

Youth Lesson – June 21, 2020

Father's Day

Focus Scripture: Matthew 10: 24-39

Purpose: To learn how God has a vision for our world and needs our help.

Preparation

Worship Table – green cloth ball of yarn

Lighting the Christ Candle: “We light this candle to remind us that God is always with us.”

Prayer

Creator, you have made the world a beautiful home for us and for all the creatures that fly through the air, move across the ground, or swim in the water. Let our worship be a time when we remember how we are connected to this earth, to all creatures, to all people, and to each other. Amen.

Introducing the Theme - Web of Connections

Bring a big ball of string or yarn. Make a circle. Start the web by naming your favourite wild animal. Then unravel the ball of yarn and roll it to someone else in the circle, while holding tightly to the loose end. Ask the child to unravel it a bit and name a different animal. Then they will roll the yarn to someone else. That person repeats the steps and calls out another animal. After all the children have had a turn, then roll it back to you and ask the children, What does this remind you of? (A spider's web, dreamcatcher, etc.) Affirm them for being good detectives. Talk with them about how we are all connected to each other because God made each of us, just as God made the animals and trees and all the people around us. Lay the web gently in the middle.

Exploring the Theme - Bible Story

Song: “God Sees the Little Sparrow Fall”

(Teach the children the chorus and sing the verses. **(Look up song on YouTube)**)

Verse 1:

God sees the little sparrow fall, it's in God's tender view.
If God so loves the little birds, I know he loves me too.

Verse 2:

God paints the lily of the field, perfumes each lily bell
If God so loves the little flowers, I know God loves me well

Verse 3:

God made the little birds and flowers, and all things large and small
God won't forget the little ones; I know God loves them all.

Chorus:

God loves me too, God loves me too, I know God loves me too.
Because God loves the little things, I know God loves me too.

This hymn was written by someone who liked to read the stories of Jesus in the Bible. **(Open the Bible on your lap.)** The Bible tells us lots of things that Jesus did and said. One day Jesus was talking to his special friends about how much God loves us all. Jesus said that God knows everything that happens to us. God even knows if a sparrow - a tiny bird - should fall to the ground! God knows how many hairs are on each one of our heads! God knows the things we are afraid of - the things we are happy about - the things that we hope and dream for. There is nothing that God doesn't know about, so we can tell God anything.

Nowadays, there seem to be a lot of things that are going on in our world that are not very good. Can you think of some of these things? **(war, poverty, etc.)** There are lots of things we can do to make God's world a better place for us, and others, and for the animals too. What do you think God wants us to do? How can we help God take care of our world? First Nations people talk about the sacred circle of life. By that they mean that all of nature and animals and all people are connected - just like we were connected by our web. If we hurt one part of God's creation, we are hurting it all. If we look after one part of God's

creation, we are caring about all. It's important that we do our part to look after our world.



Have you ever planted a tree? Why do you think trees are good for the environment? (Trees take toxins and pollutants out of the air.) Say a prayer and tell the children that the tree will grow and flourish and do its part to make the air cleaner.

Song - All Things Bright and Beautiful

All things bright and beautiful
All creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful
The Lord God made them all.

Activity or Craft – Dad Gift

Be creative and make something for Dad on his special day.

Prayer: We thank you God that you care for all things— for the tiniest ladybug right up to the biggest whale in the sea. We thank you that you care for us. Help us to take care of your world. Remind us that when we are for the earth and for each other, we show our love for you. Amen.

Closing Song

May the road rise up to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
And the rains fall soft upon your fields
Till we meet again, we meet again
May God hold you in His hands.