



Preschool Post

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Preschool Theme: Recycling (Earth Day)

Bible Theme: Stewardship. Children will learn how we must take care of the earth God created, doing our best in everything we do, until the day Jesus comes again.

Morning Circle: (Note: This lesson would make a great introduction to the letter "R." Our curriculum has [already introduced this letter](#), but this would be a fantastic time to review it.)

Do a "directions" review. Show the children a [picture of an arrow](#). Ask the children to point in that direction. [Show an "up" arrow, a "down" arrow, a "left" and a "right" arrow](#). Practice following directions. Practice "up," "down," "left," "right," "backward," "forward," and any other direction you'd like. (Note: preschool children will have difficulty grasping "left" and "right," but demonstrate them anyway.) Finally, ask the children to sit down, and show them a [picture of the "recycling" symbol](#). Ask them what direction the arrows are leading. Discuss what the symbol might mean. Introduce the concept of re-use, or recycling. Talk about where the children think their trash goes after they throw it in the bin. Talk about direction words: "in" the trash, take "out" the garbage, trucks take "away" our rubbish, workers put trash "into" the landfills, the garbage gets buried "under" lots of other rubbish, etc.



Read: [The Three R's: Reuse, Reduce, Recycle](#) by Nuria Roca. Take some time to discuss why we should try so hard to reuse, reduce and recycle things. Why should we take care of the planet God has given us to use? Spend a moment explaining the concept of stewardship to the children. What are some simple things the children can do to help take care of God's earth? For more background information, here is an interesting website that gives the actual [history of the recycling symbol](#).

Music & Movement: Do the [Recycle Rap](#)." Listen to Teresa Jennings' song the "Recycle Rap," and let the kids dance and clap to the rhythm. For an added dimension, show the children [posters of directional arrows](#) at various points in the song, and have the children dance in that direction until the arrow changes

Snack: Have "recycled" soup! Prepare small amounts of various foods that might typically be left over after a meal. You might have some shredded chicken, some cheese, corn, and rice. Use whatever ingredients you can bring that you might put into a soup or stew. Remember to make sure no children have allergies to anything you offer. Allow the children to help add the "leftovers" to a slow cooker. Add a box of chicken or beef broth, whatever seasonings you might like, and allow the "recycled" dinner to cook until lunch time. Use this opportunity to teach the children the value of being resourceful and not being wasteful.



Centers:

1. Sorting the recycling. Set up various recycling bins in your classroom to teach both sorting skills and how to recycle paper, plastic, and aluminum. Always take care that there are no sharp bits on your recycled items.

2. Outdoor "landfill" activity. Prepare a reasonably large mound of potting soil in an undisturbed area outside. Let the children place different types of discarded items in the soil (like used plastic milk bottles, juice boxes, newspaper, paper towels, and aluminum foil. Water the mound and check it every other day or so to see how the items are decaying (or not decaying.) This center may have to be done over a period of time, but will teach the kids how various materials break down in soil.

3. Plant a garden. There's nothing more green than gardening! Make a small raised planting bed outdoors, or use containers, to plant an herb, veggie, or even a flower garden with the children. There are many lessons to be learned over the course of creating the garden, preparing the soil, caring for the seedlings and plants, and enjoying the fruits (or flowers) of your labors. Make it as simple or as elaborate as you like, even adding small benches or water features, wind chimes or fish ponds, to make a quiet classroom retreat.

Art Activity:

Recycled art. Store up a collection of broken bits, chipped clay pots, strings of beads, plastic cutlery, old milk cartons, aluminum foil, buttons, scraps of fabric, colored paper destined for the recycle box, tin cans, plastic lids, and just about any odds and ends you might ordinarily throw away. Provide plenty of adhesives, crayons, and fun decorations, and allow the





children to come up with ideas for how to use these items to create a work of art. The artwork can be collaborative, using all the materials with everyone helping, or each child can come up with their own creation. Guide the children, but let the artwork be theirs. Display it proudly!

Bible Storytime:

Read: [Biscuit's Earth Day Celebration](#), by Alyssa Satin Capucilli . Discuss again the concept of stewardship. What are our responsibilities toward the earth God created? Explain how God made everything that we need to live on the earth, just like in the Garden of Eden. And we are to tend the earth, just like Adam and Eve took care of the lovely garden God made for them. To mistreat the earth is to mistreat a special gift from God. As we worship our Heavenly Father, we can thank Him by showing him our faithfulness in taking care of the things He gives us. Just like the characters in the book, the children can take simple steps to take care of our planet until Jesus comes back to make all things new.

Bible Verse Bracelets: "The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." [Genesis 2:15](#)

Read the parable of the wise and foolish virgins: [Matthew 25: 1-13](#)

Explain that this is why we should carry on taking care of the earth, doing our best in everything we do, until the day Jesus comes again. We don't know when that will be, but He expects us to do the right thing until He returns. (The parable of the talents works well with this concept, as well. [Matthew 25:14-30.](#))

Bible Song: [This is My Father's World](#) from the Veggie Tales Bob and Larry's Campfire Songs CD.



Additional Activity:

Visit a recycling facility in your area. Alternately, visit a green farm or other entity that uses sustainable processes for their production, such as composting, recycling waste water, using solar energy, or reusing materials (like Habitat for Humanity Re-Stores.)

Paper Clip Links: Provide an assortment of colored paperclips for children to link into chains. Show them how to make patterns with the different colors, or even make bracelets and necklaces for them to take home. Also have a few different items on the table for them to measure with their paper clips.

Optional Resources:

[Big Bins Recycle File Folder Game](#)

[Fill the Bin Collage Craft](#)

[Recycling Coloring Page](#)

Helpful Links:

[Earth Day Bible Crafts & Printables on Christian Preschool Printables](#)

[Creation Printables on Christian Preschool Printables](#)

Notes:
