

Lessons from Creation:

An Ecumenical Approach

The Psalmist David wrote, “The Heavens declare the glory of God,” and, “The earth is the Lord’s and the fulness thereof.” The apostle Paul continued this theme when he said, “since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made”. Therefore, to study creation is to study the mind of the Creator. Plants and animals teach us so much about God who created them.

Children especially are sensitive to the beauty and wonder of the natural world. It makes sense, then, to ground their academic studies in such a way as to bring the outdoors into the classroom as well as find a classroom in the out of doors. *The goal of this course is to provide families with tools to engage more deeply in exploration of creation and be shaped by this interaction to better apprehend the wisdom, love and creativity of God in all that He has made.*

Scope and Sequence:

Each month will use picture books to focus on a particular virtue as modeled in the life of people who had a special love for creation. This will pair with stories from the wonderful ‘Among the People’ series that gives lessons from the animal kingdom in age appropriate stories. There will be art and cooking projects, suggested service opportunities and field trips, nature study assignments, copy-work, songs and poetry for memorization as well as a supplemental list of thematic picture books to enliven and support learning.

Spine texts:

Among the Peoples Series

Clara Dillingham Pierson

Making Music Praying Twice

Additional Texts as noted by month. Many of these are available through your local library.

September:

Virtue: Helpfulness/Peacefulness

Mahatma Ghandi
Jadav Payeng: The Man Who Planted An
Entire Forest By Himself

TREES

Among the Forest People
Crinkleroot's Guide to Knowing the Trees
The Giving Tree
The Great Kapok Tree
The Three Trees
Grandpa Ghandi?

Projects:
Bark/Leaf rubbings
Wax dipped leaves
Leaf collection and identification
What do trees give the world?

Songs:
In a Tree (Pentecost)
Hop Old Squirrel (Pentecost)

Poems:
If PA Ropes
Trees Sara Coleridge
Autumn (JTT 171)

Copy Work:
<https://www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/helpfulness.html>
<https://www.goalcast.com/2017/03/20/top-20-inspiring-mahatma-gandhi-quotes/>

Picture:
Draw and/or paint Trees and their leaves.
Notice the colors as they change!
Note similarities and differences. Identify the trees around you.
Draw what helpfulness looks like.

October:

Virtue: Bravery

Francis and Claire
Laura Ingalls Wilder
Jon Muir

Courageous People who changed the World
Saint Francis and the Wolf of Gubbio
Mirette on The High Wire
The Little Yellow Leaf
Little House on the Prairie chapter or picture books
Among the Meadow People
Bailey the Bald Eagle and the Great Flight
Jon Muir Wrestles a Waterfall

World Animal Day October 4th!

DOGS & WOLVES

Projects:
Learn a new skill
Make a toy for a dog in your life
Wolf Paw cookies
Recipes from Little House, Cornhusk dolls

Songs:
Battle Hymn of the Republic? (Fall)

Poems:
Brave and True (JTT p. 30)
Write and illustrate your own poem about what it means to be brave! (Or narrate it!)

Copywork:
<https://www.habitsforwellbeing.com/20-inspiring-quotes-on-courage/>

Picture:
Draw a picture of yourself doing something brave.
Draw a picture of someone else doing something brave.

November:

Virtue: Caring for the poor

Martin of Tours

The Good Samaritan

National Philanthropy Month!

<https://www.thelifeyoucansave.org/blog/how-to-talk-to-your-kids-about-philanthropy/>

<https://www.all4kids.org/news/blog/national-philanthropy-month-how-to-teach-kids-about-charity/>

<https://www.cnn.com/2014/12/04/8-kids-turned-big-time-philanthropists.html>

Saint Felix and the Spider
How Groundhog's Garden Grew
Charlotte's Web for the older students
Snow on Martinmas
Cobweb Christmas
A Christmas Spider's Miracle
Selected Among the People Insects

ARACHNIDS/INSECTS

How are these small ones helpful?

Projects:

Food Drive!

Thanksgiving dish

Turkey pom-poms from yarn

Dreamcatchers (Spider 'webs')

Songs:

New Shoes for Mozart (Fall)

Love? (Fall)

Harvesting (Fall)

Poems:

Wind Robert Louis Stevenson

Spider, Spider what are you spinning?

Now it is November

Drawing:

Can you draw the wind?

Still life

December:

Virtue: Patience/Humility

Saint Nicholas, the Stable animals

James Herriot

Among the Farmyard People
James Herriot's Treasury for Children
The Tale of the Pointsetta
The Donkey's Dream
The Last Straw
Unwrapping the Greatest Gift Ann
Voskamp

FARM ANIMALS

Projects:

Christmas ornaments

Paper chain for the Christmas Tree

Make butter

Heifer Farm!!!

Songs:

Sissy in the Barn (Fall)

The Blacksmith (Fall)

A La Nanita Nana (Christmas)

The Friendly Beasts

Poems:

A Journey through time page 191

Kings Came Riding (Video on YouTube)

Drawing:

Learn to draw your favorite farm animals using

Draw, Write, Now Farm

January:

Virtue: Creativity

Wilson Bentley

Jan Brett

Among the Peoples Winter Stories

The Month Brothers

Snowflake Bentley

Selected works by Jan Brett

ANIMALS IN WINTER?

Identifying tracks

Projects:

Find a way to fix something that is broken

Paper snowflakes

King's Cake

Feed the animals in your area?

Songs:

Old Chairs (Epiphany)

Three Great Kings (Epiphany)

Look Out, Look out Jack Frost is about

Where do you come from, little flakes of snow

Poems:

Stopping by the Woods R. Frost

Copy Work:

New Year's Resolutions illumination

Picture:

White crayon and watercolor painting

Study the pictures in Jan Brett's books, what makes them so interesting and unique?

Can you tell a story in pictures the way she does?

February:

Virtue: Bringing light, trusting God

Brigid of Ireland

Saint Lucia

Brigid's Cloak

The Saint and his Bees

Lucia: Saint of Light

Sam and the Firefly

RAINBOWS/LIGHT

Projects:

Bake St. Lucia Day Buns

Candlemaking

Play with prisms

Spend an Evening in Candlelight

Songs:

Keep your Lamp Trimmed and Burning

(Pentecost)

This Little Light of Mine

Poems:

Copy Work:

Prayers from St. Brigid

Picture:

Paint a rainbow with primary colors (wet on wet)

Lit Candles

March:

Virtue: Forgiveness, Gentleness

Cuthbert

St. Patrick

Gregor Mendel

Saint Cuthbert and the Ravens of Farne

Patrick (Tomi DePaola)

Gregor Mendel: The Friar who grew Peas

How Groundhog's Garden Grew

Karl, Get out of the Garden!

SEEDS/SEEDLINGS

Projects:

Plant and tend a garden, large or small!

Potato stamps

Songs:

Little Raindrops Patter

Be Thou My Vision

Poems:

St. Patrick's Breastplate

Irish Blessing

Copy Work:

The Lord's Prayer

Picture:

Shamrocks,

Peas

Copy some of the seeds and seedlings from

How Groundhog's Garden Grew

April:

Virtue: Obedience

4 Evangelists and their symbols

Daniel and the Lion's Den

Library Lion

The Three Trees

The Lion and the Mouse

Mabela the Clever

CATS, LARGE AND SMALL (LIONS!)

Games/Projects:

Mother May I?

Resurrection Cookies

Paper Plate Masks

Fo Feng!

Songs:

Come Follow Me (Lent)

Magnificat

Poems

Tiny Poems For Tiny Ears

Copy Work:

Proverb from Mabela

Picture:

Lions

Symbols of the 4 Evangelists

Mice

May:

Virtue: Joy

Beethoven

Helen Keller

Why Beethoven Threw the Stew

Beethoven For Kids

Beethoven Lives Upstairs

I Am Helen

Time of Wonder

FIVE SENSES

Projects:

Homemade musical instruments

Joy hunt in the Bible: Pick a section and read what God says about Joy...

Be a Joy Magnet in your neighborhood

Blindfold food test

Songs:

Ode to Joy (Winter)

If you're Happy and you know it (Winter)

My Soul Magnifies the Lord and my Spirit

Rejoices in God my Savior

<https://www.dw.com/en/beethovens-ode-to-joy-rings-out-during-the-coronavirus-crisis/a-52894646>

<https://www.whatdowedoallday.com/childrens-books-about-happiness/>

Copy Work:

<https://www.goalcast.com/2019/01/31/helen-keller-quotes/>

Picture:

Draw Joy!

Create a funny picture that makes you smile.

Draw something that makes you feel happy inside.

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched – they must be felt with the heart. — Helen Keller

Songs

In addition to Making Music Praying Twice

All Creatures of our God and king
For the Beauty of the Earth
All things bright and beautiful
Birdy with a yellow bill
Spring is coming
Selected other seasonal songs

Additional booklist

The Blackbird's Nest (Kevin of Ireland)
A Saint and his Lion (Saint Tekla)
Draw Write Now
The Oak inside the Acorn Max Lucado
Clare and Francis

https://play.google.com/books/reader?id=aPNaaceZD58C&hl=en_US&pg=GBS.PT9

Snow on Martinmas
The Baker's Dozen: A Saint Nicholas Tale
Cobweb Christmas
Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady
A Journey Through Time in Verse and Rhyme

Go, Grow Field trip