

# Be Kind TO NATURE!

Session 2 – Minis ages 4 –7



Caretakers of God's Creation

Consistory Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry  
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA



## What will students learn?

Objective: Youth will rediscover the Genesis telling of creation, contemplate their place within that story and the inter-connectedness within His creation. Youth will begin to understand their role as caretakers as Christians.

## How long will it take & ages?

30 minutes and youth ages 4 –7



## What do you need?

- Video
- Mini photo albums
- craft paper, glue sticks, gems, colored pencils, stickers
- Creation Icons found at <https://www.uocyouth.org/caretakersofgodscreation>



## For Session Leader

**Opening:** Start by singing, *He's got the Whole World in His Hands*. You can also watch the video for fun!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kDBJNQiugnM>

Watch the video of the book reading, *Celebrate the Earth: Psalm 104* by Dorrie Papademetriou read by Denise Strashinsky. Video may be found in the Creation Icon folder.

**Discussion:** Ask the children:

- What do they see in nature?
- Do they know that God created everything...including them?
- What does it mean to take care of something? What does it mean to not take care of something? Can they give examples?

Adapted for use from Caretakers of God's Creation  
Curriculum 2001 UOC Office of Youth Ministry

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**Praxis:** Give each child a photo album and icons for the first four days of creation. Look at each icon. Have a larger version of each. Let the children point out what they see in each "day" icon. Discuss how God created everything with a special purpose, nothing was random or unimportant. At the end of each day, God look at what He created and said it was good!

Let them glue their icon onto a piece of craft paper. They may decorate it. Help them write Day 1, 2, 3, or 4 at the top. They can illuminate or decorate around the icon if they choose. When complete they will slip into their photo album.

**Taking it Home!:** Send their photo albums home. Ask for the families to either take photos of things in nature that were created on each day to add to the book. For example: water, heavens, plants, etc. The families will be asked to bring the photo album back for the next session to share.

## Wrapping it Up!



### Activities for the Month:

1. Visit a local planetarium. Prior to arriving, watch the story video again *Celebrate the Earth*, and look at this icons. Discuss the beauty of God's heavens. Learn about the ranks of angels. Have the youth put together an informative display for the parish about the ranks of angels.
2. Visit your local botanic garden or conservatory. Prior to arriving, watch the story video again *Celebrate the Earth*. Look at the creation icon for this. Take copies of the Creation Icons with you and see what similarities you may find.
3. Organize the youth to rake leaves for the elderly in the parish or your community. For smaller children, maybe deliver some fall flowers to older parishioners. Discuss the need to take care of the earth and each other – strengthening their "people" ecosystems. —
4. Proceed in helping the youth to build a terrarium. Using a large glass jar or bottle. Ask the youth what they think should be added to the terrarium. Have the youth observe the ecological changes that occur within the terrarium. Discuss ways the elements in the terrariums are interdependent. Keep the terrariums at the parish for future projects and discussion.

**Prayer.** Finish the session in prayer. You could take sections of the Akathist Glory to God for All Things and use it through out the year at each of your session. You can find it downloadable here <https://www.stvladimirpgh.org/files/112620-akathist.pdf>