbed to the demands of the crowd who cried, "Crucify!"

By Friday noon, Jesus was nailed to the cross. Darkness engulfed the city. An earthquake tore the veil of the temple. Roman soldiers, standing at the foot of the cross, said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

Scriptures: Matthew 21:1-11; 26:17-30, 36-68; 27:1-56

Objectives:

Children will explore these concepts:

- Jesus is the Son of God.
- Jesus came as a king of peace, not a king of war.
- In spite of danger, Jesus journeyed to Jerusalem to teach God's message of love and forgiveness.
- Jesus prayed for strength to complete a difficult job.
- God, through Jesus, offers forgiveness and new life to all people.
- God helps us make faithful choices.

Feasts and Festivals

Main Idea: Jewish special days help us understand how Jesus lived and remember what God has done. We can remember all that God has done and give thanks.

Unit Description: Jewish special days help us understand how Jesus lived and remember what God has done. We can remember all that God has done and give thanks.

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:1

Objectives:

Children will explore and gain an appreciation of

- Rosh Hashanah,
- Yom Kippur,
- Sukkot,
- Hanukkah,
- and Sabbath.