

Grade 3 - Chapter 1

Discover

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Discover

Catechist Tips: Act Out the Story

Reading a story and answering questions about the content may be difficult for children who have trouble reading or who have other disabilities.

- Write the questions and the children's answers on the board or on chart paper.
- Have the children act out the story.

Catechist Tips: Reverence the Ordinary

Because the gift of creation surrounds humans always, they often fail to recognize its beauty. Help the children honor the beauty of what they see each day.

- Ask the children to bring something from nature to class.
- Encourage the children to look for beauty in the items that they bring. Consider providing magnifying glasses to aid their discoveries.

Catechist Tips: Creation

This chapter has been all about God's creation. Yet all around are items made by human hands, enhanced by God's creation.

- From the outside of a church, the stained-glass windows appear dark. Yet once you enter the church, God's gift of sunlight illuminates the windows, creating beautiful and colorful images.

Catechist Tips: Respect for Nature

Native American spirituality traditionally views nature with great respect.

- People are viewed as part of nature. People and things are sacred and connected in a living "web" of

life.

- Native Americans traditionally consider how major decisions will affect people and land for seven generations to come.

Glossary Activity: Creating Art

Have the children work with modeling clay or play dough to create miniature artistic images.

- Remind them that when we *create* art we begin with a substance that was originally created by God and then we try to mimic something else God created. When God created the world and everything in it, he began with nothing.
- God creates something from nothing.

Additional Activity: Add Melody to Poetry

The children may enjoy adding a melody to the opening poem.

- Arrange the children in pairs.
- Challenge them to use a song they know that fits the rhythm of the lyrics.
- Invite the children to perform the poem with music.

Additional Activity: Family Gifts

The children may need help recognizing family gifts in their lives.

- Point out that gifts, in addition to physical items, can be stories or memories.
- Ask the children to share the gifts in their lives.
- List these on the board or on chart paper.
- Have each child draw or write about a gift.

Additional Activity: Light Source

In the Northern Hemisphere, plants on the south side of a building will get more sun than those on the north side.

- Use a globe and a light source to explain this.
- Point out that the amount of sun that reaches a garden affects which plants will flourish there.

Additional Activity: Story Time

Supplies:

- *Mother to Tigers*. George Ella Lyon. Atheneum.

Gather the children in a story circle. Tell them you are going to read a story about someone who used her gifts to care for creation. Use the following question to discuss the story: How was Helen Martini responsible for the gifts of creation? **Accept all reasonable responses.**

Additional Activity: Tend and Mend Garden Gloves

Supplies:

- small-sized garden gloves (one per learner)

- sunflower stencils with sponge brushes, sunflower stamps, or round-cut sponges and triangular-cut sponges
- paintbrushes
- brown, yellow, and green acrylic paints
- brown or black fine-tipped permanent markers

Say: God calls us to care for creation. The key to being a good caretaker is taking action for nature and for people. A farmer is a caretaker to the land and the plants she or he tends. Often, caretakers wear gloves when they need to fix or mend something. We are going to make garden gloves to use when we tend the garden, or care for our plants, to remind us that we are responsible caretakers. Guide the children through the following steps:

Have the children write their names in the palm of the glove hand using a permanent marker. Then free-paint, stencil, or stamp one sunflower design on the center backhand of glove. Press triangles as petals and draw free-hand the stems and leaves. Allow time to dry.