

Thank You, God, for Spring

Text: Deuteronomy 11:14-15 and Acts 14:17

Aim: To teach that God controls the seasons and gives us spring.



Preparation

Read Deuteronomy 11:14-15 and Acts 14:17. Answer the following questions:

- Who controls the seasons? (Deuteronomy 11:14-15)
- How does God care for us? (Acts 14:17)
- What can we learn about God from these two passages?

Think about what you enjoy about spring e.g. blossoms, lambs, caterpillars, warmer weather, picnics. Think about the children you teach and how they experience spring.

Pray that the children you teach would understand that God is in control of the seasons.



Visual Aids

Before your lesson, gather the following visual aids:

- Pictures or items of various things to do with spring e.g. toddlers playing in the sunshine; spring flowers; blossoms; children wearing clothes for warmer weather; a sun hat; sandals; lambs; a nest with eggs/baby birds; seasonal fruit.



Lesson

Talk to the children about spring. Describe what happens at spring time. It comes after the very cold weather in winter. Blossoms start to bloom; grass turns green; trees get new leaves; it gets warmer, etc.

Show the children the pictures and items to do with spring, each time telling them that God gives us these things and makes the seasons. Every time it's spring we remember that God is still looking after this world and caring for us and all the animals.

Ask them to think of some of the things they like about spring - chat about these things.

Talk about the need to thank God for giving us spring.

Activity

Choose either Activity A or Activity B.

Activity A - Make a pot of flowers. Print Activity A-1 from the Media section of this webpage onto paper (one copy for every two children), and cut out the cup holders. The children decorate their cup holder and glue it around the outside of a paper cup.

Give each child a few cupcake cases. Help them attach the cupcake cases to green flexible straws/pipe cleaners/tightly rolled green paper using sticky tape.

They can make leaves by folding green cupcake cases in half and flattening them or you could provide them with leaves cut from Activity A-2 printed on green paper. Attach these along the stem. When each child has made three to five they can place their flowers in their paper cup.



Activity B - Make a bird's nest picture. Print Activity B onto paper for each child. The children colour the picture. You could also provide them with twigs or raffia to paste onto the picture for the nest. Feathers could also be pasted onto the birds.

Game Idea

Option 1: Play Spring Dominoes. Before the lesson, print a copy of the Game Idea from the Media section of this webpage onto card and colour in the pictures. Lay out the dominoes faceup in front of the children and let them take turns to pick up a matching picture and place it alongside another. They work as a team to use up all the dominoes in a continuous line.

Option 2: Dramatic Spring. Get all the children to crouch down on the floor in a tight ball. When you play some appropriate music (like Vivaldi's 'Spring'), or the sound of birds tweeting, then the children must pretend to be flowers growing up from out of the ground. They can also dance around the room or pretend to be butterflies. When the music stops, they must crouch back down until they hear the music again. The children may need some guidance so demonstrate what they should do before you start the game.

Reinforcement

Print the Reinforcement Slip page from the Media section of this webpage and give one slip to each child to take home. This will encourage parents to reinforce today's lesson. Alternatively, you could copy the text below and edit as appropriate for your context. This can then be printed or emailed to parents.

Today your child learned to thank God for spring.

To reinforce this lesson this week:

1. Is it spring now where you live? Could you point out things in your garden or in a park that show it's spring? You might need to find spring pictures in a magazine and compare them with whatever season you are in right now.
2. Ask your child to close their eyes and think of something they really like about spring? What is it? Why do they like it? Ask them who made spring? Does spring happen every year?
3. Encourage them to pray and thank God for spring and some of the lovely things we only see in the springtime.