

Garden of Eden

God's Masterpiece

September 10, 2023

Scripture: Genesis 2:4b-25

Lesson Take-Away: You are God's masterpiece, made for good and made in love.

Activity: How God Sees Me Craft

Supplies Needed:

- Large Paper
- Coloring Utensils
- Painting supplies (optional)
- Yarn (older kids)
- Washi Tape (older kids)

Memory Phrase: "God made me, and I am good!"

Garden of Eden

Welcome

Hello friends! It is a great day to be together for our first lesson! This year we are going to be hearing all kinds of stories about God, people of God, and we are going to see how they impact our own lives. Because God's story, is in turn, our story. We are created by God, and God journeys with us throughout our lives. So, as we hear about different people from the Bible, different stories, and lessons, we are going to see how they are also important to us. So, to begin, let's spend a little time sharing a bit about ourselves with one another. Let's go around and share these 3 things:

1. Your name and what you like to be called.
2. Where you were born and have lived.
3. What makes you the happiest.

Bible Story

Thank you all for sharing! Now we are going to hear about the time when God created the world! Let's listen really close so we can try to act it out after we are done.

Read aloud Genesis 2:4b-25.

Acting Out the Story

Take time to have the kids act this out, to help them remember the story. They can do this as a whole group, or you can split them into smaller groups. The key is to allow them to have fun with it!

Class Questions/Discussion Time

1. What is your favorite thing that God created? Why?

2. Have you ever thought about how God created you? What does that mean to you? How does that change anything?
3. God looked at all that God created and said, "it is good." That means you are good! How does that make you feel?

So many times in our lives, we can say negative things about ourselves. The world is not always nice, and we can feel the yuck around us. But here we are reminded that God made this beautiful world, and that God made us, too. We are God's masterpieces. How amazing is that? We are going to take some time now to celebrate ourselves, the masterpieces that God created.

I Am God's Masterpiece Craft

This craft is all about YOU! There aren't many rules or guidelines, just the one instruction to create a masterpiece that celebrates you. We have the paper, and all the supplies for you to use to celebrate yourself and the fact that God created you. You can draw yourself, you can paint your awesomeness, whatever you want! The time is yours and once everyone is done, we will go around and share, if we are comfortable.

Allow a time of sharing for those willing to.

OLDER KIDS OPTION

We are going to make our own masterpieces, to remind us how we are God's masterpiece. We have yarn, washi tape, paint, coloring utensils and all the other supplies you may need to create your masterpiece. Spend time creating freely something out of your imagination. When you are done, we will share with one another our masterpieces.

Memory Phrase: "God made me, and I am good!"

Thank you, God Prayer

Before we pray, we are going to head outside and bring back into the room a piece of creation. You can grab a leaf, grass, a rock, whatever you find that God

created. When we come back in together, we will say a thank you prayer for each piece of creation that we have in our hands and in the world. Let's go look for something special!

Dear God,

Thank you for all of these wonderful creations. We thank you for (name each thing your kids brought back). We also thank you for all the animals, the mountains, the oceans, the streams, bushes, stars, the sun and moon. And we thank you for all of the people of this world. We thank you for creating us and loving us and telling us that we are good. We love you. Amen.



Moses & God's Name

God has BIG plans for us!

October 1, 2023

Scripture: Exodus 1:8-14; 3:1-15

Lesson Take-Away: God uses us to do BIG things!

Activity: Let My People Go Tag, Injustice Bags

Supplies Needed:

- Canvas Bags
- Fabric Markers
- Large Sheet of Paper (Older kids)
- Markers (Older Kids)

Memory Phrase: "God wants to use me for GOOD!"

Moses and God's Name

Welcome

Our story today deals with some hard things. First, we are going to hear that certain people, the Israelites, were not being treated fairly. They ended up being servants of the other people, the Egyptians. They did all the hard work and didn't get paid at all. This is what we could call an injustice. Have you noticed any injustices going on in our world? In our community?

Allow time to share.

Bible Story

God steps in and calls a certain person to stand up for the Israelites. Let's read about it.

Read Exodus 1:8-14; 3:1-15.

Class Questions/Discussion Time

God never wants their people to suffer. In this situation, God found Moses and asked him to be God's voice and fight against this injustice. Moses didn't feel prepared. He didn't have the confidence to do this, but God told him he could do this. God's people needed him. Moses did do this, and it took time, but eventually he, with God's help, freed the Israelites.

1. How would you have felt if you were Moses, being asked to do such a big job?
2. How can we help stop injustices from happening here?
3. What does this story make you wonder about?

Let My People Go Tag

Moses wanted to free the Israelites, but people got in the way. The king didn't want them to be free, and neither did the people who worked for him. But Moses did free the Israelites. To show this, one person is going to be Moses.

Everyone else is an Israelite. Moses is trying to tag all the people. Once you are tagged, you link up with Moses and run together, until you are one BIG blob! Whoever is last, gets to be Moses in the next round.

This game does require a large space. If you don't have this kind of space, you can just skip to the next activity.

Injustice Bags

One injustice in our world is that people are hungry. There are people who have lots and lots of food, and some who don't have any. We are going to do our best to help by making these canvas bags that we will take home to fill with our extra food. We will bring them back next week filled, and that food will then be donated to a local food pantry for people to take with them to eat. First, let's decorate our bags!

Allow time for the kids to decorate their bags to then take home.

OLDER KIDS OPTION

God calls us to do everything we can to help and love others. We are going to make a list of all the injustices we see in our community and world, and then talk about what WE can do to help combat them. I have a large piece of paper to write it all down on and we will hang it so we can be challenged every week.

Allow time to share injustices and then have conversation around what you can do together to fight against them.

Memory Phrase: "God wants to use me for GOOD!"

Whisper Prayer

Today we are going to have time to pray for whatever is on our hearts and minds. We are all going to put our hands together with a little opening at the front. We will lift them to our mouths and whisper our prayers into them. First, I will open with Dear God, please be with...and then we invite you to pray into

your cupped hands. Pray for whatever you want this morning. After a little while, on the count of three, we will all say amen, and open our hands up to the sky.

Let's pray.

