



God Creates the World

Engage: Page 9

- ▶ Look around your home to find something that your child has made recently.
Ask: *How do you expect others to treat the things you make? (with respect) How do you think God expects us to treat his creation? (the same way, with respect and care)*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. **Ask:** *What can you do to help preserve the beauty of God's creation? (Do not litter. Conserve water and energy.) In this session we will learn about the wonders of God's creation and how we are called to take care of it.*
- ▶ Ask your child to look out your window and think of ways to care for God's creation in your own neighborhood. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 10–11

- ▶ Together close your eyes and visualize something wonderful that God has created.
Ask: *What amazing things did you see? Make a list of your responses.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud The Book of Genesis and The First Story of Creation on page 10. **Ask:** *What did the writer of the first Genesis story want to make clear? (God created every part of the world and saw everything as good.)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud It's All Good. Ask your child to name something that he or she typically thinks of as bad but to tell something good about it. For example, forest fires seem bad, but the fires remove underbrush and help new trees grow.) Ask your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud Far from Home and the caption on page 11. **Ask:** *What was it like for the exiled Jews? (They were treated badly.) Have your child look up *culture* and *racism* in the Glossary. Discuss the definitions. **Say:** *Many Americans are immigrants, and most are descendants of immigrants, so someone in our family might have had to get used to a new culture and may have faced racism.**
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the Meet a Saint feature. **Ask:** *How do people working for minority rights do God's work? (They care for others and treat others as equals.)*

Art Exploration: Page 230

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Adam and Eve being expelled from the Garden of Eden.



- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including any emotion being expressed by Adam and Eve.
- ▶ **Say:** *God created all people equally. Everyone should be treated with the same dignity.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 230. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the first three paragraphs. **Ask:** *What does God ask of us today? (to care for the earth) Even though Adam and Eve disobeyed God, what did God still show them? (love and mercy)* Discuss stewardship.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Mercy and Love and write a prayer.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Ask your child to explain Psalm 8 in his or her own words. **Say:** *Psalm 8 praises God for making human beings so special.*
- ▶ Using art supplies, ask your child to draw a comic strip panel to tell one Creation story. When it is finished, encourage your child to share it with a family member.

Reflect: Pages 12–13

- ▶ Together look at page 12. **Ask:** *What do you see in the picture? (a ladybug)* Remind your child to use his or her imagination in this prayer. Explain that your child will use all of his or her senses.
- ▶ Read aloud the first four paragraphs slowly and with expression. Allow time for your child to imagine what is being described. Read aloud the last paragraph and provide time for quiet reflection. Close the prayer by praying *Amen* and the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud Equal in the Eyes of God on page 13. Point out the vocabulary word. **Ask:** *What is our duty as Catholics regarding sexism and racism? (to oppose any kind of discrimination)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud We Can Be Good and complete the activity. Discuss your child's response and drawing with other family members.

Respond: Page 14

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can be kind to other people and care for God's creation.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.