


THE STORY OF CREATION

UNIT TWO: GOD MADE HUMAN BEINGS

Lesson 2: God says: Look after the World!

CONTENT:

1. God gave human beings everything he had made. He put them in charge of all creation. [CCC 358.]
2. We must therefore take care of all creation, making sure all people benefit from it. [CCC2415]
3. This means we do not spoil or waste anything. Jesus showed the way when he asked his disciples to gather the left-over food after the miraculous multiplication, "so that nothing is wasted." [CCC373]
-  4. We consider practical ways to look after what God has given us.

ASSIGNMENT: Read handout at home. With your family make lists of 1. What we should do and 2. What we shouldn't do so that we take care of the world.

REFERENCES: Genesis 1:28; John 6:12-13. CCC 358; 373; 2415.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts, teddy bear.

CLASS PROJECT: Plan a practical response to do as a class. Eg. Making shopping bags; picking up waste paper around the school compound; checking on food wastage by the students.

I. STARTER:

[Teddy bear 'talks' to the children again as follows:]

"Hello children! Do you remember me? You should remember, because there's a picture of me in your papers! Take out your papers... Tell me, are you made better than me?" *[Yes!]*

"How are you better? What's so special about you?" *[We have a soul! We can know God and love him. We can choose what is good.]*

[Children could also share what their mother remembered about them as babies. This is optional, if you think you have the time.]

II. DEVELOPMENT:

1. STORY: Sheila's Birthday Surprise.

Today I'll tell you a story about a birthday girl. Her name was Sheila. When Sheila woke up one morning she felt happy and excited. She wondered why. Then she remembered. "It's my birthday today! I'm 6 years old!" After breakfast her mummy told her to get dressed. "Why? Where are we going?" Sheila asked. "It's a surprise!" Mummy said.

When she was ready Daddy put his hands on her eyes and took her outside the house, into the garden. Then Sheila heard a shout, "HAPPY BIRTHDAY!" Daddy took his hands off her eyes and there in front of her was a beautiful doll's house. Next to it were her cousins, Johnny and Savio and her friends, Mona and Susie.

The little house was the most beautiful thing Sheila had ever seen. It had windows that could open and close. Daddy took off the roof and she saw four rooms inside: a bedroom with a bed and a cupboard, a bathroom, a kitchen and a hall. There were little chairs and a table and a TV set. There were towels, curtains and bed sheets. There were small handis, plates and dishes. And best of all, there were lights that could be switched on and taps that really gave water! "But where did it come from? Who made it? Whose is it?" Sheila asked.

“It is yours!” Mummy answered. “Daddy made it for you and your friends to play with. He made it in his workshop. That’s why he’s been coming home so late every day... and I made the curtains, towels and bed sheets.” “Thank you Daddy! Thank you Mummy! This is the best present ever!”

Mummy put a table out in the garden with a cake and snacks. They all sang ‘Happy Birthday’ and prayed for Sheila. Then Daddy and Mummy had to go to work, but the children stayed to play. Mummy said, “Enjoy yourself Sheila, and look after your guests. When you finish eating put the food back in the kitchen.”

Daddy said, “Make sure you close the taps in the doll’s house and put the roof back when you finish playing!” “Okay, okay, bye!” Sheila shouted.

The children had a wonderful time that morning. Mona and Susie had brought a new doll for Sheila, and she already had two old ones, so each girl had one doll to play with. They bathed them in the bathroom and dried them with the little towels. They dressed them up and put them round the table for a doll’s party. Then they changed their clothes again and put them to bed.

Johnny and Savio said, “Boys don’t play with dolls!” But they enjoyed themselves checking out the windows and doors and switching on the lights. “We’ll be the Daddy and Uncle” they said. They rode Sheila’s cycle up and down bringing the ‘bazaar’: cake, wafers, juice and samosas for the girls to eat.

At one o’clock it was time for the children to go home. “Thank you Sheila! Bye!” they said and went off. Sheila was tired after all the fun and play. She went in and sat down to watch TV. She was so interested in the movie that she didn’t notice the sky turning dark and the rain falling.

When Daddy and Mummy came home in the evening, they got a shock. The garden was covered with wet wafers, cake and samosas. Plates and glasses were lying in the mud. But worst of all, the roof of the doll’s house was off, and the rain had filled the house, spoiling all the furniture, clothes and dolls.

“What a mess! And we took so much trouble to make all this for Sheila. Now everything is spoilt.” said Daddy. “And so much good food wasted. I wanted to keep some cake and snacks for the neighbours.” said Mummy.

They went inside. Daddy switched off the TV and brought Sheila outside. “Look at the mess, Sheila. We are very disappointed with you. Mummy and I took so much trouble for you and now everything is spoilt. No one can play with it again. And all the food is wasted too. You have made us very sad today.”

Sheila looked at her parent’s sad faces and at the wet and spoilt things in the garden. She felt very bad. Tears came to her eyes and she said, “Sorry Daddy. Sorry Mummy. I’ll never be so careless again.” Mummy put her arms round Sheila and Daddy patted her head. He said, “Okay, never mind. Let’s clean up the mess and try to do better next time!”

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- Why was Sheila’s Daddy sad? [*Because he had taken so much trouble to make a beautiful house and Sheila had let it get spoilt. He was sad because he had wanted many children to enjoy it.*]
 - Why was her Mummy sad? [*Because so much food had been wasted. She had wanted to share the birthday food with the neighbours.*]
 - Did you know that we make God sad, just like Sheila’s mummy and daddy? He made the world so carefully and so beautifully for us. He made it for us to use and enjoy. He also wanted us to take care of it, so that everyone can enjoy it.
 - But sometimes we forget. We are careless. We waste and spoil the beautiful world God made for us. That is what makes God sad.

Home assignment:

Talk to your family and get 2 ideas about how we can take care of the world God has given us.

NEXT CLASS:

- Do you remember the story I told you last time? Who had made the beautiful doll's house for Sheila? [*Her daddy. Her mummy helped too.*]
- What happened to it? [*It got spoilt in the rain.*]
- Did Daddy make it only for Sheila? [*No. He wanted other children to enjoy playing with it too.*]
- What about the food? What happened to it? [*It got spoilt, because it had been left out in the rain.*]
- Who else feels sad, like Sheila's Daddy and Mummy? [*God.*]
- Why does he feel sad? [*He made a beautiful world specially for us to enjoy. But we sometimes don't take care of it properly. We make it dirty and we waste the good things he has made. He feels sad because the world is getting spoilt and people won't be able to enjoy it any more.*]

Jesus also tried to teach his friends about looking after things and not wasting. Do you remember the story about Reuben and how he shared his food? Jesus blessed the fish and bread and everyone was able to eat and fill their stomachs. When everyone had finished eating, the place looked a bit like Sheila's garden. There were bits of bread and fish all over the grass. (I think some people may have been greedy. They may have taken too much food and then couldn't finish it.)

Jesus called his friends and said, "Collect all the food that is left-over, so that nothing is wasted." So the men took big baskets and went round collecting the extra food. Do you know how many baskets they filled? Twelve! So there was enough for them to share with many more hungry people.

[Give out handouts and read the words on the top. Children share the ideas they have collected about taking care of the world. You could draw stick figures on the blackboard as the ideas come up, if you feel confident. In the space provided, the children draw themselves doing something good to take care of the world.]

Examples:

- Using a shopping bag instead of accepting plastic carry-bags. Plastics in the garbage spoil the earth.
- Switching off fans and lights when not in use. This will save electricity.
- Putting rubbish in a bin, instead of throwing it on the ground.
- Serving a little food at a time, instead of wasting.
- Using washable plates and glasses instead of 'throw-away' ones, at parties specially.
- Walking instead of using a bike or car. This will save petrol.
- Planting trees and watering them. Trees make the air good and make the world better.
- Using old paper again instead of throwing it away.
- Sharing/eating food instead of throwing it away.
- Not buying more and more things that we don't need, like clothes and toys.
- Being careful about water. (Open the tap just a little. Close taps after use.)

III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

Lets pray! [*Children pray after the teacher:*]

Thank you God for giving us this wonderful world. I'm sorry for the times I've spoilt things and wasted things. Please help me to take care of all you have given us.

[Children look at their pictures and make a one line prayer according to what they have drawn. The teacher could help. Eg. 'Help us not to waste food'; 'Help us to throw katchra in the dustbin.']

Home assignment: Read the handout at home.