

Creation (Genesis 1) – Mountaintop Movies

At a Glance

Children will watch “The Lorax,” a Dr. Seuss, animated, video about a people whose poor stewardship of the earth results in the near extinction of a species, and a young boy who has the responsibility to save it.

Outcome Objectives

1. Children will be able to define stewardship, particularly as it applies to the stewardship of the earth given us by God in Genesis 1.
2. Children will watch and reflect on the movie “The Lorax” and the environmental issues it raises.
3. Children will determine a project that they can do as a group, which will have a positive impact on the environment.

Supplies Needed

Popcorn & supplies

“The Lorax” VHS, 30 minutes

“50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save the Earth” book, 160 pp.

Advance Preparation

Pop popcorn and have it bagged for the children as they arrive.

Preview “The Lorax” and determine where you would like to stop the video.

Summarize one or two projects from “50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save the Earth” for closing discussion.

Opening Activity

What does it mean to be a Steward? (look up the definition in a dictionary, if needed. A person is given a responsibility to care for someone or something)

What responsibilities do you have to care for something, or someone? (a pet, keep room clean, various household or classroom chores, watch out for a younger sibling, etc.) So you are stewards of _____.

What responsibilities does God give you to take care of someone or something?

Read Genesis 1:26-31

According to this passage, who does it sound like God put in charge of creation? (people) What are our responsibilities?

How can we show that we are good stewards of the earth? (plant trees, conserve water and energy, protect the air from harmful chemicals, “reduce, reuse, recycle,” etc.)

Main Lesson

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Below are some questions for discussion. Because this is a fairly long movie, you may want to stop the movie at key points and ask the questions rather than waiting for the end.

- Who did/didn't you like? Why?
- Why was he called the "Onceler"?
- Was "biggering" better for everyone?
- What do we have like the Truffula trees?
- What are "gluppity glup" and "schloppity schlopp"? Do we have these?
- Do we have creatures like the Barbaloots that need trees?
- What do we need trees for?
- What do Truffula trees need? What do our trees need?
- How can the boy in the end be a good steward to the earth?

Life Application

Brainstorm with the children things that they could do to make the earth a better place. Try and get them to be as specific as possible (for instance, get up early so I have time to walk to school, rather than always asking mom to drive me.)

Show the children the book, and pass out a summary page from "50 Things Kids can do to Change the Planet" with a project idea you think might be reasonable for this group to tackle. Invite them to brainstorm what they might do. Make a plan together. If they are going to Temple Courtyard next week, they will have a chance to follow up on their idea and make more specific plans. Say a prayer thanking God for making us stewards of creation and asking for help and guidance.

Journaling

How I can be a steward of God's creation. (No handout, use blank pages)

To take home

Stewards of Creation.

Also, make sure to give the ecology idea generated in this session to the Temple Courtyard leader, so s/he can follow up during that rotation. Let a pastor know what the children are thinking of, so that there can be follow up.

Adjustments for age levels and abilities

Younger children won't be able to read the "50 Things" page. Don't worry about making copies for them

If you have extra time...

Go into a more detailed discussion of ways the children can practice stewardship of the earth.

If time runs short...

Genesis 1:26 is the core Bible text and it can be summarized if class is starting late. Try and be into your movie within 10 minutes (6:25pm)

Be creative

Contact some of the organizations suggested in the 50 Things book and see if there are additional resources.