

Sunday School at Home Every Day is Earth Day! April 25, 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 to help us celebrate Earth Day. Earth Day is April 22 every year for the past 51 years, and Earth Day is everyday of the year! Maybe you are doing some special activities for Earth Day at school or at home? We would love to hear about what you are up to!

Stories about God's Shalom

Today's Bible story is a collection of earthy teachings that Jesus told his disciples and anyone who cared to listen. Jesus really liked telling these parables because they made people really wonder about what on earth God is all about! Lots of Jesus' parables take ordinary things in the natural world and teach us something new. The earth is a great teacher.

Thinking and Talking about the Story

Do you know a farmer? Are you a gardener or a farmer yourself?

Think about the season we are in right now.

What can we learn about God from watching this season unfold?

Try to use all of your senses (seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, touching, balancing) to pay attention to something new outside today.

Putting the Story into Action

1) What materials do you have at home to do some big outdoor art? Can you create what God's shalom, God's peaceful kin-dom, would look like? Or try to create a piece of art using only objects found out in nature. Please share your creations with us by sending a photo!

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

Crickets 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)