

# Lesson 18

## Stewards of God's Creation

*We should take care of God's earth.*



### K-1st Lesson

#### Review

- Refer to the Lesson 17 Flip Chart. What did we talk about last time? Birthdays. The age of the earth.

That's right! We learned that the Bible tells us how many birthdays some of the people had starting with Adam—the very first man. He was created at the very beginning. And when we add up all those birthdays—how long they all lived—we can figure out how many birthdays the earth has had.

- Look at the Flip Chart. How many years went by from Adam to Abraham? 2,000.
- And how many years went by from Abraham to the time when Jesus was born? 2,000.
- Right! Now how many years have gone by since Jesus was born to us today? 2,000.

Yes. And when we add up 2,000 + 2,000 + 2,000 we get 6,000 years! That means the earth is only about 6,000 years old, not millions of years. So, God created the world about 6,000 years ago.

#### What Is a Good Steward?

Hold up the potted plant. I want you to take a look at this plant I have here.

- Have you ever taken care of your neighbor's pets or watered their plants while they went on vacation? Allow answers.
- What if I gave you this pretty plant to take care of for me? What would you do to take care of it and make sure it stays healthy? Water it, put it in the sunshine, prune it, etc.

There are a lot of things you could do to care for it. But does that mean the plant is yours? No.

- But can you enjoy looking at it? Or if it blooms, can you look at and smell the pretty flowers while you take care of it? Yes.

Hold up stuffed dog or cat. Now let's pretend that this pet is real and that I've asked you to take care of it for me.

- What kinds of things would you do to take care of my pet for me? Feed it, give it water, brush it, pet it, play with it, take it for walks, etc.
- Does that mean it belongs to you? No.
- But can you enjoy petting and playing with my pet while you take care of it? Yes.

Yes. It sounds like you would be very good stewards. That means you would do a good job taking care of these things for me. That's what a steward is—someone who takes care of something that belongs to someone else.

Turn to the Lesson 18 Flip Chart Page. Now let's take a look at our Flip Chart. This little girl is watering a plant. And this boy is feeding some dogs.

#### God Gave Man Dominion

- Point to the picture of the earth. But what about this? What is it? The earth.

- Wait a minute! Are we supposed to take care of the whole earth? Allow discussion.

Well, guess what? We ARE supposed to take care of God's earth, and the Bible tells us about that.

- Who has the Bible? Please bring it up. We are going to read from God's Word now. Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible and opens it to where the sticky note is.

#### Genesis 1:26

Listen as I read Genesis 1:26. Read Genesis 1:26 emphasizing "dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds . . . the livestock . . . every creeping thing."

- Who created the earth and everything in it? God.

- So who owns it all? God.

- Right. But this verse says when God created man he gave Adam "dominion" over the earth. What do you think dominion means? Allow answers.

Dominion means that God gave Adam the responsibility to take care of his creation and to use it wisely. God put people in charge of his creation.

- What does man have dominion over? Listen to the verse again. Reread Genesis 1:26. Over the fish, the birds, the livestock, the creeping things—and everything else!

God brought the animals to Adam for him to name. It helps us care for animals when we have a name for them! God also put Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden to tend it and keep it. They were taking care of God's creation when they cared for the garden.

- How many of you have gardens or have helped care for a garden? Show of hands.

When we care for plants and trees, we get to eat what they grow. That's a blessing God gives us for properly caring for creation. It takes work to care for a garden. We have to water the plants and get rid of weeds.

#### How Can We Be Good Stewards?

So all the way from the beginning, God has given people the responsibility to watch over the earth and all the creation. In order to do that we need to be good stewards.

- Show potted plant and stuffed animal again. Who remembers what we said a good steward is? A person who takes care of something for someone.

Right. God wants us to care for his creation.

- Let's think of some ways we can be good stewards of the things this verse says we're responsible for. How about fish? How can we be responsible for the fish? Allow discussion. Taking care of pet fish; feeding them and keeping aquarium

clean. When you go fishing, following the rules, not catching more than you'll use, not tossing trash into the water.

- What about the birds? What are some things we can do for them? Allow discussion. Putting out bird feeders and bird houses; never throwing rocks at them. If you go hunting, making sure to follow the rules and not taking more than you need.

- What responsible things can you do for wild animals, farm animals, or pets? Allow discussion. Feeding and watering pets or farm stock. If you go hunting, making sure to follow the rules and not taking more than you need. Putting out campfires so animal's homes don't get ruined. Picking up trash. Not feeding "people food" to them so they won't get sick.

- What about the grass, trees, and flowers? Allow discussion. Taking care of the yard. Raking leaves, watering and weeding the garden so flowers can grow, keeping toys and trash picked up, or enjoying fruits and veggies from your garden. Staying on paths while hiking or camping. Cleaning up after a picnic.

Wow! We've talked about some great ideas. They are all ways YOU can help take care of God's creation.

- Refer to the Flip Chart. What are these kids doing to take care of things in God's creation? Raking leaves, recycling trash, and feeding the birds.

We know that this is God's world and that God cares about it—he is in control of everything that happens. God owns it. But God gave man dominion over his creation, we're responsible to use it wisely, and he expects us to be good stewards and take care of it the best we can. And we should do that because we want to please God, the One who created it all! We can learn how to take care of God's earth while always praising him for the beauty we enjoy around us.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game.



Watering  
a plant



Recycling  
trash



Feeding  
a pet



Raking  
up leaves



Hanging  
a bird  
feeder