

We Protect the Environment

Scripture Focus: Genesis 1:1–2:4

Lesson Goals

- to indicate that God created all things out of love
- to explain that we are given free will to choose to love God and creation
- to identify that creation is a gift from God that we are called to care for and respect

Parent Preview

- Review the Scripture on pages 21 and 24 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Genesis 1:1–2:4).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the chapter 4 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

Get Ready! (10 minutes)

Pray the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 4 activity booklet.

Take turns naming something God created. Continue for a few minutes or until you both run out of ideas.

Tell your child that together you will learn that God created everything and that God loves all creation.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

Read the Scripture on pages 21 and 24 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Genesis 1:1–2:4).

Invite your child to answer the numbered questions on page 2 of the chapter 4 activity booklet. *Answers: 1. The Earth was formless and desolate. 2. the Spirit of God, 3. They will be like us and resemble us. 4. the fish, the birds, and all animals, domestic and wild, large and small, 5. God looked at everything he had made, and he was very pleased.*

Discuss together the questions in the blue box on page 2 of the chapter 4 activity booklet.

Read the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the chapter 4 activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in his or her own words.





Chapter 4



Discover! (20 minutes)

Read with your child the article “Created Out of Love” on the third page of this home guide chapter. Review the key word. Use the review questions to check your child’s understanding.

Invite your child to complete the activity on the top part of page 3 of the chapter 4 activity booklet. *Answers will vary.*

Optional: If you have additional time, you may ask your child to color the Scripture verse on page 2 of the activity booklet or to answer the journal question in the box at the bottom of page 3.

Go! (10 minutes)

Invite your child to share one thing she or he learned from today’s lesson.

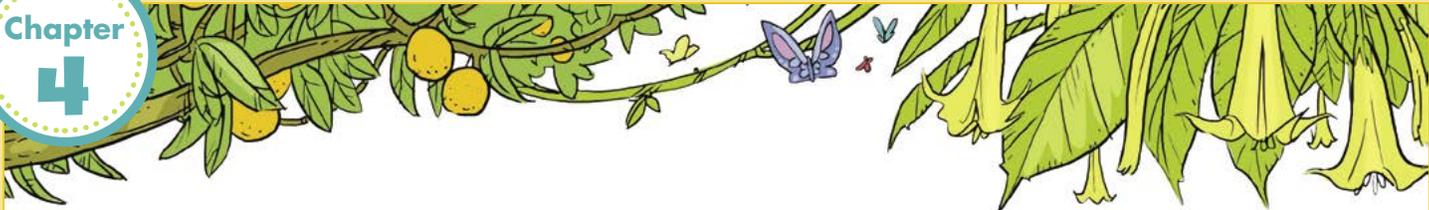
Choose one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the chapter 4 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

Invite your child to pick a mission strip from the hat or bowl you have prepared.

Ask your child to locate in the mission booklet the challenge that was selected and to mark it with a bookmark or sticky note. Encourage your child to complete the mission during the coming week.

Conclude by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 4 activity booklet.




 Chapter
4

Created Out of Love

Today's reading really grabs your imagination! If you close your eyes, you can almost see the Earth light up, and then watch the sky appear overhead. You can hear the roar of the oceans as they flood into place. You might be frightened as the sun and moon pop into being. You watch all the creatures of the land and sea, and you hear all the birds of the air. And then the first human beings appear, and God's voice tells them to care for all he has created.

The Creation account in Genesis is not meant to explain scientific facts. Rather, it teaches us that God created everything intentionally and out of love. He then gave all creation to human beings as a gift and called us to care for and respect his creation.

Today the Church's social teaching reminds us that it is important to care for the

environment: all creatures, the Earth, and one another. Human beings are connected to, and depend on, the entire natural world. So we must use our resources responsibly. How we treat the environment affects everyone today, as well as the quality of life of all future generations.

God also created each of us with **free will**—the ability to freely choose how to live our life and whether to love God and creation. Free will means that we can make choices each day, large and small, that can make a huge impact on the environment.

Each of us makes a difference! What does your family do to care for the environment? What can you start doing?

Key Word

free will The ability to freely choose how to live our life and whether to love God and his creation.

We Know and Live Our Faith

The following articles in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource corresponds to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "Who Created the Universe?" and "How Do We Know That God Exists?" page 6

If you have additional time, read the selections together, and ask some questions to check your child's understanding.

Review

1. What does the Creation account teach us?
2. Why is it important to care for God's creation?
3. What are some choices we could make each day that would show our love for God's creation?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. God created everything out of love. 2. God called us to do so. Also, human beings are connected to, and dependent on, the environment. 3. Answers will vary.

