Caretakers OF OURSELVES & OTHERS!



Caretakers of God's Creation

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



Session 3 - 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
- My Creation Book from Happy Home Fairy https://happyhomefairy.com/creationbook-free-printable/



For Session Leader

Opening: Watch the video teaching the Creation Song which you will use later. https://youtu.be/oc9uUAVwUbw

Discussion: Ask the children:

- We have been learning about being good caretakers, first let's talk about what God created!
- Can you name things that God made? Let's look at the icons that show God creating the universe. What do you see?
- How does God want us to be caretakers of everything He has made? How can we be better caretakers of the people around us?
- God created people, US, to be like Him. We are created "in His Image". What do you think that means?

Let's learn more about how God created everything!

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

Caretakers OF OURSELVES & OTHERS!



Caretakers of God's Creation

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



Session 3 - Minis Youth ages 4 - 7

Praxis: Have the children add to their photo albums an icon for the final days 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!

Let them glue their icon onto a piece of craft paper. They may decorate it . Help them write Days 6 & 7 at the top. They can illuminate or decorate around the icon if they choose. When complete they will slip into their photo album.

You can use this next section together or send home for families! Begin passing out the papers for My Creation Book. You can work on this in the coming weeks. The children may add a copy of the icon to each page in addition to the directives for the book.

Taking it Home!: Send their photo albums home. Ask for the families to either take photos of things for the last two days. The could include family photos! 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 how we are called to be caretakers of ourselves and others. The older youth brainstormed ways they can be better caretakers of people and in doing so reflecting the image of God. Provide the children with suggestions then 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.
- 3. Have your mini's make cards for people to show God's love. Help them with any writing that they want to add. They could color/make cards for you parish priest and his family or for the elderly of your parish.

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. For minis - teach them the refrain Glory to God for All Things. Perhaps only do one Kathisma and Stanza with them at each session.