

Leave PEOPLE & THINGS BETTER THAN YOU FOUND THEM!



Caretakers of God's Creation

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



Session 2 - Minis ages 4-7

What will students learn?

Objective: Youth will discover 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.

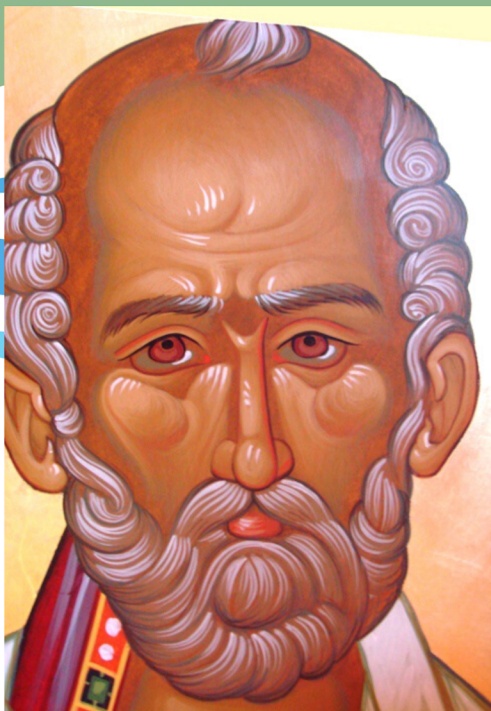
How long will it take & ages?

30 minutes and youth ages 4-7



What do you need?

- Bible
- Mini photo albums
- Craft paper, glue sticks, gems, colored pencils stickers
- Creation Icons found at <https://www.uocyouth.org/caretakersofgod>
- Icon of St. Nicholas found in folder



For Session Leader

Opening: Watch the Video about St. Nicholas from Answer for Orthodox Kids. You may want to skip the first 30 seconds. <https://youtu.be/FasRgIcBROo>

Discussion: Ask the children:

- We have been learning about being good caretakers, how as St. Nicholas a good caretaker of those around him?
- St. Nicholas also helped many other people like sailors and the poor people in his town. He also protected the Christian faith. By doing so he was a caretaker of ALL of us!
- Ask the children, how can they be like St. Nicholas and be good caretakers of creation and the people and world around them?

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

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Session 3 – Minis Youth ages 4 – 7

Praxis: Have the children add to their photo albums an icon for the fifth day of creation. Look at each icon. Have a larger version of each. Let the children point out what they see in the 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! Now let them choose an icon of St. Nicholas. Help them write his name on the top of their paper and write caretaker.

Let them glue their icon onto a piece of craft paper. They may decorate it. Help them write Day 5 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: birds, animals, fish. 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. The older youth have discussed preparation for the Nativity of our Lord and its' importance concerning the creation of man and the birth of Christ. Advent/St. Phillip's Fast is a time of fasting, preparation and missions. If we are made in the image of God – how could we help our fellow man during this time of fasting? The older youth brainstormed charitable projects to take part in or initiate and in doing so reflecting the image of God. Provide the youth with possible suggestions such as donating time or items to a local youth hostile, elderly center or halfway house. Ask your mini's for ideas – you may be surprised with what they come up with! Find appropriate ways for them to be included in the outreach.

2. Perhaps help your youth organize a trip to visit your parish elderly/shut ins. You can bring them gift baskets with some essentials and treats. You could also contact a local elderly center or retirement home. You can make a visit to sing carols, bring treats, or just visit! Call ahead and ask what their residents are in need of.

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

