

God cares about all of his creation.

**GENESIS | AFTERMATH | WEEK 4 OF 4** 

# **Creation Care**

### **GOD STORY**

God's Covenant Genesis 9

#### **KEY VERSES**

God, see what is in my heart...Help me live in the way that is always right. Psalm 139:23–24 (NIRV)

### **LEADER TIPS**

- When students join your group, introduce yourself and learn their names. The Conversation Starter is a great time to do this and make everyone feel welcome! Encourage the students to learn one another's names, too.
- Remember that being prepared allows for smoother transitions and a better overall experience for everyone.

# **My Story**

### 1 | CONVERSATION STARTER (7 minutes)

Chat about things the students have made or designed.

# 2 | INTRO ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Play a game of charades to highlight things that God created. Introduce this week's Big Idea.

# **God Story | Life Story**

# 3 | WEEKLY VIDEO (12 minutes)

Watch the video, which includes host, God Story, and Life Story segments. Recap and discuss the teaching.

# **My Story**

### 4 | APPLICATION ACTIVITY (12 minutes\*)

Read Psalm 8, then discuss the passage. Fill out a calendar with ideas for taking care of God's creation this week.

## 5 | WRAP-UP ACTIVITY (10 minutes)

Wrap up by praying together.

# **Our Story**

6 | **DISMISSAL** (2 minutes)

<sup>\*</sup>Extend as needed and adjust timing for other activities.



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# **My Story**

# 1 | Conversation Starter

#### **SUPPLIES**

None

### **LEADER TIP**

 Share your own answers first to get the ball rolling.

#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

- a. As the students arrive, greet them and gather everyone together.
- b. Ask: What have you made, built, or designed that you were the most excited about or proud of? Why?
- c. Depending on the size of your group, have the students share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.

# 2 | Intro Activity

### **SUPPLIES**

None

### **LEADER TIP**

 You could divide the students into two competing teams or play charades as individuals.

#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

- a. Gather everyone together.
- Explain that you're going to play a game of charades. The theme is "things God created." You'll whisper an item to a student, and they will act it out for everyone (or their team) to guess.
- c. Guide each student to take a turn acting out items such as rock, rabbit, snake, waterfall, tree, snail, star, bird, flower, turtle, and fish.
- d. For the final round, make the item a rainbow.
- e. To wrap up, introduce this week's Big Idea: **God** cares about all of his creation.



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# **God Story | Life Story**

# 3 | Weekly Video

#### **SUPPLIES**

Video file

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

- a. Play the video. It includes:
  - Host segment
  - God Story (God Story (God's Covenant, Genesis 9)
  - Life Story (Reptile Rob shows how God cares about all of his creation— from a tarantula to a tortoise!)
- b. Invite the students to give a quick recap of what happened in the God and Life Stories.
- c. Review:
  - What's the connection between these stories and today's Big Idea (God cares about all of his creation)?
  - What are the Key Verses for this series? (Psalm 139:23–24)

# **My Story**

# 4 | Application Activity

### **SUPPLIES**

- Bibles
- God Cares activity pages
- Pens

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

- a. Make sure everyone has access to a Bible.
- b. Guide the students to look up Psalm 8. Start by showing them the table of contents. Find the page number where the book begins. Flip to it and explain that the large numbers are chapters. Find chapter 8.
- c. Lead everyone to read aloud the first sentence together ("Lord, our Lord...").
- d. Invite the group to close their eyes and focus as you keep reading.
- e. Read the rest of the passage slowly and expressively. Prompt everyone to join you in reading the final verse out loud together.
- f. Discuss: What stood out to you in Psalm 8?
- g. Re-read verse 6, then discuss:
  - What do you think this verse means?
  - How do you think Jesus would "rule" over things like animals and plants?
  - How should we treat God's creation?
- h. Give each person an activity page.
- i. Place the pens where everyone can reach them.
- j. Review the page with the students.
- k. Direct them to come up with a new idea for each day of the week (e.g., clean up litter in my neighbourhood or join a recycling team at school) and write it on the page. If they need help with ideas, brainstorm together as a group.



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# **My Story**

# 5 | Wrap-Up Activity

#### **SUPPLIES**

None

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

- a. Gather everyone to sit together.
- b. Ask if anyone has something they'd like to pray about.
- c. Encourage the students to do the praying, but don't force anyone if they don't want to do it.
- d. To wrap up, pray that each person in your group would grow in their care for God's creation, including how we care for one another, and how we care for plants, animals, and the earth.

# **Our Story**

# 6 | Dismissal

### **SUPPLIES**

- Take-home cards
- Key Verses cards

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

- a. Take a few moments to pray for the students if you have not already done so.
- b. Remind everyone about any upcoming events or relevant announcements.
- c. Make sure the students have all their take-home materials.
- d. Ensure the adult teaching is over before dismissing the students.