Vacation Bible School - Session on Water

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=AXZX2LWAAnAM

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=g9gorwznzGI
   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

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