

GIFT's Celebrate Our Creator® Curriculum Builds Faith Foundations, Encourages Stewardship And Fosters Solidarity

Curriculum For Celebrate Our Creator Days. For Use in Sunday School, VBS, Earth Day and Beyond



This curriculum is suitable for children's ministries, family devotion, and neighborhood outreach.

1. Conduct Celebrate Our Creator Events

Ask the children to name their biggest hero. Then ask them who made that hero.

Explain that God, through Jesus, made everything that lives - even their hero. Discuss our loving God made us, His children, in His image and is not only concerned about us, but is concerned about all our brothers and sisters around the world. And discuss that he also made everything we need to live on.

Explain that we're going to Celebrate God as Our Creator, our hero. And, explain that we need to remember that every perfect gift is from above. Explain we need to thank God - in fact, to love God - based on all He's provided for us. And explain that He wants us to love Him and love and care for all his children, and care for His creation, as well.

2. Lead a Bible Study on God as Our Creator and Sustainer

Read selected verses from John 1: 1-12; Isaiah 40: 25-26; Psalm 8: 1-8; and Psalm 136 verses 1-9 & 23-25; James 1: 17-18; Psalm 3:5; and Genesis 1-1; Genesis 1:1-2:3. 3.

2a. Next, sing or play worship songs related to God as our creator and as an awesome God worthy of respect.

Consider getting song sheets or CDs of the following creation oriented songs.

1. He's Got The Whole World In His Hands
2. Jesus Is My Superhero
3. Indescribable
4. How Great Thou Art
5. Whatever You Do

3. Conduct Celebrate Our Creator Activities

3a. Experience God's Design Through Gardening



Select seeds from either vegetable or flowering plants that have brief germination periods. Fill cups with potting soil. Following the directions on seed packs, prepare the soil for inserting seeds.

3b. Taste God's Provision

Fill additional cups with cut up sections of various fruits and distribute the cups to have them taste God's awesome design in food.



3c. Observe God's Awesome Creation

Play a creation video - we've used ones from Moody Bible Institute. Focus on visuals and story segments that depict animals, plants, stars, etc. Observe and comment on the awesome design of these animals.



4. Encourage Stewardship Of God's Creation

Finally, we should encourage children to not only reflect on God's awesome Creation and love Him with all our heart, mind and strength as our Creator, but also to recognize

- The environment is God's gift to everyone...
- That nature expresses God's design of love and truth...
- And that 'the Church' has a responsibility towards protecting and being stewards of God's creation...
- That everything is a GIFT such that we should care for and share the fruits of God's creation with our brothers and sisters, being concerned about people around the world today.

Children can also draw pictures about ways to use less water, save energy and conserve all our resources as well as to share their resources and creativity with others.

5. Let's get creative and inventive to solve problems and show others God's awesomeness and love.

Because we've been created in the image of God -- our awesome creator -- all of God's children, all of us, have the ability to create and to creatively solve problems.

How cool is that! We can all be inventors! We can all invent new ways of doing things. We can even think of problems in the world that need to be solved and invent solutions.

Problems like people starving from not having enough food, or people needing clean water, and without solutions they can get sick or worse, even die. That's why Global Institute For Transformation (GIFT) has provided farm irrigation and water filtration in places around the world, to address hunger and the lack of clean water.

Can you name some famous inventions and inventors? (Have the children name some famous inventions and inventors.) We all probably know of some inventions.



Electricity:

In 1750, Ben Franklin published a proposal for an experiment to prove that lightning is electricity by flying a kite in a lightning storm. On June 15, 1752, Ben Franklin may possibly have conducted his famous kite experiment in Philadelphia, successfully extracting sparks from a cloud.

The Car:

Karl Benz (think Mercedes Benz) invented the car in 1886. However, the very first car design was likely that of a toy, designed by a Jesuit missionary to China, Ferdinand Verbiest, in 1672. It was a steam powered two foot long, miniature version of today's car. Some believe he actually built this toy car working with very skilled Chinese metal workers.

Corn Flakes:

This popular breakfast cereal was originally manufactured by Kellogg's through the treatment of maize (corn), which received a patent on April 14, 1896. But the process or way to make the flakes started over 30 years earlier.



6. OK. LET'S CELEBRATE OUR CREATOR!

Now how do you want to really Celebrate our Creator?

You could send a card to someone. Or...

You could take a hike in Nature and appreciate God's blessings.

Or would you want to be an inventor and someone who helps others with inventions?

Do you want to be someone who gives GIFT EXCHANGES "of" yourself and who really, really appreciates the wonderful gift of others in your life?

By going to Church; and receiving Communion, and Praying to God?

As someone who is concerned about all God's FAMILY and wants to share God's Incredible love with everyone.

Whatever way you want, let's all Celebrate Our Creator!



GIFT's Celebrate Our Creator[®] Curriculum and Merchandise Can Help Us Appreciate God's GIFT of Creation and Become Better Stewards Of It (Supports Laudato Si, Care4Creation, Season of Creation and Earth Day).

MOST IMPORTANTLY IT REASSERTS GOD AS CREATOR, WORTHY OF PRAISE



“The Psalms frequently exhort us to praise God the Creator, ‘who spread out the earth on the waters, for his steadfast love endures for ever.’ (Ps 136:6). They also invite other creatures to join us in this praise: ‘Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! **Let them praise the name of the Lord,** for he commanded and they were created.’ (Ps 148:3-5). We do not only exist by God’s mighty power; we also live with him and beside him. This is why we adore him.

The writings of the prophets invite us to find renewed strength in times of trial by contemplating the all-powerful God who created the universe. *Nature expresses a design of love and truth.* It is prior to us, and it has been given to us by God as the setting for our life. Nature speaks to us of the Creator (Rom 1:20) and his love for humanity...

Projects... need to be marked by solidarity and inter-generational justice...” ENCYCLICAL LETTER *LAUDATO SI'* OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

“The environment is God's gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole. When nature, including the human being, is viewed as the result of mere chance or evolutionary determinism, our sense of responsibility wanes.” *Caritas In Veritate*

Through Celebrate Our Creator, GIFT Praises And Celebrates God -- As Our Magnificent Creator, Provider, Sustainer And Savior -- Given His Designs, Provisions And Plans For Our Lives And Eternity. GIFT Celebrates The Many Wonders Of God's Creation!

A universe of 2 trillion galaxies

January 16, 2017 by Lindsay Brooke, Royal Astronomical Society



Dave Allen P

ENVIRONMENT

Trees Communicate Via Their Own Fungi-Based 'Internet'

STUART THOMPSON, THE CONVERSATION 29 SEP 2016

"The Human Body Is A Miracle Of Microscopic Design"

Tens of thousands of miles of blood vessels;
Each organ made of billions of cells; etc.



New Species of Unusual Jellyfish Discovered 2.3 Miles Below the Ocean's Surface

MAY 2, 2016

CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON



Tomatoes Talk To Their Neighbors



Tomato plants can receive signals from their neighbours (Credit: Tracy Gunn / Alamy)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=kvprxfzfsYQU

<https://www.thisiscolossal.com/2016/05/bioluminescent-jellyfish/>

CARA Study Says Youth Are Leaving The Faith As They Don't Accept That God Created The World Or God's Perfect Plan For The Universe

We Need To Celebrate Our Creator And The Wonders Of His Creation

(It's An Imperative And Foundational Faith Issue)

OSV Newsweekly

NATIONAL WORLD VATICAN FAITH IN FOCUS PERSPECTIVES DAILY TAKE

Young people are leaving the faith. Here's why

Many youths and young adults who have left the Church point to their belief that there is a disconnect between science and religion [Mark M. Gray OSV Newsweekly](#)

- “Because I grew up realized it was a story like Santa or the Easter Bunny.”
- “As I learn more about the world around me and understand things that I once did not, I find that the thought of an all-powerful being to be less and less believable.”
- “Catholic beliefs aren't based on fact. Everything is hearsay from back before anything could be documented, so nothing can be disproved, but it certainly shouldn't be taken seriously.”
- “I realized that religion is in complete contradiction with the rational and scientific world, and to continue to subscribe to a religion would be hypocritical.”
- “Need proof of something.”
- “It no longer fits into what I understand of the universe.”

- Less than 2/3 of millennials raised Catholic remain Catholic as adults.
- Half of young former Catholics self-identify as atheists, agnostics or with no religious affiliation
- Typical age to leave the faith: 13.
- 63% stopped being Catholic between ages 10-17; 23% before 10.
- Only 13% said they were ever likely to return to the Catholic Church.
- 50% stopped believing in what the Catholic Church teaches and did not like the Catholic Church's rules and judgmental approach