

New Life!

Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 25, ages 3-4

Lesson 25 Goal

- Your child will learn that part of God's work is making trees and flowers bloom in the springtime.

Key Points

- Part of God's work is making the trees bloom and flowers grow in the springtime.
- We can work together with God by planting seeds in the spring and taking care of God's earth.



Parent Reflection

Beginning with the Story of Creation, Scripture points out that God made the flowers, trees, and plants and set the mechanisms into motion that allow them to grow and bear fruit in their respective seasons. Leviticus 26:4 says, "I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit." And God still holds the power over these phenomena. Zechariah 10:1 says, "Ask rain from the Lord in the season of the spring rain, from the Lord who makes the storm clouds, who gives showers of rain to you, the vegetation in the field to everyone."

God gives the good things of the earth to us so we can share them with other people and with his other living creatures. Man and woman are entrusted with the responsibility to be stewards of—to care for, share, and not destroy—God's creation.

Reflection Question

How do I show care and good stewardship of God's creation?

Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

Materials

- Family Activity Sheet
- crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- masking tape
- Lesson 25 Activity Master – Saint Page (included with this lesson)

(Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

Preparation Steps

- Be prepared to take a walk in a setting where your child can collect small objects from nature.

Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

Begin in prayer:

Make the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Pray together: *“Thank you, Jesus, for making the seeds and plants grow. Help us to grow closer to you. Amen.”*

Discovering

God Makes Trees and Flowers Grow. Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read “God Makes Trees and Flowers Grow.”

Ask your child, “What helps seeds to grow?”

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the “Ask Me!” questions and review the answers.

Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child’s understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

1. God Makes Everything. Turn to the drawing

in the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child crayons or colored pencils and have him or her color the pictures. Then talk about the cycle of the seed growing into a tree.

2. Nature Walk. Prepare a “bracelet” made of masking tape for your child. Leave the sticky side up. Take a walk outside, and help your child find little flowers, leaves, twigs, acorns, and other tiny items from nature to attach to the bracelet. Talk about how each item is part of God’s gift of creation.

3. The Communion of Saints: Saint Kateri Tekakwitha. Show your child the picture of Saint Kateri on the Family Activity page and read about her. Then read more about Saint Kateri to your child (see page 3).

Ask your child, “Can you think of a place in nature that makes you feel close to God?”

Have your child write and draw about the Lesson 25 Saint Kateri Tekakwitha using the Lesson 25 Activity Master.

Sending

Pray with your child. Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child:

“God, thank you for giving us plants and flowers and helping them grow.”

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

Finding a Home with God

Kateri sat on her favorite rock in the woods. If she was still, she could hear squirrels jumping in the branches above. Sometimes, she could even make out the sound of insects clicking in the bushes beside her. This was a good place to come and pray to God.

Kateri felt closer to God than to anyone else. She no longer had any close family. She was also sick and was not able to see very well. Kateri also did not feel like she belonged, not even in her Native American nation or with the missionaries who lived with her. But she knew that God loved her, and she admired his beautiful creation called Earth.

When Kateri was a little girl, her mother wished that she would grow up to have a great

faith in God. So Kateri kept this wish close to her heart her whole life. She knew that she wanted to live among Christians. And she knew that she wanted to spend time alone so that she could concentrate on her relationship with God. She also tried to apologize to him for the sins that other people had made.

Kateri's life was not always easy, but she did not complain. She understood that sometimes the things we think are important, like the kind of food and clothing we have, are not. It is more important that we try to be good people. It is more important that we think about the good things that God gives us. She knew that it is okay to live with problems if we always remember that we are here to serve God.

DRAW



**Saint
Kateri
Tekakwitha,
pray for us!**