

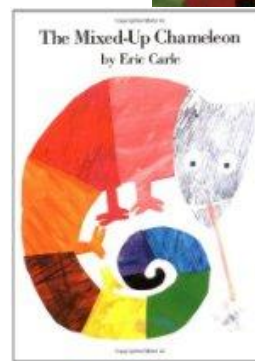
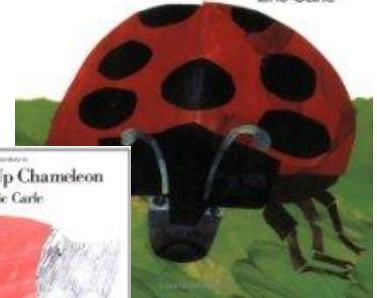
Preschool Post

Lesson 33



www.PreschoolPost.com

The Grouchy Ladybug Eric Carle



Letter: V

Preschool Theme: Creepy Crawlies

Bible Theme: We've all read the story about the Grouchy Ladybug, but what does the Bible have to say about grouchy behavior? In this lesson children will learn what it means to be content with God's plan for our lives.

Morning Circle:

Show the [letter "V"](#) to the children. Say the "V" sound together. Ask the children for examples of "V" words. Repeat these together. Show the children a close-up [photo of a Velvet Mite](#). Ask the children if they know what velvet is. Have a swatch of velvet to pass around. Let the children describe what it feels like. Ask them why they think the Velvet Mite was named after velvet. Spend a moment discussing their suggestions. Explain that today's lesson will be about two very different kinds of creepy crawlies. One is an insect, and the other is a reptile. Ask the children if they know some differences between insects and reptiles. Help them make the distinctions. Make a chart or graph of the differences if you like.

Read: [The Mixed-Up Chameleon](#), by Eric Carle.

Why was the chameleon so unhappy? What did it think would make it happy? Why? Did it work? Why not?

Music & Movement:

Play Janet Sirret's "[Creepy, Crawly, Slimy Things](#)" from her CD of the same name and dance!

Snack:

Mix up some miniature marshmallows, raisins, crisped rice cereal, and some gummy bugs, and let the children's imaginations do the rest!

Centers:

1. Reptile habitat. If possible, have a real chameleon for the children to see and interact with. If not, provide a "habitat" (pretend trees, a blue mat for water, some sand, etc.) and lots of plastic reptiles and amphibians for the children to use in imaginary play.

2. Bug table. Have some bugs (yes, REAL bugs,) for the children to examine. If you're brave enough, and depending on the type of bugs you have, let the children touch the insects and let them crawl on their hands. If not, have a few select creepy crawlies in see-through containers (with air-holes punched in!), magnifying glasses, and notepaper and pens for the children to take "notes" on their discoveries!

3. Camouflage center. Let the children experiment with the concept of camouflage by providing an assortment of wallpaper scraps or scrapbooking paper scraps, and making pattern-on-pattern collages. For example, use one sheet of patterned paper for a background. Then tear strips and shapes out of both that same kind of pattern and from other patterns and paste them on. Can the children see how the bits from the same pattern camouflage or blend in while the other bits stand out? Why would it be helpful for a chameleon to blend in or camouflage to its environment?

Art Activity:Ladybug Paintings!

Set up the easels crack out the fingerpaint, and let your little masters create! Encourage





children to make one or more large red circles on their paper. Then show them how to make black dots on the red circles with their fingertips. Add a few lines for legs and antennae and you have perfectly painted ladybugs. Try adding a little green here and there for leaves. Worthy of a frame!

Bible Storytime:

Read: [The Grouchy Ladybug](#), by Eric Carle.

Ask the children why the ladybug was so unhappy. What was it looking for? Why would it want to fight? Was it trying to prove something to itself or to others? What hard lesson did it learn?

Bible Verse Bracelets:

"Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought..." [Romans 12:3b](#)

Help the children understand the verse's main point. What could the confused chameleon and the grouchy grumpy ladybug have done differently that would have made both them and those around them more happy? What do we need to know to be content? Explain that God has made us special, with a plan for each of us. And He has commanded us to love Him with all our heart, and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Knowing that, we are free to be what He created us to be. And we are free from jealousy, envy, and needing to prove ourselves to others. What wonderful news!

Song:

"[The Selfish Song](#)" from Veggie Tales "VeggieTunes Vol. 3: A Queen, A King, and a Very Blue Berry."

Additional Activity:

If you have an insect or reptile enthusiast around, ask them to come in for a visit and share their creepy crawly friends.

Optional Resources:

[Handwriting Worksheet V is for Velvet Mite](#)

[Bible Handwriting Worksheet V is for Vine](#)

[Grouchy Ladybug Sequencing Cards](#)

Helpful Links:

[Bug Activities on Totally Tots](#)

Notes:
