

April Creation

Learn what God made on day 7.

Day 7— Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them were finished. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had done; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done. Then God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made. *Genesis 2:1-3*

(Begin with the circles 1-6 on the board) As the sun goes down on the sixth day of creation week, the stars come out and all nature is bathed in brilliant moonlight. We must remember that when God counts days, Each one begins and ends at sundown. So this is the beginning of the 7th day. Adam and Eve are enjoying their first evening together. Then out of the beauty of the night comes a majestic voice—it is the voice of God. He tells them how He created everything: first, the light and air, then the dry land and all the plants. He tells them about making all the sea creatures, birds and land animals. How their hearts must be overflowing with love, when God tells them that he has prepared it all for them. Then God tells them that this day, the 7th day, is to be a holy day. He had created everything in six days, and now, on the seventh day, He and they will rest together. God does not rest because He is tired, for God does not get tired, He rests because He has finished His perfect work of creation, and wants to enjoy it. He also wants to set an example for Adam and Eve to follow. In the morning as the rising sun awakens them from their first night's sleep, Adam and Eve are perfectly happy. They eat some of the lovely fruit in the garden, and then they again hear the voice of God calling them. The three of them spend the day together, enjoying all the wonderful things in their new home. They are thrilled to walk through the garden with the Creator. Some of the animals gather around. If the animals love Adam and Eve, they love the creator even more. It is a wonderful day of rest and worship and talking to God. Adam and Eve will remember it all of their lives. God wants every Sabbath to be happy like that one, where we can rest and worship and talk to God. And all these many years later, all who keep the Sabbath holy will find a blessing in it that others will never know. God blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart, not for himself, but for all the people of the world. It was a wonderful gift that God gave to all of us. Now let's learn about one of the animals God made.



Teaching Aids Needed:

Creation Circles 1-7

Child Guidance Chap. Seventy-Nine - Sabbath--The Day of Delight

Prevalent Disregard for the Sabbath.--I have been shown that very many of the parents who profess to believe the solemn message for this time have not trained their children for God. They have not restrained themselves and have been irritated with anyone who attempted to restrain them. They have not by living faith daily bound their children upon the altar of the Lord. Many of these youth have been allowed to transgress the Fourth Commandment, by seeking their own pleasure upon God's holy day. They have felt no compunctions of conscience in going about the streets on the Sabbath for their own amusement. Many go where they please, and do what they please; and their parents are so fearful of displeasing them that, imitating the management of Eli, they lay no commands upon them. These youth finally lose all respect for the Sabbath and have no relish for religious meetings or for sacred and eternal things.

Heed First Word of the Fourth Commandment.--"Remember" is placed at the very first of the Fourth Commandment. Parents, you need to remember the Sabbath day yourselves to keep it holy. And if you do this, you are giving the proper instruction to your children; they will reverence God's holy day. . . . Christian education is needed in your homes. All through the week keep the Lord's holy Sabbath in view, for that day is to be devoted to the service of God. It is a day when the hands are to rest from worldly employment, when the soul's needs are to receive especial attention. When the Sabbath is thus remembered, the temporal will not be allowed to encroach upon the spiritual. No duty pertaining to the six working days will be left for the Sabbath. During the week our energies will not be so exhausted in temporal labor that on the day when the Lord rested and was refreshed, we shall be too weary to engage in His service.

Make Friday the Preparation Day.--On Friday let the preparation for the Sabbath be completed. See that all the clothing is in readiness, and that all the cooking is done. Let the boots be blacked, and the baths be taken. It is possible to do this. If you make it a rule, you can do it. The Sabbath is not to be given to the repairing of garments, to the cooking of food, to pleasure seeking, or to any other worldly employment. Before the setting of the sun, let all secular work be laid aside, and all secular papers be put out of sight. Parents, explain your work and its purpose to your children, and let them share in your preparation to keep the Sabbath according to the commandment. In many families on Sabbath boots and shoes are blacked and brushed, and stitches are taken, all because these little odds and ends were not done on Friday. They did not "remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." . . . On Friday the clothing of the children is to be looked after. During the week they should be all laid out by their own hands under the direction of the mother, so that they can dress quietly, without any confusion or rushing about and hasty speeches. There is another work that should receive attention on the preparation day. On this day all differences between brethren, whether in the family or in the church, should be put away.

The Sabbath Opens With the Family at Worship.-- Before the setting of the sun, let the members of the family assemble to read God's Word, to sing and pray. There is need of reform here, for many have been remiss. We need to confess to God and to one another. We should begin anew to make special arrangements that every member of the family may be prepared to honor the day which God has blessed and sanctified.

Sabbath Hours Not Ours but God's.--God has given us the whole of six days in which to do our work, and has reserved only one to Himself. This should be a day of blessing to us--a day when we should lay aside all our secular matters and center our thoughts upon God and heaven. When the Sabbath commences, we should place a guard upon ourselves, upon our acts and our words, lest we rob God by appropriating to our own use that time which is strictly the Lord's. We should not do ourselves, nor suffer our children to do, any manner of our own work for a livelihood or anything which could have been done on the six working days. Friday is the day of preparation. Time can then be devoted to making the necessary preparation for the Sabbath and to thinking and conversing about it. Nothing which will in the sight of Heaven be regarded as a violation of the holy Sabbath should be left unsaid or undone, to be said or done upon the Sabbath. God requires not only that we refrain from physical labor upon the Sabbath, but that the mind be disciplined to dwell upon sacred themes. The Fourth Commandment is virtually transgressed by conversing upon worldly things or by engaging in light and trifling conversation. Talking upon anything or everything which may come into the mind is speaking our own words. Every deviation from right brings us into bondage and condemnation.

Sabbath Time Too Precious to Sleep Away.--None should permit themselves, through the week, to become so absorbed in their temporal interests, and so exhausted by their efforts for worldly gain, that on the Sabbath they have no strength or energy to give to the service of God. We are robbing the Lord when we unfit ourselves to worship Him upon His holy day. And we are robbing ourselves as well; for we need the warmth and glow of association, as well as the strength to be gained from the wisdom and experience of

other Christians. Let not the precious hours of the Sabbath be wasted in bed. On Sabbath morning the family should be astir early. If they rise late, there is confusion and bustle in preparing for breakfast and Sabbath school. There is hurrying, jostling, and impatience. Thus unholy feelings come into the home. The Sabbath, thus desecrated, becomes a weariness, and its coming is dreaded rather than loved.

Attend Public Worship With Children.--Fathers and mothers should make it a rule that their children attend public worship on the Sabbath, and should enforce the rule by their own example. It is our duty to command our children and our household after us, as did Abraham. By example as well as precept we should impress upon them the importance of religious teaching. All who have taken the baptismal vow have solemnly consecrated themselves to the service of God; they are under covenant obligation to place themselves and their children where they may obtain all possible incentives and encouragement in the Christian life. But while we worship God, we are not to consider this a drudgery. The Sabbath of the Lord is to be made a blessing to us and to our children. They are to look upon the Sabbath as a day of delight, a day which God has sanctified; and they will so consider it if they are properly instructed.

Wear Comely Garments for the House of Worship.--Many need instruction as to how they should appear in the assembly for worship on the Sabbath. They are not to enter the presence of God in the common clothing worn during the week. All should have a special Sabbath suit, to be worn when attending service in God's house. While we should not conform to worldly fashions, we are not to be indifferent in regard to our outward appearance. We are to be neat and trim, though without adornment. The children of God should be pure within and without.

Explain Sabbath Sermon to the Children.--Ministers are engaged in a sacred, solemn work, but upon those who hear rests just as sacred a responsibility. They are to hear with a determination to follow the instruction that all must practice who gain eternal life. Each hearer should strive to understand each presentation of Bible truth as God's message to him, to be received by faith and put into practice in the daily life. Parents should explain to their children the words spoken from the pulpit, that they also may understand and have that knowledge which if put into practice brings abundant grace and peace.

Provide Special Treat for Mealtime.--We should not provide for the Sabbath a more liberal supply or a greater variety of food than for other days. Instead of this the food should be more simple, and less should be eaten, in order that the mind may be clear and vigorous to comprehend spiritual things. Overeating befores the brain. The most precious words may be heard and not appreciated, because the mind is confused by an improper diet. By overeating on the Sabbath, many have done more than they think to dishonor God. While cooking upon the Sabbath should be avoided, it is not necessary to eat cold food. In cold weather let the food prepared the day before be heated. And let the meals, though simple, be palatable and attractive. Provide something that will be regarded as a treat, something the family do not have every day.

The Rest of the Day Is Precious.--The Sabbath school and the meeting for worship occupy only a part of the Sabbath. The portion remaining to the family may be made the most sacred and precious season of all the Sabbath hours. Much of this time parents should spend with their children.

Plan Suitable Reading and Conversation.--The Sabbath--oh!--make it the sweetest, the most blessed day of the week. Parents can and should give attention to their children, reading to them the most attractive portions of Bible history, educating them to reverence the Sabbath day, keeping it according to the commandment. This cannot be done if the parents feel no burden to interest their children. But they can make the Sabbath a delight if they will take the proper course. The children can be interested in good reading or in conversation about the salvation of their souls. But they will have to be educated and trained. The natural heart does not love to think of God, of heaven, or of heavenly things. There must be a continual pressing back of the current of worldliness and inclination to evil and a letting in of heavenly light. {CG 532.5}

Not Indifferent to Children's Activities.--I have found that on the Sabbath day many are indifferent and do not know where their children are or what they are doing. Parents, above everything take care of your children upon the Sabbath. Do not suffer them to violate God's holy day by playing in the house or out-of-doors. You may just as well break the Sabbath yourselves as to let your children do it, and when you suffer your children to wander about and suffer them to play upon the Sabbath, God looks upon you as Sabbathbreakers.

Out-of-doors With the Children.--The parents may take their children outdoors to view God in nature. They can be pointed to the blooming flowers and the opening buds, the lofty trees and beautiful spires of grass, and taught that God made all these in six days and rested on the seventh day and hallowed it. Thus the parents may bind up their lessons of instruction to their children, so that when these children look upon the things of nature, they will call to mind the great Creator of them all. Their thoughts will be carried up to nature's God-- back to the creation of our world, when the foundation of the Sabbath was laid, and all the sons

of God shouted for joy. Such are the lessons to be impressed on the minds of our children. We are not to teach our children that they must not be happy on the Sabbath, that it is wrong to walk out-of-doors. Oh, no. Christ led His disciples out by the lakeside on the Sabbath day and taught them. His sermons on the Sabbath were not always preached within enclosed walls.

Other Lessons From Nature--Object Lessons.-- Teach the children to see Christ in nature. Take them out into the open air, under the noble trees, into the garden; and in all the wonderful works of creation teach them to see an expression of His love. Teach them that He made the laws which govern all living things, that He has made laws for us, and that these laws are for our happiness and joy. Do not weary them with long prayers and tedious exhortations, but through nature's object lessons teach them obedience to the law of God.

Give True Concept of God's Character.--How can children receive a more correct knowledge of God, and their minds be better impressed, than in spending a portion of their time out-of-doors, not in play, but in company with their parents? Let their young minds be associated with God in the beautiful scenery of nature; let their attention be called to the tokens of His love to man in His created works, and they will be attracted and interested. They will not be in danger of associating the character of God with everything that is stern and severe; but as they view the beautiful things which He has created for the happiness of man, they will be led to regard Him as a tender, loving Father. They will see that His prohibitions and injunctions are not made merely to show His power and authority, but that He has the happiness of His children in view. As the character of God puts on the aspect of love, benevolence, beauty, and attraction, they are drawn to love Him. You can direct their minds to the lovely birds making the air musical with their happy songs, to the spires of grass and the gloriously tinted flowers in their perfection perfuming the air. All these proclaim the love and skill of the heavenly Artist and show forth the glory of God. Parents, why not make use of the precious lessons which God has given us in the book of nature, to give our children a correct idea of His character? Those who sacrifice simplicity to fashion and shut themselves away from the beauties of nature cannot be spiritually minded. They cannot understand the skill and power of God as revealed in His created works; therefore their hearts do not quicken and throb with new love and interest, and they are not filled with awe and reverence as they see God in nature.

A Day to Live the Life of Eden.--The value of the Sabbath as a means of education is beyond estimate. Whatever of ours God claims from us, He returns again, enriched, transfigured, with His own glory. . . . The Sabbath and the family were alike instituted in Eden, and in God's purpose they are indissolubly linked together. On this day more than on any other, it is possible for us to live the life of Eden. It was God's plan for the members of the family to be associated in work and study, in worship and recreation, the father as priest of his household, and both father and mother as teachers and companions of their children. But the results of sin, having changed the conditions of life, to a great degree prevent this association. Often the father hardly sees the faces of his children throughout the week. He is almost wholly deprived of opportunity for companionship or instruction. But God's love has set a limit to the demands of toil. Over the Sabbath He places His merciful hand. In His own day He preserves for the family opportunity for communion with Him, with nature, and with one another.

Make the Sabbath a Delight.--All who love God should do what they can to make the Sabbath a delight, holy and honorable. They cannot do this by seeking their own pleasure in sinful, forbidden amusements. Yet they can do much to exalt the Sabbath in their families and make it the most interesting day of the week. We should devote time to interesting our children. A change will have a happy influence upon them. We can walk out with them in the open air; we can sit with them in the groves and in the bright sunshine, and give their restless minds something to feed upon by conversing with them upon the works of God, and can inspire them with love and reverence by calling their attention to the beautiful objects in nature. The Sabbath should be made so interesting to our families that its weekly return will be hailed with joy. In no better way can parents exalt and honor the Sabbath than by devising means to impart proper instruction to their families and interesting them in spiritual things, giving them correct views of the character of God and what He requires of us in order to perfect Christian characters and attain to eternal life. Parents, make the Sabbath a delight, that your children may look forward to it and have a welcome in their hearts for it.

A Fitting Climax in Prayer and Song.--As the sun goes down, let the voice of prayer and the hymn of praise mark the close of the sacred hours, and invite God's presence through the cares of the week of labor. Thus parents can make the Sabbath, as it should be, the most joyful day of the week. They can lead their children to regard it as a delight, the day of days, the holy of the Lord, honorable.

April Animal

Learn About an Insect and its sound

Field cricket (Blue tab)

Using the book, *Night Sounds* by Frank Gallo, Read the clue:

I'm not a bird, but I chirp all night
And I live under leaves and logs.
What am I?

Pull the tab and show the animal. Then, listen to the its sound. (blue button)

Use the additional text to learn more about the Cricket.

(It is copied here for ease of use so the children can look at the book while you teach them.)

Late in the spring and all summer long, listen for the "Chirp, chirp, chirp" of field crickets singing at night. Some people thing the sound is so sweet that they keep crickets as pets!

To make his chirping sound, a male field cricket raises his wing covers and rubs the upper one over a file on the lower one. If you find a singing cricked, sit quietly and try to watch its wings. They move very quickly, and the high sounds they make are quick, too. Male field crickets chirp even faster when it's hot or when another male comes near.

A female field cricket uses a hollow needle-like part of her body to make a hole in the earth and lays her eggs underground in the fall. The eggs will hatch in the spring.

Baby field crickets, called nymphs, have very small wings when they're born, but they can't use them yet. They have to shed their skin to grow. Their wings get bigger each time they shed.



Teaching Aids Needed:

Book: *Bird Calls* by Frank Gallo

April

Award Time

Left and Right 1,5,6, 9

6. Learn which hand you write with.

Give each child a piece of paper and a pencil, crayon or marker. Ask the to draw or write something. Then point out which hand they are using.

9. Who wanted to sit on the right and left of Jesus?

Read Story # 12 " Mrs. Zebedee's Mistake" from *The Bible Story* Volume 8 pp. 94-97

5. Practice marching with left and right feet.

Have each child mark their left hand and foot in some way. Call cadence as the march (left, --left, -- left, right, left) Encourage the children to step with the left foot when you call left. This will be an interesting time and most of the children will probably not be able to do it.

1. Play Simon says using left and right.

Have the children stand in a strait line. Then call out an action for the children to follow. It can be anything using left and right, such as wave your right hand, or stand on your left foot. Explain to the children that you must say "Simon says," for everyone to follow the instructions. When you give an action without saying "Simon says" they are not to do the action. Whoever does it, has to go to the end of the line. Also if they don't do the proper left or right they will also go to the end of the line.

Teaching Aids Needed:

Paper, pencils or markers, stickers or other way to mark hands and feet. *The Bible Story* Vol 8

April

God Made Me

8. Learn why we need to sleep.

Preschoolers typically sleep 11-13 hours each night and most do not nap after five years of age. As with toddlers, difficulty falling asleep and waking up during the night are common. With further development of imagination, preschoolers commonly experience nighttime fears and nightmares. In addition, sleepwalking and sleep terrors peak during preschool years.

Sleep Tips for Preschoolers

- Maintain a regular and consistent sleep schedule.
 - Have a relaxing bedtime routine that ends in the room where the child sleeps.
- Child should sleep in the same sleeping environment every night, in a room that is cool, quiet and dark - and without a TV.

Sleep is a natural part of everybody's life, but many people know very little about how important it is, and some even try to get by with little sleep. Sleep is something our bodies need to do; it is not an option. Even though the exact reasons for sleep remain a mystery, we do know that during sleep many of the body's major organ and regulatory systems continue to work actively. Some parts of the brain actually increase their activity dramatically, and the body produces more of certain hormones.

Sleep, like diet and exercise, is important for our minds and bodies to function normally. In fact, sleep appears to be required for survival. Rats deprived of sleep die within two to three weeks, a time frame similar to death due to starvation.

An internal biological clock regulates the timing for sleep. It programs each person to feel sleepy during the nighttime hours and to be active during the daylight hours. Light is the cue that synchronizes the biological clock to the 24-hour cycle of day and night. Release of growth hormones in children and young adults takes place during deep sleep. Most cells of the body show increased production and reduced breakdown of proteins during deep sleep. Sleep helps humans maintain optimal emotional and social functioning while awake by giving rest during sleep to the parts of the brain that control emotions and social interactions.

Read the above information as background and then talk to the children about the importance of sleep.

Teaching Aids Needed:

April

Memory Verse

Psalm 24:1

"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it."

The parent should have taught this verse at home.

Your job is just to test the verse.

Bible Discovery

5. Learn the names of the first 5 books of the New Testament.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts

Using flash cards, review the books above. Pronunciation should be easier for these.

7. Learn the names of the Jesus' three special friends

Peter, James & John

Tell the children that Jesus had 12 Disciples, but three of them were closer to Him than the others.

Teaching Aids Needed:

Bible, Bible flash cards

MATTHEW

MARK

LUKE

JOHN

ACTS

STORY 12

Mrs. Zebedee's Mistake

© 2014 by David C. Cook

THE BIBLE tells a good deal about the twelve disciples who followed Jesus, but it doesn't say much about their homes and families.

We know that Peter was married, for his "wife's mother" once had a fever and Jesus healed her.

But that's about all, except for Mrs. Zebedee, the mother of James and John. She at least got her name in print, if none of the others did. And that because of a dreadful mistake she made.

Like all mothers she was eager to see her children succeed. She wanted the best for her two precious boys, and there was nothing wrong about that.

When she heard that James and John were going about with the great Teacher of Galilee she was very glad, for she was sure He was a good man and would be a help to them.

As thousands flocked to Him, and it seemed certain that

MRS. ZEBEDEE'S MISTAKE

He would become king of Israel some day, a bright idea came to her. Next time she found Jesus alone she would whisper a word in His ear about her sons. Perhaps He hadn't noticed how very suitable they were to hold high positions in His coming kingdom. They were really outstanding, much better qualified than the others, and He should know about it in good time.

Her chance came at last.

Finding Jesus alone she went up to Him, with James and John, looking a bit sheepish no doubt, not far behind.

Kneeling, she told Jesus how much she thought of Him and His noble work, and how glad she was that He had chosen her two dear boys to be among His closest followers. She hoped they were giving Him all the help they should and,



THE BIBLE STORY

well, there was just one thing she would like to mention.

“What do you want?” asked Jesus kindly.

Looking around to make sure no one was listening, she whispered, eagerly, “Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on Thy right hand, and the other on the left, in Thy kingdom.”

Jesus did not scold her. Perhaps He smiled at her, but there was sadness in His smile. He could see she did not in the least understand His kingdom nor what it was going to cost those who believed in it.

Turning to James and John, He asked them whether they thought they could share His future, whatever it might be.

“Oh, yes,” they said eagerly. “We are able.”

“You shall,” said Jesus, “but to sit on My right hand, and on My left, is not Mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of My Father.”

A little later the whole story reached the ears of the other disciples. How, we don't know, but the best-kept secrets have a way of getting out.

The ten were angry. To think that Mrs. Zebedee would do a thing like this! they muttered to each other. Pushing her own children, that's what it was! Trying to cut the rest out! And they had worked just as hard, or harder, to set up the Master's kingdom.

Jesus knew what was going on. They couldn't have hidden their ugly thoughts from Him if they had tried. So He called them to Him and told them that it was time they all understood what kind of kingdom they were working for.

MRS. ZEBEDEE'S MISTAKE

In worldly kingdoms, He reminded them, rulers lord it over people, with big men bossing little men and demanding obedience: but this was not His way. In His kingdom love, and love alone, ruled. Love was the key to promotion and the chief offices were for those who served most humbly and unselfishly.

“Whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister,” He said; “and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Though many have forgotten what He said that day, this is still the way His kingdom is run—and will be, through all eternity.

