

Adventures with GOD!

THE WORD OF GOD WRITTEN IN NATURE (C.3.SPRING.1)

Biblical Reference	Psalm 19:1-4, Genesis 1:1-25
Key Verse	Psalm 19:1
Key Concept	God and God's purposes are revealed through creation
Educational Objectives	At the end of this lesson, children will be able to: 1. Explain how God's word is written in nature 2. Draw examples of God's creation and give thanks for this gift 3. Memorize the Key Verse

Life Application

The Bible tells us that the invisible characteristics of God, like God's power and majesty, are seen through God's creation. As we begin this trimester studying the Bible, it's important to remember that God's revelation comes not only through the written word, but also through creation itself. People who don't know how to read or don't have access to Scripture can know God's glory through God's creation. In today's lesson, children will reflect on the ways God speaks through nature and how creation is a gift we are to care for.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Introduction	Images/pictures of creation	5 minutes
Learning Centers	See instructions	10 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible, illustrations	10 minutes
Key Verse	Paper, markers, crayons	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

Room set-up and decoration:

Decorate the classroom with interactive signs and pictures that relate to God's word. During this trimester, children are encouraged to memorize the Key Verses along with books of the Bible. Consider hanging large pieces of poster board or paper throughout the room; to help children keep track of their progress, write the Key Verses and books of the Bible alongside another list or sticker chart with their names. You can also track children's progress with two ladders (one with 39 steps, and one with 27 steps) and figures that represent each child moving up with his/her memorization progress.

Another option is to create a mural that can represent the new things children are learning about God's word. Each week, can invite a child or a group of children to come up with an image or word for the mural.

For today's lesson, incorporate images of different aspects of nature and creation. The illustrations on pages 11-14 can be used.

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter, take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets, and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials at CovChurch.org/children/adventures-with-god.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle, and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them, palms up, as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer.)



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Bible Reading: Explain that we read the Bible first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched, palms up, to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read Psalm 19:1-4 twice and ask children to respond.

Question examples: What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the passage?

Introduction: This is a time to share with children the theme or focus of the trimester. Share with children how excited you are for them to discover more about God and God's purposes as together you study God's word. Gather different types of Bibles or images of Bibles, as well as a scroll, a small white board, etc. Cover these items with a sheet and tell the children that you have some things with you, and you need help figuring out what these items are used for. Pull each of the items out, and ask children if they can imagine what the theme of the trimester is.

Learning Centers: Directions and materials for the Learning Center can be found on pages 5-8. Before class, have the materials and instructions ready to go at each center. Children will have an opportunity to choose which center they'd like to go to. Children can go to the Center of Investigation, the Center of Experiments, or the Center of Application. When they have finished at their stations, invite children to all come together and sit in a circle.

Craft: See directions and materials on pages 9-10. Crafts can also supplement or replace any of the Learning Center stations.

Bible Exploration: Ask children to remember/review the theme for the trimester. Encourage learning about God's word, and explain some of the fascinating things to learn about the Bible. One of the first things we learn in the Bible is that God speaks to us in different ways, and one of those ways is through creation. Ask children to imagine they are looking up at a night sky full of stars. What do they see? What do they notice about the stars? Imagine God creating the sky and stars in such a perfect way, that each star has its own course and doesn't run into another star. Pull out the pictures of creation, and ask children to look at them and describe what they see. How do they feel when they see a picture of a zebra or a snow-capped mountain? Pass the pictures around the circle and read Genesis 1: 1-24 aloud. What does creation tell us about God? What can we learn about God from creation? God spoke and the world was created. Ask children to share what they learned at their different Learning Centers.

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Key Verse: Ask children to draw a picture of something in God's creation that is most amazing to them, and then write the Key Verse on the picture. If you choose to do the mural, ask a couple of children to create an image that represents what they learned about God's word from creation.

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G=God's Word: What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R=Relationships: Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the Bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others. Give children a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead.)

O=Outward Action: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

W=Worship: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? What would you like to say to God?

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle, explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, the candle reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

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CENTER OF INVESTIGATION

Materials: paper, a large sheet of paper, pencils, and Bibles

Instructions:

1. Find the letter that corresponds to the symbol.
2. Write out the letters according to the symbols to decipher the hidden message. Write the message out on a large sheet of paper.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0			
=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=			

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CENTER OF INVESTIGATION

Read Psalm 19:1-4

Questions:

1. What things allow us to know something about God?
2. What characteristics of God do we find in nature?
3. How is God's word revealed in nature?

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CENTER OF EXPERIMENTS

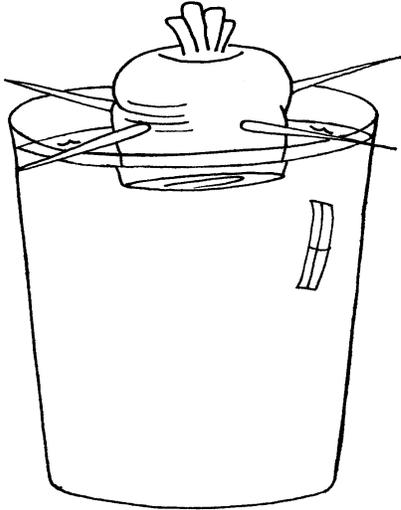
Instructions:

1. Read Genesis 1:1-24
2. Follow the instructions for the activity below.
3. When the activity is finished have them talk about what amazes them most about God's creation. How do they learn about God through creation?

Experiment: You will need a disposable cup, tooth picks, a carrot, water, towels, knife.

1. Ask the teacher to help you cut off the top of the carrot, leaving about 1 inch of the carrot.
2. Stick into the carrot 4 tooth picks (as shown in the illustration)
3. Fill the glass with water and then hang the carrot, balancing the tooth picks on the side of the glass. The water should only cover the bottom part of the carrot.
4. The children will need to make sure that the water level remains the same each week. In a matter of time they will see flowers growing.

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CENTER OF APPLICATION

In the following pages you will find various options for crafts that can be used in the center of application. After they have completed the craft, they can answer the questions below. First have children read Psalm 19:1-4, Genesis 1:1-24

What do we do with a gift?

How is creation like a gift from God?

Why should we take care of nature?

How do we take care of nature, which is a gift from God?

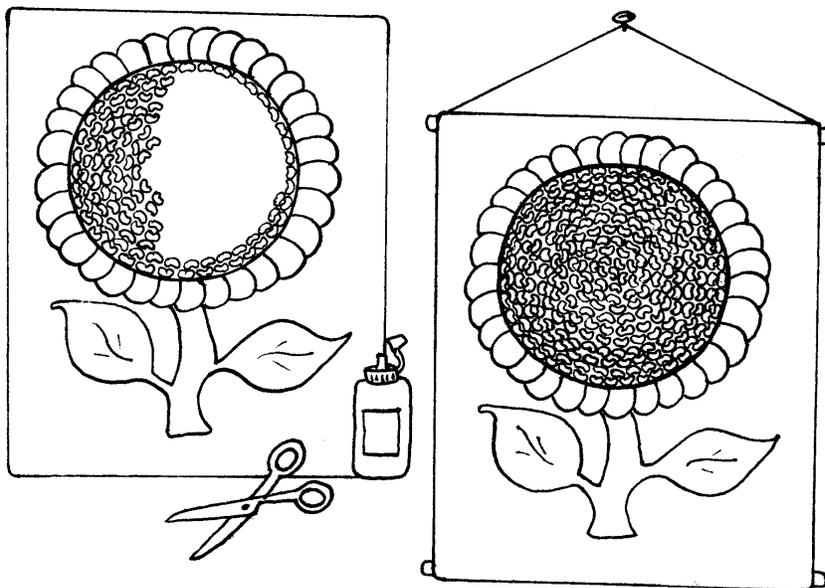
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CRAFT OPTION 1

Materials: a square piece of card stock or felt, yarn, yellow tissue paper, green paint or markers, scissors, glue, dried beans or lentils.

Instructions:

1. Using a lid from a plastic container, or something round, trace a circle on the center of the felt or card stock.
2. With the pants or markers, draw a stem down from the circle.
3. Using the yellow tissue paper, make flower petals and glue them around the circle to make a flower.
4. Use some sort of beans to fill the center of the flower.
5. Write the Key Verse below.
6. Attach yarn or string to the back of the card stock or felt so that it can be hung as a small banner.



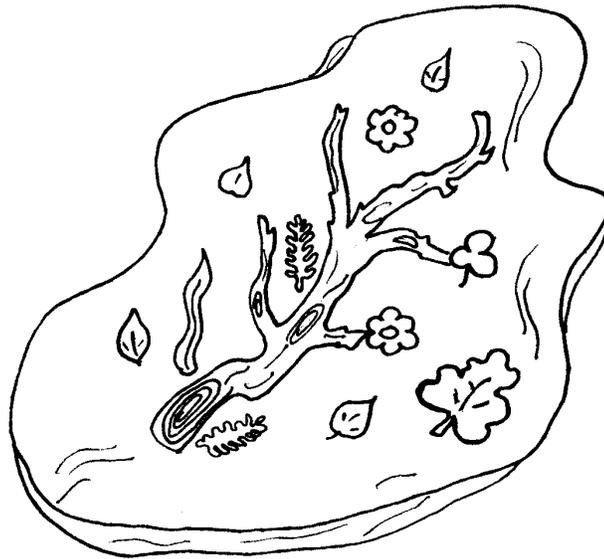
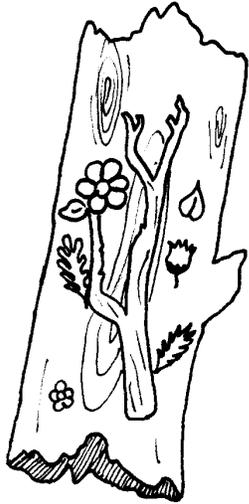
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CRAFT OPTION 2

Materials: Old wood, bark, sticks, rocks, leaves, flowers, glue, paper, marker

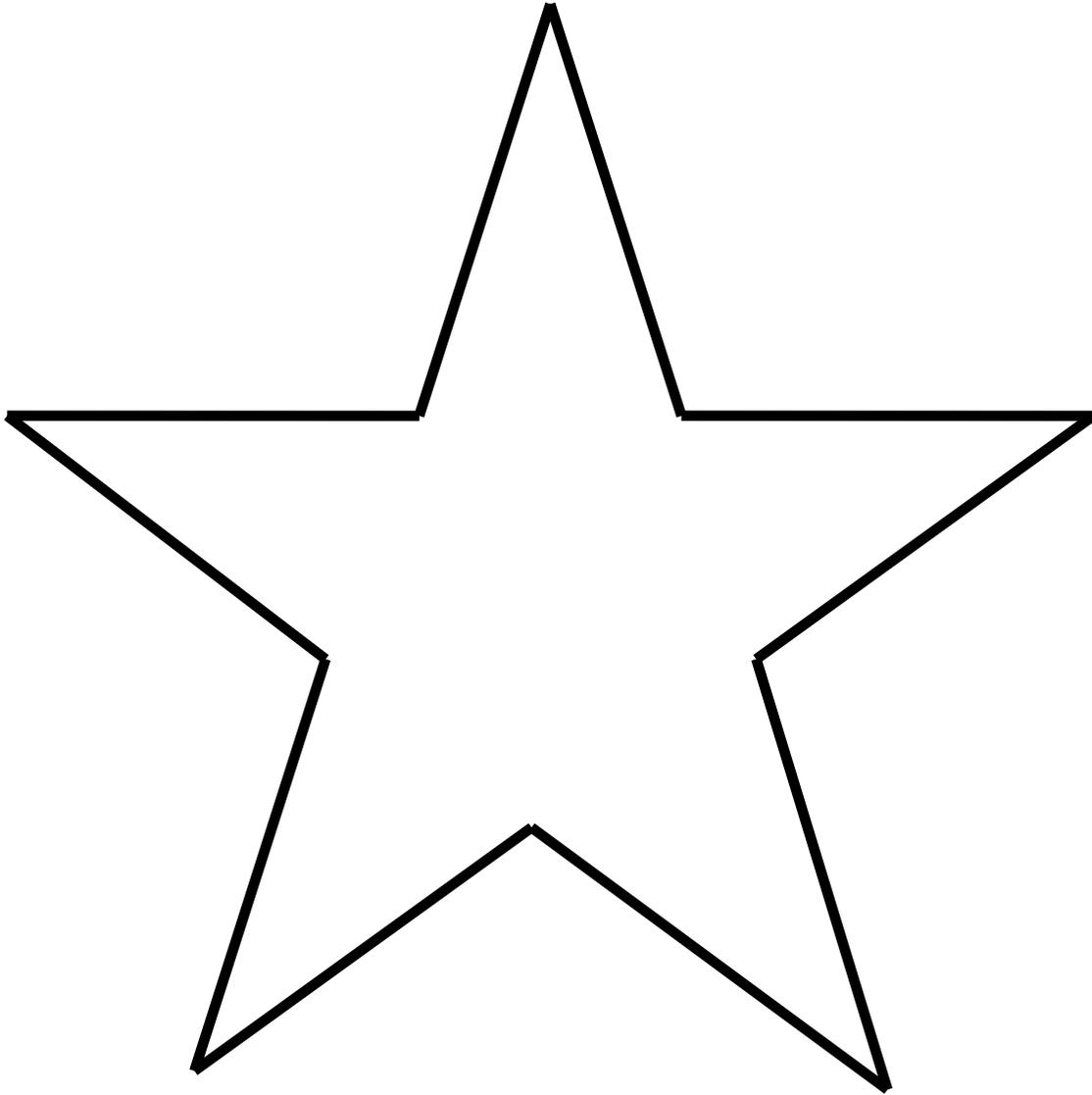
Instructions:

1. If possible, allow the children the opportunity to go outside and find some things from nature to use in their craft (see the list above). Or provide the materials for them.
2. Make sure each child has some piece of wood or bark they can use as the base of their craft.
3. Allow children to arrange the other items they chose on the bark/wood and glue them down. Then, children should write the Key Verse on a piece of paper and glue that on the wood as well.



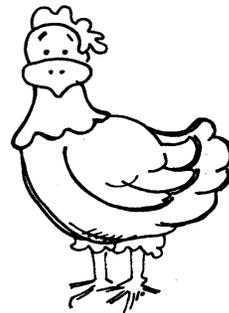
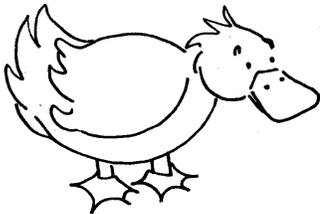
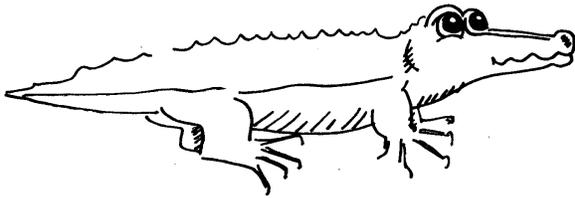
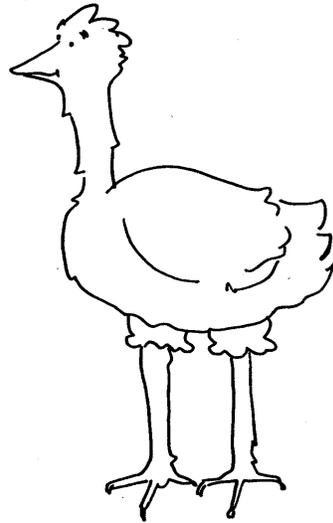
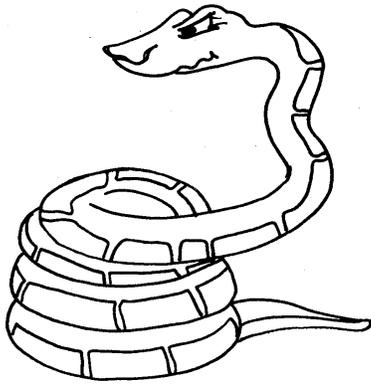
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ILLUSTRATION



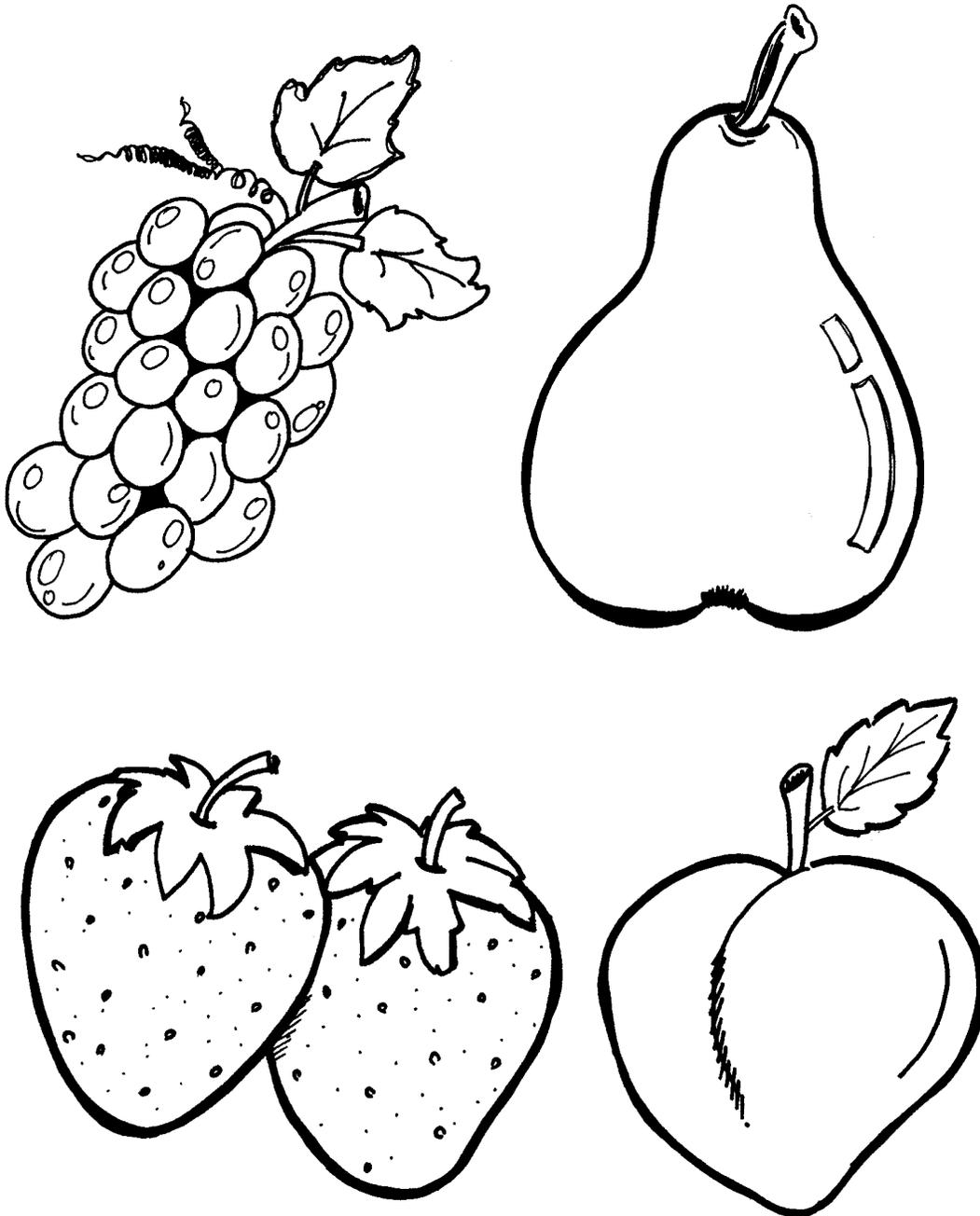
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ILLUSTRATIONS



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