

Advent Lesson #2 12/4

Neil's Passage: Colossians 1:16-20

Neil's Context/Message: Jesus is before all things and in Him, all things are held together. He has reconciled all things to Himself and made peace with His blood.

Application: Jesus is the reconciler and uniter of all things. Through Jesus, we are once more reconciled to God and reconciled to each other. One day, we await the re-creation of the New Heavens and Earth where Jesus will reign as the firstborn and ruler, where peace will reign.

Children's Focus Passage: Colossians 1:20

Children's Focus Lesson: Genesis 1&2 Creation! Everything was created by God (the full trinity in the garden) for His glory. God created the earth and will one day again re-create the new heavens and the new earth. He is also the head of the church. He is the pre-eminent (first place). We receive reconciliation through the blood of the cross.

Younger Kids Advent Activities

K-2nd Activity 1: CREATED THINGS FACE-OFF No Supplies Needed

Form two lines of kids. Invite the first kid in each line to step forward and face each other. Name a category (Examples: *fruits, birds, fish, mammals, nuts*). The kid who thinks of a fitting item first will say the item. The other kid will have 15 seconds to name a different item that also fits the category.

If she is successful, the first kid must now think of a third item. The first kid who is unable to think of an item is out.

Select the next kids from each team and play again with a new category. Play until all kids have had a turn.

SAY: *"It's hard to think of all the things*

God created, especially in a pinch! Imagine how amazing God must be to have created

all those things out of nothing! God didn't just remember them, but created them out

of nothing at all. Not even the idea of a fruit existed until God thought of it. We'll talk more about that soon."

Activity 2: SORT AND SEPARATE

Supplies Needed:

6 large packs of buttons (variety)

6 large packs of rhinestones (variety)

Form groups of four or five kids. Provide each group with assorted buttons or another manipulative. Challenge the groups to sort their buttons according to color. Then, ask them to separate the sorted piles based on a secondary attribute, such as shape or size. Continue to add additional attributes to further separate the piles.

SAY: *"Good job sorting and separating those buttons. Keeping things organized is a helpful habit. We see organization all over God's creation. In fact, the first verses of Genesis tell us about God's creating opposite things then separating them—like light from darkness and oceans from dry land. God did much more than just separate things; He also filled the universe with wonderful creations, like stars, plants, fish, and mammals. Today we will talk more about the organization of God's creation and what it teaches us about Him."*

Extra Activity:

CREATION CHARADES

No Supplies Needed

Invite a volunteer to act out something God created (Examples: *trees, oceans, fish, rocks, lions, birds*)

without making any sounds. Challenge the rest of the group to guess what object he is pretending to be. Allow the first kid who guesses correctly to act out the next created thing.

SAY *In a few of those cases, it was a*

little bit difficult to tell what was being communicated by the acting. The Bible tells us that God created everything, and that God's creation declares His glory. That means that when we look at creation, we don't have to guess what it's communicating to us; we can know for sure that all of creation shows us that God is all-powerful, loving, and good. This week, consider something in creation that you find cool or interesting. Come up with something that created thing teaches you about God.

Older Kids Advent Activities

3rd-5th

Activity 1: DESCRIBE AND DRAW

Supplies Needed:

100 Index Cards – for writing words of creation – (could write 1 one word on each side)

30 clipboards

60 pieces of paper

Markers

Before the session, write the names of various created things on separate index cards. (Examples: *clouds, earth, ocean, flower, tree, sun, moon, stars, bird, fish, cow, snake, giraffe*) Prepare one per kid.

Instruct each kid to find a partner. Tell partners to sit back to back. Give partner 1 a piece of paper, a marker, and a clipboard. Give partner 2 a creation card.

Explain that partner 2 will describe to partner 1 how to draw the creation named on the card. She may not say what it is. Partner 1 will draw based on partner 2's instructions and try to guess the creation.

When a partner guesses the creation, give them a new card and paper so they can switch roles and play again.

SAY: *“Was it easy or hard to draw something just by hearing about it? Imagine trying to draw something you have never seen before! When God created the world, He made everything out of nothing. Let's hear more.”*

Activity 2: Quick Creations

3 bins of legos (1 bin for each class)

Choose two volunteers to compete in a creation contest. Give them construction blocks or play dough and explain that they will have 30 seconds to form something you name.

Announce something volunteers can create with their supplies (cloud, earth, flower, tree, sun, moon, star, bird, fish, cow, snake, giraffe, and so on). Start a timer.

After 30 seconds, call for the volunteers to stop. Instruct them to display their creations for the group. Kids may clap for the creation they like better. Play additional rounds, choosing two new volunteers to form a different creation each time.

SAY: *“Great job, everyone! When God created the world, He didn't use clay or sticks or anything. He created everything out of nothing—just by speaking! We will hear more in today's Bible story about creation.”*

Extra Game:

No Supplies Needed

DAYS OF CREATION GAME

Instruct preteens to stand in a semi-circle and look up. When you say, "Look down," each kid should hold up his fingers to show any number from 1 to 6. You will also hold up 1 to 6 fingers.

Call on a preteen holding up the same number of fingers as you to name something God created on that day. (3 fingers = Day 3)

Play again, holding up a different number of fingers each time. Accept general or specific answers for each day of creation. (Day 1: light; Day 2: sky; Day 3: earth, sea, plants, trees; Day 4: sun, moon, stars; Day 5: birds, fish; Day 6: livestock, wildlife)

Emphasize that Jesus is Lord over all of creation. The Son has always existed. The Bible says everything was created by Him and for Him, and He holds everything together. Why did God create everything? God created everything for His glory and our good.