

Lesson 1 Discovering Story Option

Materials

Discovering Story Option

- ❑ four cloths, at least 12" x 12" or larger, one in each of these colors:
 - ❑ light green and/or pink
 - ❑ dark green and/or yellow
 - ❑ red and/or orange
 - ❑ white and/or dark blue

Note: These can be square, circular, or rectangular hand towels or cloth napkins; fabric scraps can be used.



Discovering

Discovering Story Option

- If possible, select five children for each season. However, having more than five or as few as two per season will work also.
- Sit down with the children.

Here is a story about some children and a grandmother who enjoy the seasons God gave us.

God blanketed the earth with spring.

- Spread the light green or pink cloth on the table in front of you.

Rachel and David's Nana invited them to each bring a friend and to bless and plant her garden. David brought Maria and Rachel brought Charlie.

- If necessary, help the "spring children" know who they are. Have them stand together and have them pantomime what you are reading.

They stood with Nana, looking at the green lettuce and spinach just coming up. There were pink tulips. The wind was soft on their cheeks. "Our Holy Scripture tells us that there is a time for everything under the heavens," said Nana. "Now it is time to plant." She gave the children seeds and plants. They planted peas, carrots, tomatoes, pumpkins, sunflowers, peppers, corn, marigolds, and pansies.

- Help children pantomime planting if necessary, then have them fold hands in prayer.

After they planted, they prayed together, saying, "Blessed are you, God of all Creation, for giving us the spring!"

- Have the “spring children” sit down. Have the “summer children” stand together.

A few months later, God blanketed the earth with summer.

- Spread the dark green or yellow cloth over the previous one.

The four children stood with Nana again, looking at the garden. It had changed! The tomato plants were up to Rachel’s waist! The tiny green tomatoes were the size of marbles. The carrots were showing their feathery tops. The pumpkin vines were spreading all over, and the sunflowers were growing up, up, and up, looking for the sunshine! The sun was hot on their heads.

“Remember what the Scriptures tell us?” Nana asked.

Charlie said, “There is a time for everything under Heaven!”

“But, Nana, what time is it now?” David asked. “Time to water and weed!” Nana said. So they filled watering cans and sprinkled the flowers and pulled weeds around the vegetables.

- Help children pantomime if necessary.

After the work was finished, they prayed together, saying, “Blessed are you, God of all Creation, for giving us the summer!”

- Have the “summer children” sit down. Have the “autumn children” stand together.

A few months later, God blanketed the earth with autumn.

- Spread the red or orange cloth over the previous ones.

Rachel, Charlie, Maria, and David once again stood with Nana. The garden looked different again! The tomato plants were taller than they were! The tomatoes were red and orange and huge and juicy! The sunflowers were so tall, they couldn’t see the tops! The children peeked under the giant pumpkin leaves and found round, orange pumpkins hiding! The sun was gently warm on their heads.

“There is a time for everything under Heaven!” said Charlie.

“Yes! And now it is time to harvest what we have grown!” said Nana.

Together they picked tomatoes and pulled up carrots and put them into baskets. They cut flowers for bouquets. Then they each chose a pumpkin to take home.

Tired but happy, they prayed together, saying, “Blessed are you, God of all Creation, for giving us the autumn!”

- Have the “autumn children” sit down, and have the “winter children” stand together.

A few months later, God blanketed the earth with winter.

- Spread the white or dark blue cloth over the previous ones.

The children and Nana put on coats, boots, caps, and mittens and went out to the garden. On a different day, Nana had pulled up all the plants because they were all done making food. She left the sunflowers though. These swayed in the wind, waiting for squirrels to climb them and eat the seeds off the flowers. Snow covered the garden. The ground was resting. All was quiet. The wind stung their cheeks.

“Blessed are you, God of all Creation, for giving us winter!” they prayed together.

And then, together, they went inside, to feast on the foods God had given them through their garden.

- Close the story time by saying with the children the following:

Blessed are you, God of all Creation, for giving us the seasons! Amen.

Lesson 1 Additional Activity



Exploring

2. Sing a Song of Creation (Activity Variation)



- Reinforce the learning point that God made everything in nature by introducing the children to the African American spiritual “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands.”
- Sing a verse for the children, and as you sing the verse, hold an item or photograph from the nature basket and sing the name of that item as part of the song. For example, “He’s got birds and the flowers in his hands.”
- When the children understand how the song is sung, invite them to sing and cup their hands along with you as you hold up items or photographs from the nature basket.
- Continue singing until all the items in the nature basket have been named. You might invite children to add some ideas of their own to the song.