

THE STORY OF CREATION

UNIT ONE: GOD CREATED HEAVEN AND EARTH

Lesson 7:

God Made Plants

CONTENT:

1. After making the sky, land and the sea, God commanded plants to come forth from the earth, and it happened. He made grass and bushes and trees with flowers, fruit and seeds. God saw that it was all good.
2. "The beauty of creation reflects the infinite beauty of the Creator." [CCC 341] By looking at nature we discover more about God.
3. St. Therese of Lisieux (the 'Little Flower') learnt from the 'book of nature.' Jesus showed her that just as all flowers, splendid or simple are beautiful, so also the humble little soul is as precious to him as the great, holy saints.
- 😊 4. Jesus said, 'Consider the lilies of the field (wild flowers). How they grow! Yet Solomon in all his glory was not clothed as one of these!' We can, like Saint Therese, learn more about God by contemplating nature.

ASSIGNMENT: If not done in class, children can press flowers and leaves and then stick them in the space provided in the handout; or else draw or stick pictures.

REFERENCES: Gen. 1: 11-13; Luke 12:27 CCC 341, 2500.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts; containers with seedlings; pictures/pressed flowers and glue/colour pencils or crayons.

I. STARTER:

(Ask the children if they have got the answer to the 'homework' question. Bring out-)

- The angel said the words to Mary. He told her that God would become a little baby inside of her, and then he said 'Nothing is impossible to God.'
- Mary believed all that the angel promised. This made God very happy.

II. DEVELOPMENT:

(Let the children collect their seedlings and place them on their desks)

- Did your seed become a plant? How did you feel when you saw the little plant peeping out?
[Get responses] You felt happy and excited to see a plant coming out like magic from the seed. Who put that magic into the seed? *[God, of course!]*
- After making the sky and sea and land, what do you think God made next? He made plants! God said, 'Let the earth give out plants and trees with fruit and seeds!' And it happened! Like magic, green grass started spreading out over the brown earth. Little plants began to burst out of the soil... they gave out branches and leaves and became into bushes. Flowers of all colours began to open: roses of all colours, sweet smelling jasmine, golden sunflowers. Some plants just kept on growing and growing, getting taller and taller. The green stems became brown and branches came out. They were trees! Soon the brown hills and valleys became green with trees of every kind. The green branches gave buds... and the buds opened into flowers... and then the flowers grew into fruit.. mangoes, apples, guavas, oranges, jackfruit and jamuns! The earth was filled with colour and delicious smells.
- God saw the grass and the bushes, and trees with their beautiful flowers and fruit, and he knew that they were beautiful and good. Just as you felt happy when you saw the seed you had put into the soil become a plant, God saw all the beautiful plants he had made and felt happy about them.

- Once Jesus was sitting outside on the grass teaching the people. He pointed to the little flowers growing in the grass and said, “Look at the wild flowers in the field! How they grow! Even grand King Solomon didn’t have such beautiful clothes as these little flowers!” *(It would be good to show the children a sample of wild flowers)*
- Jesus wants us to look at flowers and trees and the sky and think about him. Even though they can’t talk, they can still tell us something about God. We will be practicing listening to nature a little later, but first I’ll tell you a true story about a girl who could hear the flowers talk.

STORY OF THE LITTLE FLOWER:

There was a little girl called Therese. She was a beautiful child, with blue eyes and golden hair. She loved to run and jump and laugh and talk. (She would also get very angry and shout sometimes!) Everyone loved her and petted her. Right from the time she was a baby, Therese loved to be out in the open. Her nursemaid used to bring her out to the fields in a wheel barrow and let her sit on the grass among the flowers.

Like many children Therese was always asking ‘Why’ (Do you like asking ‘Why’? Why do stars twinkle? Why do I have to go to school?) Therese used to talk to Jesus like a friend, so one day she asked him,

“Jesus, why do you give some people so many blessings and some people so little? Why do some people become great saints and some don’t even know about you? Tell me the answer!”

Then Jesus showed her a garden. Therese saw big pink and red roses and white lilies growing in one place. Then she noticed more flowers: purple violets hiding under their dark green leaves, little white daisies growing near them, and tiny yellow buttercups between the blades of grass.

As she looked, Therese felt as if the little daisies were saying, “We are also beautiful! We are also made by God, even though we are small!”

She felt as if the little buttercups were saying, “Would it be nice if we were all roses?”

“No!” Therese answered. “I love to bend down and find you among the blades of grass. You are small and pretty.”

Suddenly Therese understood what Jesus was trying to tell her! He was saying “I love all the people I have made. Some are wise and clever and do great things. They are like the roses and lilies. Some are simple and small and make mistakes. They are like the little wild flowers. But I like to bend down and look at them, especially when they try to make me happy in their own way.”

‘Now I understand, Jesus!’ Therese said. “I want to be your little flower and make you happy by doing little things for you.”

Therese became a sister and joined a convent. She tried to keep her promise to God. Even today many people call Therese the ‘Little Flower’. They remember her especially on the 1st of October every year.

III. PRAYER:

[Take the children to a spot where they can see (and touch) grass, flowers and trees. Ask them to pick up any one item. (E.g. A stone, leaf, flower, twig) then sit quietly, look at it and think about God. They could also look around them and try to listen to what God is saying.

After a few minutes allow them to share what they feel. Eg. ‘God is beautiful!’ ‘God made everything well’ ‘God is loving’ ‘God is great’. If this is not possible, just let them close their eyes and imagine.]

IV. ACTIVITY:

[Give out handouts and go over the written matter. The picture of Therese is an actual photograph of her as a child. The children could draw leaves, flowers, trees etc OR stick pressed flowers and leaves in the space provided.]

Home assignment:

Read the words on the handout at home. Fill in the space for flowers and leaves.