

Sunday School at Home Every Day is Earth Day! April 18, 2021

Sharing our Bible Story for Today

There are lots and lots of stories in the Bible about caring for the Earth, God's beautiful creation! So it is easy to find a story for this week and next week as the world marks a special day to celebrate Earth Day on April 22! Maybe you will do some special activities for Earth Day at school or at home? We would love to hear about what you are up to!

Make a Joyful Noise! Psalm 100

Today's Bible story is from the Book of Psalms which is really like a very very old hymn book! One of our United Church of Canada musicians, Linnea Good, has written her own version of Psalm 100. It is in our Voices United hymn book and we sing it often when we can gather for worship. You will find our "story song" today on YouTube – just follow this link, and sing along – loud and proud and celebrating the earth!! You can also find the original Psalm 100 in your Bible at home or online!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5hoeObqNGc>

Thinking and Talking about the Story

What joyful noises do you hear when you go outside your house? Can you count at least 10 different joyful sounds? And can you name who or what is making the sounds you hear?

What joyful sound would you like to send out to the earth?

Putting the Story into Action

1) Maybe you would like to write another verse for Psalm 100! Start with the chorus from Linnea's song and then write your own verse! I think you will come up with some very funny rhymes! Do you know how much God loves to laugh?

*Make a joyful noise, all the earth!
Worship your God with gladness.
Make a joyful noise all the earth.
Come to this place with a song!*

NOW ADD YOUR VERSE!!

2) Other years we have had fun doing a community cleanup around the church in April. Maybe you can work with your family to find a safe place to do some community clean up together! This is a great way to take care of God's creation and to remember to be careful about recycling and reusing instead of throwing away!

3) Spend time outdoors and “*Take a Sacred Pause*”. Many people find peace in the beauty of the natural world. And spring is a great time to enjoy the change of seasons and all the promises of new life right outside our door! What signs of spring and new life do you see when you are outside this week?

4) Do you have a question about the story? Send us an email and we will respond! We love questions – the harder the better! And I still haven’t received any questions!

Carman United Church and St. Andrew’s United Church families - to share your responses to this week’s story visit Carman United Church Face Book page or email the church office Karen.mcgill@crossroadsunited.com. Visit www.crossroadsunited.com and see Sunday School At Home to view previous lessons and stuff people are sharing.

Praying at Home

(a poem to share at bedtime)

Song of the Night

Cricket and insects and toads in the tree,
Tiny night creatures that no one can see.
Hoot owls out hunting and wolves running free,
All these are singing their night song to me.

Moonbeams so quiet, a bat’s darting flight,
Moths on the wing and stars shining bright.
Flickers and sparks from the firefly’s light,
These too are part of the song of the night.

Crisp, crunchy, noises of rattling leaves,
Whispering winds in the branches of trees.
Patter of raindrops and dripping of eaves,
All these are singing me into my dreams.

(from *The Gentle Dark: Nighttime Poems and Prayers for Children* by Alyson Huntly)