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BAPTIST CONVENTION

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# **Stewardship... God's Way**

**Preschool Edition**



## Honoring God

### Session Overview—Week 1

**Bible Passage:** Genesis 1; 2:15-20

**Biblical Setting:** After creating the world and everything in it, God gave to people the task of taking care of His creation.

**Bible Truth:** Everything belongs to God.

**Key Bible Phrase:** Look at the wonderful things God made. (Job 37:14)

**Life Question:** How can I take care of the world God created and honor Him?

**Life Impact:** I can honor God by taking care of His world.

### Teacher's Personal Bible Study

This unit of study on stewardship begins by establishing that all we have belongs to God, who shares it with us. We can honor Him by using what He's given us wisely and generously in service to Him.

#### God Owns It (Genesis 1)

There is not anything in the world that does not belong to God. Psalm 24:1-2 declares that the earth and everything in it, including all living things, are God's because He is the Maker of it all. Find the following scriptures and write here what the verses declare God to own:

Leviticus 25:23 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 50:10 \_\_\_\_\_

Ezekiel 18:4 \_\_\_\_\_

**Variation:** Older preschoolers may be able to read the cards for themselves. They may also enjoy coming up with some opposite pairs, also.

### Locate Bible Phrases

Prepare markers from bright colored construction paper for the following Bible Phrases:

- "God made the trees." Genesis 1:11
- "God made the moon." Genesis 1:16
- "God made the cattle." Genesis 1:25
- "God made people." Genesis 1:27
- "God made the clouds." Job 36:27
- "God made us." Psalm 100:3
- "God made the water." Psalm 104:10
- "God makes the wind blow." Psalm 147:18

Highlight the Bible phrases and place markers in your Bible at each one. Allow children to choose a marker and share the Bible phrase with the group.

### Continue

As parents begin to come for the children, greet them at the door. Gather the child along with the Take-Home piece and his work. Use the security system your church has in place to make sure children are safe. Pay particular attention to guest who may need directions to the restrooms or Worship Center.

### Follow-up

Mail a post card to any children who were not at Sunday School today. You might choose to tell them about one of the fun activities they will have an opportunity to experience next Sunday.

Call a couple of children this week and leave a message for them on the answering machine if you are not able to talk with them personally. It is a highlight for boys and girls to have a message. Be sure to contact any guest with a phone call, note, or visit. If you make a visit take a church newsletter, any other information available about discipleship opportunities, and a book or game from an old Leader Pack.

God not only owns everything because of creation, but also because of redemption. Christ's death was the price paid to purchase a people out of the earth for His special possession. Read 1 Cor. 6:20 and Rev. 5:9 and check here when you have done so: \_\_\_\_\_. This redemption affects not just Christians, but the entire creation. Paul states that all of creation anticipates being freed by the redemptive work of Christ (Romans 8:19-21).

When we realize that everything belongs to God, by redemption as well as creation, we will think differently about what we consider "our" possessions. All that we are and all that we "own" are really His. Therefore, God has the authority to direct what we do with our possessions, our money, our very lives. We are responsible to Him for it all, because it is really not ours, it is His.

#### **God Shares It** (Genesis 2:15-20)

Everything we have comes from God. As creator/owner, He gives us the use of His world, to bless us so that we may glorify Him. He holds us responsible for how we use what He has given. In Eden, Adam was to work and care for the garden (Gen. 2:15), enjoy the goodness of it (v. 16), and be responsible not to misuse it (v. 17). Read the following verses to see what God gives us:

Ecclesiastes 6:2 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, & \_\_\_\_\_

Deuteronomy 8:18 \_\_\_\_\_ to produce \_\_\_\_\_

#### **We Must Manage It for His Purposes**

If everything belongs to God, we must treat everything in our lives as borrowed. We must manage it well, using what He's given for Holy purposes. This is what stewardship means. In 2 Corinthians 9:8 we learn that God gives us all we need so that we will "abound in every good work." Recognizing God's ownership and sharing of life and all its resources, we will live in gratitude for our blessings and constantly seek ways to use our lives and possessions to honor and serve Him.

On the third day, He separated the ocean from the land and made trees and plants to grow on the land. Then God made the sun, the moon, and the stars on the fourth day. Next He made the creatures that live in the sea and the birds that fly in the sky. That was the fifth day. On day six, God made the animals that live on the land, and He made people. God saw all that He had made, and it was good. And on the seventh day, God rested.

When God made the first person, Adam, He put him in a special garden He had made. It was called the Garden of Eden. God gave Adam the job of giving names to all of the animals. God brought each kind of animal to Adam, and whatever Adam called it, that became its name. God knew that Adam needed someone to help him, so He created a woman, Eve. Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden and took care of the things God had made.

*Genesis 1-2*

#### **Pray**

Give children an opportunity to talk about some of the things God gave us that they are most thankful for. Be thoughtful as children say "Mom" or "Dad"; some children may be sensitive to family issues. Allow children to say a thank you prayer, if they would like. Never force a child to pray. Close the prayer when children have finished.



Play a game using opposites. Prepare index cards with one word of the opposite pair on each. Place them in a gift bag. Encourage a child to remove one card. As you read the card ask him to tell you the opposite. Some suggestions would be: day/night; quiet/loud; big/little; high/low; soft/hard; in/out; up/down.

**Teach:** When children visit this center ask, “ Who made the animals?” “Who do the animals belong to?” Listen to their answer and then share the Bible phrase with them. Ask the question again. Guide children in a discussion about what we can do to take care of the animals whether they are pets, farm animals, zoo animals, or other animals. Give children opportunity to pretend to be a veterinarian. They may pretend to listen to the animal’s heart with a stethoscope. Be sure to clean the earpieces with the cotton balls and alcohol after each child.

## Group Time

Tell the children a few minutes before you plan to start Group Time. Sing as they clean up the centers. Remind teachers to join the children for Group Time.

### Sing a Song

As boys and girls come to Group Time begin singing “God Is So Good”, allowing children to fill in the word the phrase “God made the \_\_\_\_\_” as you sing. Continue to sing until everyone has a turn or as long as children are interested.

### Bible Story

Open your Bible to Genesis 1 and tell the following story in your own words. Show a picture of creation, if you have one available, after you complete the story.

Close your eyes. What do you see? (Give a few children opportunity to answer. Most will say, “nothing”, “darkness”, or another similar answer.) At first that is all there was, just dark and empty. (You may need to tell children to open their eyes.) God said, “Let there be light,” and He made day and night. That was the first day of creation. On the second day God made the sky.



## Encounter

### Art - Make a book about creation

**Gather:** Bible; white paper; crayons, markers, or paint; hole punch; scissors; yarn; picture of “Creation”

**Prepare:** Using white paper create pages for each child to make a book about creation. On the bottom of each sheet write the following, leaving enough room for boys and girls to draw their illustrations: Cover – God Made the World; Page 1 – day and night; Page 2 – sky; Page 3 – land, trees and plants; Page 4 – sun, moon, and stars; Page 5 – fish and birds; Page 6 – land animals and people; Page 7 – God rested; Page 8 – I can care for God’s world.

**Teach:** Arrange materials on a table, ready for children to begin. Open your Bible to Genesis 1. Guide preschooler to draw a picture to illustrate each page. As preschoolers work tell the Bible story. Ask preschoolers to describe their pictures as they work. Use conversation to describe ways we can honor God by taking care of the world He created for us to enjoy. Say: “Thank you, God, for our world.” Give boys and girls opportunity to voice a prayer, if they choose, to thank God for something they choose. Sing the song “God Is so Good” substituting the suggestions of preschoolers. Using the hole punch and yarn, guide preschoolers as needed to assemble their books.



## Blocks - Play with animals

**Gather:** Bible; wooden unit blocks; plastic berry baskets; green paper; vinyl farm animals; colored construction paper; farm animal stickers

**Prepare:** Using green paper cut long thin strips to simulate grass. You may use construction paper, tissue paper, or purchase paper filling from a craft store. Cut the bottoms from the berry baskets, making sure edges are smooth. Cut colored construction paper into three-inch strips and write "Thank You, God, for \_\_\_\_" and place an animal sticker in place of the blank. Place in the Bible at Genesis 1.

**Teach:** Invite boys and girls to use materials provided to build a farm scene. As you work together, guide their conversation to Day 6 when God created the land animals. Help preschoolers think of ways we can take care of the animals and discover how that honors God. Allow preschoolers to choose a Bible marker and read. Together guide them to voice a prayer thanking God for animals.

## Puzzles - Sort items by day/night use

**Gather:** Bible; collection of items used getting ready for bed and getting ready in the morning (some suggestions include: toothbrush, cereal box, teddy bear, pajamas, wash cloth, Bible, shoes, coat, hair brush, night light); basket or bag; daytime picture; night time picture

**Prepare:** Place items in the basket or bag. Place them on the floor near the pictures and Bible, opened to Genesis 1.

**Teach:** As children gather around you discuss the two pictures and the differences. Guide children to share their bedtime or morning routines. Each family probably has something special they do at bedtime. Allow them to pull one item from the bag and discuss if it is used getting ready for bed or getting ready to go to school in the morning. (Note, some items will be used at both times.)



After discussion, guide the child to place the item near the correct picture. With your Bible open, tell the Bible story and converse with boys and girls about ways we can honor God. Use a familiar tune and help children make up a song about getting ready for bed.

## Nature - Sculpture with nature items

**Gather:** Bible; modeling clay; nature items such as seashells, small rocks, twigs, flower petals, leaves; small paper plates

**Prepare:** Place Bible, plates, modeling clay, and nature items on the table.

**Teach:** When children show an interest in the activity give each child a plate and piece of modeling clay. Guide children to make sculptures with the clay and nature items. Tell the boys and girls that the clay will harden to form their sculpture. Open your Bible to Job 37:14 and share today's Bible Phrase. Use conversation about what we can do to take care of God's world. Sing the song: "God's Beautiful World".



**Variation:** If time and weather permits take children on a nature walk. Give them a small paper bag to collect items for their sculpture.

## Homeliving – Taking care of animals

**Gather:** Bible; plastic animals; stethoscope; plastic dish pan; small cloths; water; strips of gauze fabric to make bandages; masking tape; cotton balls; rubbing alcohol

**Prepare:** Place your Bible and animals on the table in the Homeliving Center. Put about an inch of water in the dishpan. Cut gauze fabric into pieces suitable for bandages and wraps.

