

God Created the World

Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 1, ages 4-5

Lesson 1 Goal

- Your child will understand that God created nature and everything in it, including the cycle of the seasons.

Key Points

- God made everything in nature.
- God made the seasons: spring, summer, fall, and winter.



Parent Reflection

When we look at the cycle of the seasons in God's creation, we find a metaphor of times in our lives. Spring is a time of growth, of new beginnings, comparable to our growth throughout the years of childhood and youth, and the way we grow and change as adults, including new beginnings such as new homes, relationships, jobs, and starting a family.

Summer is a time of warmth and energy. It may be synonymous with a new idea, initiative, or project in our lives—especially one about which we feel some “fire.” Fall is a time of change, reflective of changes and shifts in our lives. Winter is a time of endings and good-byes. We experience winters in our lives when people we love die, when jobs end, or when other good things change in permanent ways. Still, with winter, there is the promise of another spring. A new time of growth and rebirth is just around the corner.

Perhaps God created the seasons to remind us of how things grow and change in our own lives, and to call us to be adaptable and to depend on him for what we need. As Jesus says, the lilies of the field do not worry about what they will wear, but in the proper season they are clothed by God with splendor (Matthew 6:28-30).

Reflection Question

How do the seasons parallel different phases in my own life?

Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

Materials

- Family Activity Sheet
- crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- safety scissors
- seasonal props and clothing for dramatic play
- Activity Master #2 – Saint Page (Keep the

saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

Preparation Steps

- Make sure your child has a copy of Activity Master #2 (included with this lesson).

Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

Say the following or similar words: “Now that we are in this prayerful space, let us find the quiet in our hearts so we can talk with God.”

Sit together for several seconds of shared silence.

Say, “God our Creator made everything! We are so blessed by God’s wonderful gifts to us! God gave us trees and birds. What else can you think of that God has given us?” (Encourage your child to name some aspects of nature.)

“Our Creator also made the four seasons of the year. Let’s name them together: spring, summer, autumn (or fall), and winter. Now let’s thank God for the seasons and things that we see or hear or smell in these seasons.”

Begin in prayer:

Make the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

“Blessed are you, God of all Creation. For spring, and the tulips and lambs and bunnies! (Encourage your child to add spring ideas. Repeat this with each season.)

“Blessed are you, God of all Creation. For summer, and colorful butterflies and sparkly fireflies and sandy beaches.

“Blessed are you, God of all Creation. For autumn and brightly colored leaves, jolly pumpkins, and crisp apples.

“Blessed are you, God of all Creation. For winter and quiet snowflakes, starry nights, and warm cocoa.

“Blessed are you, God of all Creation, for giving us the spring, summer, autumn, and winter. Amen!”

Discovering

The Story of Creation. Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about the creation of the world.

Ask your child, “What is your favorite part of the image on this page? Why?”

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the “Ask Me!” questions and review the answers.

Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child’s understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

1. I Am Thankful All Year. Turn to the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child crayons or colored pencils. Explain the activity to your child and have him or her complete it.

2. Seasonal Fun (Dramatic Play). Invite your child to act out various seasonal scenes using the props and clothing (examples include going to the beach, making a snowman, raking leaves).

3. The Communion of Saints: Saint Columba of Iona. Show your child the picture of Saint Columba on the Family Activity page and read about him. Then read more about Saint Columba to your child (see below).

Ask your child:

▶ How can you feel God's presence in creation? (*Guide your child to see ways we can feel God's presence in nature through wind, rain, sun, and so forth.*)

▶ How did Columba help others know about God? (*He wrote poems and traveled to teach about Jesus.*)

Have your child write and draw about Saint Columba using Activity Master #2.

Sending

Pray with your child. Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child:

"Blessed are you, God of all Creation, for giving us the spring, summer, autumn, and winter. Amen!"

Saint Columba of Iona

Finding God in All Creation

Long ago, there lived a man named Columba. He was tall and handsome, with grey eyes and a beautiful voice. He was also a very holy man who loved Jesus. Columba built a tiny house on an island called Iona, off the coast of Ireland. There he felt God's presence in a special way. He felt God in the crashing of the waves of the sea. He felt God's presence in the flowers and little animals that lived in the woods. When a great storm pounded the sea and the island, Columba

felt God's power. Everywhere he looked, he saw God's Creation. And in everything God created, Columba came to better understand God, whom he couldn't see.

Columba was a smart man who wrote wonderful poems. These helped others come to see the beauty of God's Creation. He was also a teacher, and traveled to many places to teach others about Jesus. But Columba always returned to Iona where he felt especially close to God.

DRAW



**Saint
Columba,
pray for us!**