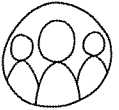




SEPARATION OF THE WATER

Week 1: Genesis 1:6-10



GATHERING

Since much of the lesson is focused on listening, discussing and coloring, this gathering time gives you a chance to lead an activity that might be more active. We provide you with a sample gathering activity, but you are welcome to come up with your own that suits the children's needs and temperaments in your ministry.

The Wave

Line the children up in a single straight line (in chairs or standing shoulder to shoulder) and teach them to do the wave. The person on the end begins the wave by standing and raising their hands over their head. The child next to them does the same right afterward and so on.

You can have fun with different ways of doing this, e.g.: start the wave on both ends of the line at the same time, begin on one end and once it hits the end of the line have it go back the other way, have the kids jump when they raise their hands. If you have a large group, try having the kids line up in two lines facing each other, and experiment with the children doing the wave across from each other down the lines at the same time.

After doing this, ask the kids where they've seen waves. Talk with them about how fun playing in waves is and how amazing it is that God created them.

INTRODUCTION

Whether playing outside with siblings, participating in sports, going on vacations or just walking to school, children in your faith community spend a lot of time outdoors. This first lesson serves as a good reminder for your children and families to learn to be more and more aware of God's awesome creation around us all the time. By mere words God created and, having seen the creation, called it good.



STORY TIME

One of the goals of An Illustrated Earth is to help children become more familiar with some of these stories and to help increase biblical literacy. There are a variety of ways you can introduce the kids to the story. First, we have provided you with a paraphrase of the passage that has been written specifically for children.

Second, we provide you with that same paraphrase broken up into a script. If you have some older children in your group, this would be a great opportunity to allow them to stand up and narrate the story. Depending on the story, you may choose to have some of the younger children act out the story while it's narrated and directed by the older children or teachers.

Finally, we have created Illustrated Story Cards for each lesson. These story cards each have very simple line drawings that depict one part of the story. The goal is to offer children the opportunity to put the cards in the proper sequence, matching the illustrations with the story in scripture they've just heard.

GENESIS 1:6-10

On the second day God created the world, God said, "Let there be a covering that separates the waters." So God separated the waters below from those above. God called this covering Sky. There was morning and night the second day God created the world. Then God said, "Let all the water below the sky come together in one place so dry land appears." God called the land Earth and the water Sea. God saw how good it all was.



IMAGINING TOGETHER

After you've spent some time with the story, we encourage you to reflect with the children about the story and see what stood out to them. This is not so much a time to make sure they received the information or facts of the story, but rather, an opportunity for the children to share what stood out to them and what they imagined when they listened to the story. Depending on the time you have set aside for this lesson, you may choose to do this portion while coloring the poster or sheets, or you may want to spend a little time imagining with the children first, and then move on to the coloring.

We would encourage you to think about what questions make the most sense for your context, and certainly you can add to the list below—but here are a few questions that you could reflect on with the children:

- What do you love about water?
- Where's your favorite place to go with water?
- Why does God call the water good?
- What wouldn't be possible on Earth without water?



COLORING

If you purchased our Illustrated Earth Coloring Posters, you will have a poster that corresponds with each lesson. Each poster has a word, phrase or portion of the biblical passage incorporated into the design. Coloring is an opportunity to continue talking about the story, while asking questions and seeing where the conversation takes you. Because many of the story's elements are integrated into the coloring design, it may be fun to encourage the children to search out as many symbols as they can that communicate an aspect of the story. If you didn't purchase the posters, we have included 8.5x11 versions of those designs so each child can color their own individual coloring sheet.



CLOSING PRAYER

Whether you simply read the prayer, or have the children repeat after you - use this as a chance to "close" your time together as you wait for parents to come pick up their children. As you approach the end of your time together, this is a great short ritual to do with the children; it creates a sense of community and preparation as they enter back into the world.

God,
You are our Good Creator
All that you made is
awesome and beautiful.
As we use water today,
we will remember you
and give you thanks.
Amen.

SCRIPT: GENESIS 1:6-10

Reader 1: On the second day God created the world, God said, "Let there be a covering that separates the waters."

Reader 2: So God separated the waters below from those above.

Reader 1: God called this covering Sky.

Reader 2: There was morning and night the second day God created the world.

Reader 1: Then God said, "Let all the water below the sky come together so dry land appears."

Reader 2: God called the land Earth and the water Sea.

Reader 1: God saw how good it all was.

