

Vacation Bible School - Session on Water



Forming faithful stewards, Caring for sacred waters

Activities:

1. 15 mins. Read Genesis 1:1. What's the first thing God Spirit touched? (Water! - necessary for all life which followed). Other bible studies:
Read Creation book (by Gerald McDermott) & Bible Study (from God's Blue Earth: Teaching Kids to Celebrate the Sacred Gifts of Water by Randy Hammer & Suzanne Blockland) and Community Building - What's your favorite thing to do in/with water?
2. 10 mins. Activity: Mural of Creation (long butcher paper with lots of crayons) with Title at top: "We Love God's Creation" Invite children to draw their favorite plant or animal on the mural. Post on a wall.
3. 10 mins Videos : Follow each with questions - What did you see? What did you hear?
 - (1:19 mins.) Water is Source of Life https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4WBbSv_N7U
 - (1:09 mins.) Unsavory Characters <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnaksjCobWY>
 - (2:32 mins.) Save the Anacostia River <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXZX2LWAnAM>
4. 15 mins. Water Cycle - Outdoor activity: Looking around at the plants, trees, buildings, people, animals.
 - a. Who needs the water?
 - b. How much water is there for us to drink?
 - c. How is it used?
5. 10 mins. Watershed Model - set up to show how runoff happens
<http://water.epa.gov/learn/resources/midsh/whatx3.cfm> OR
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g9gorwznzGl>
 - a. Where does the water come from?
 - b. Where does it go?
 - c. What does it carry with it?
6. 10 mins. Trash Game - Everyone holds some trash (prewashed plastic bottles, food containers, cans, etc.) and is assigned a place in the watershed upstream and downstream. Creek to a river, river to bay.
 - a. In advance, create a "watershed" pathway from narrow creek to gradually widening river, to Bay/ Ocean with chairs, colored tape on floor, or other boundary
 - b. Hand out armfuls of trash to children
 - c. Ask them to form single file line at the "head waters" of the watershed (narrowest part)

- d. Then one at a time say to each child in turn: "Someone threw their trash on the ground and now you are in the creek! You are floating slowly down the creek. (Pause) Then all of a sudden, a huge rainstorm comes down and WHOOSH (make a whooshing sound), you are washed downstream. " Repeat this with each child until all of them are "piled up" in the Bay/ Ocean. Ask: What happened? Why? (this illustrates stormwater runoff: the #1 source of pollution from urban and suburban sources in the Chesapeake Bay)
7. 10 mins. [Web of Life Game](#) (see separate instructions)
8. 10 mins. ASK: What can we do to care for God's sacred water? (Pass out Activity Sheet)
Actions to take home:
 - a. Saving water
 - b. Use a water bottle
 - c. Reduce Trash - Use a shopping bag
 - d. Plant a tree
9. Caring for God's Creation = Caring for Neighbors "Do unto those downstream as you would have those upstream do unto you." ~Wendell Berry
10. 5 mins. Song with body movement: I've got peace like a River, Joy like a fountain, Love like an Ocean