

A LESSON ON GIVING TO THE WORLD

GRADES 1-3 -- Caring for Creation - Lesson II (Year I, Day 5)

Goal: To introduce children to the concept that God has given us a beautiful gift in the creation of the entire world around us. Students will explore creation and see how caring for it is a prayer of thanksgiving to God.

Materials: Green paper

Laudato Si Coloring Sheet (see link below)

Recycled Paper; Pencils (with eraser), Push-pins, glue, scissors, crayons/markers

Lesson: These videos explain that we are supposed to treat the earth with respect and not waste its resources. They introduce the topic of sustainability and what it means to be "green." It shows us that it is possible to both live sustainably and enjoy earth's resources.

Watch: [Sustainability for Kids](#) from Sustainability Illustrated

[What does it mean to be green?](#) from Lisa Gottfried

Discussion:

- What does it mean to be "green?"
- Is it important to be "green?" Why or why not?
- What are some ways you can be "green?"
- Does being "green" show love and respect for God's earth?

Activity: 1. "Do": Have students go around the classroom to identify items to discard, recycle, or put away.

2. "Commit": Give each student a piece of green paper. Ask them to draw or write ways that they will be "green" this week at home.

Activity: [Laudato Si Coloring Sheet](#) from Caritas Scotland

Activity: [Pinwheel Craft](#)

Make pinwheels out of recycled paper and use them to talk about sustainable energy, such as wind-powered turbines which work like a giant pinwheel. Here is a [video](#) about how wind turbines work.

Prayer:

Father, we thank you with all your wonderful creatures and all of the beautiful plants and flowers on our earth. Everything in creation came forth from you; they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love. Help us to always treat your creation with love and respect. Amen.

Lesson adapted from the plans on the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Office of Life, Justice and Peace website



[Find out more](#) about the Archdiocese of New York "Care of Creation Initiative"