

*Caring for  
God's Creation*

# Caring for God's Creation



1 Read the story of creation from the Book of Genesis. Emphasize that God made everything. Talk about the aspects of God's wonderful creation that help us to survive and grow, like light and water. Talk about the aspects of God's creation that bring us joy, like a beautiful sunrise or a walk in the forest. Discuss the responsibility of all people to take care of God's creation. Together, say a prayer of thanks to God for the gift of creation. Make a pledge to be a family or a class that cares for God's creation.

2

Visit your local library and borrow a collection of children's books about the environment. Words you might want to search as you use your library's search engine might include: recycle, reduce pollution, compost, plastic, climate change. Create a browsing box with texts (both fiction and non-fiction) that relate to caring for creation. Choose a book per week to do a Book Talk to engage children.



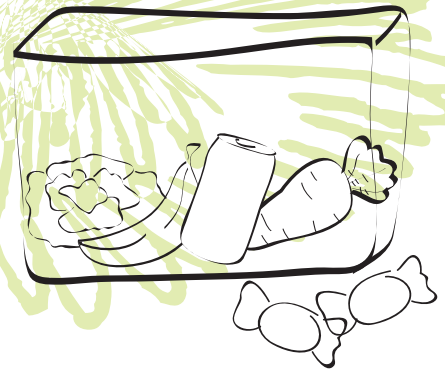


3

Do you think a boat made out of plastic bottles could successfully sail across one of the world's oceans? Have you ever heard of the Plastiki? Visit the website <http://theplastiki.com> to learn more about an incredible boat designed to create awareness about the shocking amount of plastic pollution there is on our planet. Pledge to reduce your plastic footprint or get inspired to design plastic-bottle boats!

4

Create a mini-landfill. In an empty aquarium, collect biodegradable foods such as banana peels, apple cores, salad, and cardboard. Also collect a soda can, a plastic bottle, and a wrapper. Spread a thin layer of soil along the bottom of the aquarium and then place the items above inside. Watch the changes over a few days. Ask children to observe what has happened to each item after 5 days, 10 days, and 20 days. Explain the importance of recycling aluminum and plastic, and composting biodegradables. Explain that materials like wrappers will sit in the landfill for years. This example will clearly show that we have to sort our trash so that we reduce the amount of waste in our landfills.



5

Take children on a litter hunt. Grab some protective gear and trash bags and take your students outside to collect litter. Be sure to supervise children as they collect litter, and that little hands are properly protected with gloves. Children will be surprised by what they find but also proud of their accomplishment in helping to care for creation.

Find more simple and meaningful activity suggestions for catechists and parents in the "Go Green" feature of the *We Believe Catholic Identity Edition Guide*.



