



# God made our world and wants us to take care of it.

## Bible Verse

God made the world (adapted from Genesis 1:1).

## Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- learn that God wants people to care for his world,
  - experience taking care of each other,
  - discover ways they can care for God's world, and
  - ask God to help them care for the world.

## Teacher Enrichment

### Bible Basis

- **God shows Adam and Eve the world he's made.**

**Genesis  
1:28-31**



This passage wraps up our study of Creation. God gives Adam and Eve a major task: to be responsible for the earth! God essentially turned his wonderful creation over to these two humans—and to all the humans who have followed them. The idea contained in Genesis 1:28 is to be good stewards of all that God created. Our job is to take care of what God has created and to use it wisely for God's purposes.

In six days, God created all that we see in nature. Then he gave the earth over to humans to take care of it. After that, “God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good” (Genesis 1:31). God's plan is perfect; the responsibility for carrying out that plan by caring for the earth is now ours.









### Prayer

- Read Colossians 1:16-17.
- How do these verses connect with today's passage?
- Pray: God, help me know how to communicate your message clearly to the special little creations in my class.

### Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction as you teach the lesson.

# This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
<b>Welcome Time</b>	<b>Welcome!</b> —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	“Animal Name Tags” (p. 23), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape	
<b>Let’s Get Started</b>  Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	<b>Option 1: Balloon World</b> —Make a model world, and talk about ways they can care for God’s world.	Blue and green tissue paper, sponges, scissors, newspapers, glue, water, bowl, balloon	
	<b>Option 2: Recycle Box</b> —Decorate a box for classroom recycling.	Newsprint, crayons, large box, tape	
	<b>Option 3: Lights Out</b> —Make light bulbs to remind them to turn off lights.	“Lights Out” handout (p. 64), scissors, stapler, scrap paper, string	
	<b>Pick-Up Time</b> —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
<b>Bible Story Time</b>	<b>Setting the Stage</b> —Help each other peel bananas, and then throw away the peels.	Knife, banana for every two children, newspapers, trash can	
	<b>Breakable Bubbles</b> —Try to catch bubbles without breaking them.	Bubble solution, large bowl, CD player	
	<b>Bible Song and Prayer Time</b> —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, CD player	
	<b>Hear and Tell the Bible Story</b> —Hear how God tells Adam and Eve to take care of the Garden of Eden.	Bible, CD player	
	<b>Do the Bible Story</b> —Clean classroom tables and windows.	Shaving cream, wet rags	
<b>Closing</b>  	<b>Creation Cleanup</b> —Help Whiskers learn about recycling.	Newspapers	
	<b>God’s Good World</b> —Sing a song, and ask God to help them take care of his world.	CD player	

\*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

## Welcome Time

**SUPPLIES:** “Animal Name Tags” (p. 23), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape

- Kneel down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them how they put last week’s lesson into practice. Use questions such as “What did you tell your family about how God made people?” and “What special things did you do with your family this week?”
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► God made our world and wants us to take care of it.**
- Hand out the animal name tags children made during Lesson 1, and help them attach the name tags to their clothing. Have extras on hand for children who were not in class that week and to replace any damaged name tags.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.



### ◀ BIBLE POINT



It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.

## Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct children’s conversation toward the point of today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “What can you do to take care of God’s world?” or “What would happen if no one threw any trash away?”

### ■ Option 1: Balloon World

**SUPPLIES:** blue and green tissue paper, sponges, scissors, newspapers, glue, water, bowl, green balloon

Before class, blow up a green balloon. Cut blue and green tissue paper into 2x4-inch strips, and cut one or two sponges into 1-inch strips.

Cover a work area with newspapers. Set out a bowl of glue thinned with water, the sponges, and the tissue paper strips. Show children how to make a model world by painting glue on the balloon with the sponges and then smoothing the tissue paper onto the glue. Encourage them to mix blue and green strips and to use plenty of glue. As children work to cover the balloon, talk about how special God’s creation is and remind them that ► God made our world and wants us to take care of it. When children finish their balloon world, set it aside to dry. It should be mostly dry by the end of class.



**Warning!** If the balloon pops during this activity, make sure you collect and discard all of the balloon pieces as they can pose a choking hazard to young children. Balloons may contain latex.

If you’d rather not use a balloon, use a smooth ball instead.



### ◀ BIBLE POINT

## ■ Option 2: Recycle Box

**SUPPLIES:** newsprint, crayons, large box, tape



Set out sheets of newsprint for children to decorate. They can stamp the paper with the *world stamp* or draw their favorite plants, animals, or people. Point out that paper is made from trees and that trees are a beautiful part of God's creation. Explain that we can help save trees by saving and reusing paper. We can also collect paper to be recycled and made into more paper.

When children finish decorating the paper, help them tape it to a large cardboard box. Explain that they can use the box to save or recycle paper in the classroom. Point out that recycling is one way we can care for God's world. Remind children that **► God made our world and wants us to take care of it.**



## ■ Option 3: Lights Out

**SUPPLIES:** "Lights Out" handout (p. 64), scissors, stapler, scrap paper, string

Before class, make photocopies of the "Lights Out" handout, and cut out the lightbulb shapes. You'll need two lightbulbs for each child.

Let each child help you staple around the bottom of the light bulb, leaving a large opening at the top. Provide scrap paper, and let children stuff the light bulbs with the paper. As children are stuffing their light bulbs, talk about how turning out lights can be a way we can take care of our world. Remind children that **► God made our world and wants us to take care of it.**

Staple the light bulbs closed and then staple a piece of string or yarn to the top of each child's light bulb. Encourage each child to take the light bulb home and ask a family member to hang the bulb from the ceiling as a reminder to turn off the lights.

When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they're doing and get ready to clean up.

## ■ Pick-Up Time

**SUPPLIES:** CD player



Lead children in singing "Come Along With Me" (track 2) with the CD to the tune of "Come and Go With Me." Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.



**Come along with me and pick up all our things,  
Pick up all our things,  
Pick up all our things.  
Come along with me and pick up all our things  
So our room will be clean.**

*(Repeat 2x.)*

### teacher tips

Remember to use familiar terms to children when explaining what recycling means. For example, it means to "use things over again instead of throwing them away," or "giving things to others to use when we're done." You might point out that giving "old" toys to a sibling or friend is also a way of recycling.

# Bible Story Time

## ■ *Setting the Stage*

**SUPPLIES:** knife, bananas, newspapers, trash can

Before class, cut the tops off the bananas so they'll be easy for children to peel. Cover a section of the floor with newspapers so children's banana peels don't get your floor sticky.

Tell children that when you turn the lights off and then on again, they're to stop what they're doing and raise their hands. Practice this signal a few times. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

When everything is cleaned up, have children wash hands and gather everyone in a circle on the floor.

Ask: • **What did you make or do when you came to our class today?** (Put tissue paper on a balloon; made a light bulb; decorated a paper box.)

Say: **Some of you made a model world from a balloon, some of you made light bulbs, and some of you decorated a paper box for our classroom. You were all learning important things about our Bible story.**

**If you worked on the balloon world, stand up and say, "God made our world," and then sit down.** Pause. **If you made a light bulb, stand up and say, "I can take care of God's world," and then sit down.** Pause. **If you decorated our paper box, stand up and say, "Saving paper saves the trees God made," and then sit down.** Pause.

**For the past few weeks, we've been learning that God made our world. Today we'll learn that ►God made our world and wants us to take care of it. Let's practice taking care of each other now.**

Form pairs, and have each child put one hand behind his or her back. Give each pair one banana. Say: **Partners, help each other peel your banana. One person can hold the banana while the other person peels it. When you've finished peeling your banana, drop your banana peel on the newspapers and then sit down.**

Walk around and offer help as needed. Encourage children to take turns holding and peeling the bananas. When children have finished peeling, have them split the bananas and eat them.

As children are eating, say: **Look at all these banana peels on the floor. What do you think we should do with them?** (Throw them away; leave them there.)

Ask: • **What do you think it would be like if people always threw their banana peels and other garbage on the ground instead of in the trash?** (Yucky; ugly; a mess.)

Say: **Let's pick up our banana peels and put them in the trash can. ►God made our world and wants us to take care of it. We can help keep God's world beautiful by picking up trash and throwing it away. Another way to take care of God's world is to be careful and gentle with the things he has given us. Let's find out what that's like.**



## ■ Breakable Bubbles

**SUPPLIES:** bubble solution, CD player, large bowl



Have children join you on the floor.

Ask: • **What are some things that you take care of at home?** (My dog; my little sister; I help my dad in the garden.)

• **What do you do to take care of those things?** (I feed the dog; I play with my baby sister and feed her; I water the garden.)

Say: **Let's see what it's like to take care of something very carefully. I'm going to blow some bubbles and see if you can catch them without breaking them. See if you can take care of a bubble!**

Bring out a *large bubble wand* from the Learning Lab. Dip the bubble wand into bubble solution, and blow bubbles over the children's heads. Let children stand up and try catching the bubbles without popping them. After a few moments, put the *large bubble wand* away, and gather children in a circle.

Ask: • **What was it like to take care of bubbles? Why?** (Fun, because we got to move around; hard, because they kept breaking.)

• **What made it so hard to take care of the bubbles?** (They break; you had to be gentle; they kept floating away.)

### BIBLE VERSE ►

Say: **Our Bible verse for today is from Genesis 1:1, and it says that ►God made the world.** Have children repeat the verse. **God's world is a special place that we need to treat with love and gentleness.**

Even though bubbles are beautiful and fun to play with, they can be easily broken or ruined. Just as we needed to be careful with the bubbles, we need to be gentle as we care for God's world. That's because ►God made our world and wants us to take care of it. Let's bring out our Bible now and review all the beautiful things God put in his world. But first, let's sing a song!

Have children join you as you sing "God Made the World" (adapted from Genesis 1:1) (track 5) to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell."



### SING

God made the world.  
Oh, God made the world.  
We thank him for creating it.  
God made the world!

God made the light.  
Oh, God made the light.  
We thank him for creating it.  
God made the light!

God made you and me.  
Oh, God made you and me.  
We thank him for creating us.  
God made you and me!



### BIBLE POINT ►

## ■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

*SUPPLIES:* Bible, CD player



tracks 3, 4

Say: **Now it's time to choose a helper to bring me the Bible marked with today's Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, we'll pass around our special Bible. The person who's holding the Bible when the music stops will be our Bible helper today.**

Lead the children in singing "I'm So Glad for the Bible" (track 3) with the CD to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp." As you sing, pass around the special Bible.



**SING**

**I'm so glad for the Bible.  
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.  
I'm so glad for God's book today.  
I'm so glad for the Bible.  
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'—  
Keep me learnin' all about his way.**

**Let me hear 'bout God's love—  
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.  
Let me hear 'bout God's love for me.  
Let me hear 'bout God's love—  
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.  
Let's shine the light for all to see.**

*(Repeat first verse.)*

When the music stops, invite the child who's holding the Bible to bring it to you. Stamp the child's hand with the *world stamp*, and thank him or her for bringing you the Bible. Then stamp other children's hands. Return the *world stamp* and *ink pad* to the Learning Lab.

Say: **I'm thankful for [name of child who brought the Bible], and I'm thankful for everyone in our class today. Let's thank God together for all our friends.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad We're Together" (track 4) with the CD to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp."



**SING**

**I'm so glad we're together.  
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'.  
I'm so glad we're all here today.  
I'm so glad we're together.  
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'—  
Prayin' for each other every day.**

Lead children in folding their hands and bowing their heads as you continue to sing.

**Thank you, Lord, for each one.  
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful.  
Thank you for everyone who's here.  
Thank you, Lord, for each one.  
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful—  
Thankful for our friends both far and near.**

## ■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, CD player



Open the Bible to **Genesis 1**, and show it to the children. Say: **Our story comes from the Bible, God's special book. Our Bible Big Book shows us pictures of the Bible story.**

Play "The World That God Made" (track 10) from the CD. This segment includes the entire text printed on the back cover of the *Bible Big Book: God Made Our World*. Follow along as you listen, and turn the pages when you hear the harp sound. You may want to pause the CD to let children find the animals as the text directs.

After you finish the story, have children repeat with you, "This is the world that God made!" Then put the *Bible Big Book* away.

Say: **God put people in charge of all of creation. God wants us to enjoy living in his beautiful world.**

Ask: • **What are some things in God's world that you enjoy?** (Flowers; dogs; the park.)



Say: **Jesus enjoyed our world, and he was careful with it, too. He walked along the rivers, through the desert, and he even prayed in the gardens. I'll show you a picture in our Bible Big Book, and if you see someone in the picture doing something that you can do, point to that child and say, "I'll take care of our world for Jesus."**

Turn to the last page in the *Bible Big Book*, and let children approach one at a time to point to a child in the picture.

Say: **God wants us to take care of his world and keep it beautiful.**

Ask: • **What can you do to take care of the world?** (Pick up trash; turn off lights.)

Say: ► **God made our world and wants us to take care of it. There are lots of ways we can take care of God's world. We can care for plants by watering them. We can take care of animals by feeding them. We can take care of people by loving them and treating them nicely. And we can keep our world beautiful by picking up trash and keeping things clean. Let's practice that by cleaning up our room right now.**

## ■ Do the Bible Story

**SUPPLIES:** shaving cream, wet rags

Say: ► **God made our world and wants us to take care of it. Let's see how fast we can clean our classroom tables and windows. I'll squirt the soap, and you can take turns wiping it away.**

Help children clean the tables and windows using shaving cream and paper towels or rags. If you don't have tables or windows in your room, children can clean the walls. After they've finished, help them wipe off their hands. Put the shaving cream away and out of sight.





Say: **You can pick up toys and clean up at home, just like we cleaned up here in our room. You can also save old newspapers and cans to be recycled. When we recycle, we help make new things out of old things. That way we can use things again instead of throwing them away. I wonder if our friend Whiskers knows about recycling. Mice sometimes like to save old papers and hide in them.**

## Closing

### ■ Creation Cleanup

**SUPPLIES:** newspapers

Bring out Whiskers the Mouse and a pile of newspapers, and go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, put Whiskers away.



*(Set Whiskers under the newspapers. Move him around slightly and then energetically until the papers fall away.)*

**Whiskers:** Hi there! I was taking a rest in one of my favorite places. I love hiding in papers.

**Teacher:** We were just cleaning our room. Do you ever clean where you live, Whiskers?

**Whiskers:** My mom makes me put my toys away, but I never throw out my papers. They're too much fun to sleep and play in.

**Teacher:** If you never get rid of any papers, pretty soon your room will be full. Then where will you play?

**Whiskers:** Oh. Well, I guess I might throw a few papers away when my room gets too full. But it's not full yet.

**Teacher:** When your room gets full, why don't you recycle your papers?

**Whiskers:** I know about motorcycles, but I don't know about recycles. Do you ride them?

**Teacher:** Children, I don't think Whiskers understands about recycling. We'd better explain it to him.

*(Help children explain how recycling makes new things out of old things and that recycling is one way we can take care of God's world.)*

**Teacher:** ► God made our world and wants us to take care of it. One of the ways we can do that is by recycling.

**Whiskers:** I want to take care of God's world. *(Thinks for a moment.)* I guess I do have a lot of papers. *(To children)* If I give you some, could you recycle them for me?

**Teacher:** Children, clap your hands if you'd like to recycle Whiskers' papers. We could put them in our recycling box.

*(Let children clap and then take the papers from Whiskers.)*

**Whiskers:** Thanks, friends. Recycling is a great idea. Maybe I'll go home and make my own recycling box. See you later!

Permission to photocopy this script from Group's Hands-On Bible Curriculum® Preschool granted for local church use.  
Copyright © Group Publishing, Inc., 1515 Cascade Avenue, Loveland, CO 80538. group.com



## ■ God's Good World

**SUPPLIES:** CD player



Say: ► ***God made our world and wants us to take care of it. Let's sing a song to help us remember all the beautiful things God put in the world for us to enjoy.***

Lead children in singing "Everything Was Good" (track 6) with the CD to the tune of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm."



Long ago God made the world,  
And everything was good.  
God made light and day and night,  
And everything was good.  
Growing plants,  
Stars, moon, sun—  
Playing in God's world is fun!  
Long ago God made the world,  
And everything was good.

Long ago God made the world,  
And everything was good.  
Animals and people, too.  
And everything was good.  
God made [name].  
God made [name].  
God made [name] and [name] and [name].  
Long ago God made the world,  
And everything was good.

After you sing, pray: **Dear God, thanks for all the beautiful things you made. Help us take good care of the world you've given us. In Jesus' name, amen.**



## Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with the children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



## For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

### ■ **Lively Learning: Nature Walk**

Go on a nature walk and see how many different creations you can find. Before you leave your classroom, put a wide loop of duct tape on each child's wrist, sticky side out. As children go on their nature walk, they can create their own nature bracelets by picking up leaves, twigs, flowers, and other nature items and sticking them on the tape. Point out that God made everything they've put on their bracelets. Remind children that ► God made our world and wants us to take care of it.

### ■ **Make to Take: Recycle Backpacks**



Give each child a paper grocery bag. Tape two lengths of thick yarn to one side of each bag to act as backpack straps. Set out stickers, glitter glue, or crayons, and let children decorate their bags.

When children finish decorating their bags, help them put on their backpacks, using the yarn as straps. Have them fill each other's bags with Whiskers' recycled papers. Encourage children to use their backpacks to pick up trash in their yards. Remind them that ► God made our world and wants us to take care of it.

### ■ **Treat to Eat: Fruit From God's World**

Serve children cut-up fruit. (Be sure the fruit does not pose a choking hazard.) Point out that the fruit comes from trees that grow in God's world. Talk with children about ways they can care for plants and trees, such as helping to water their lawns. Remind them that ► God made our world and wants us to take care of it.

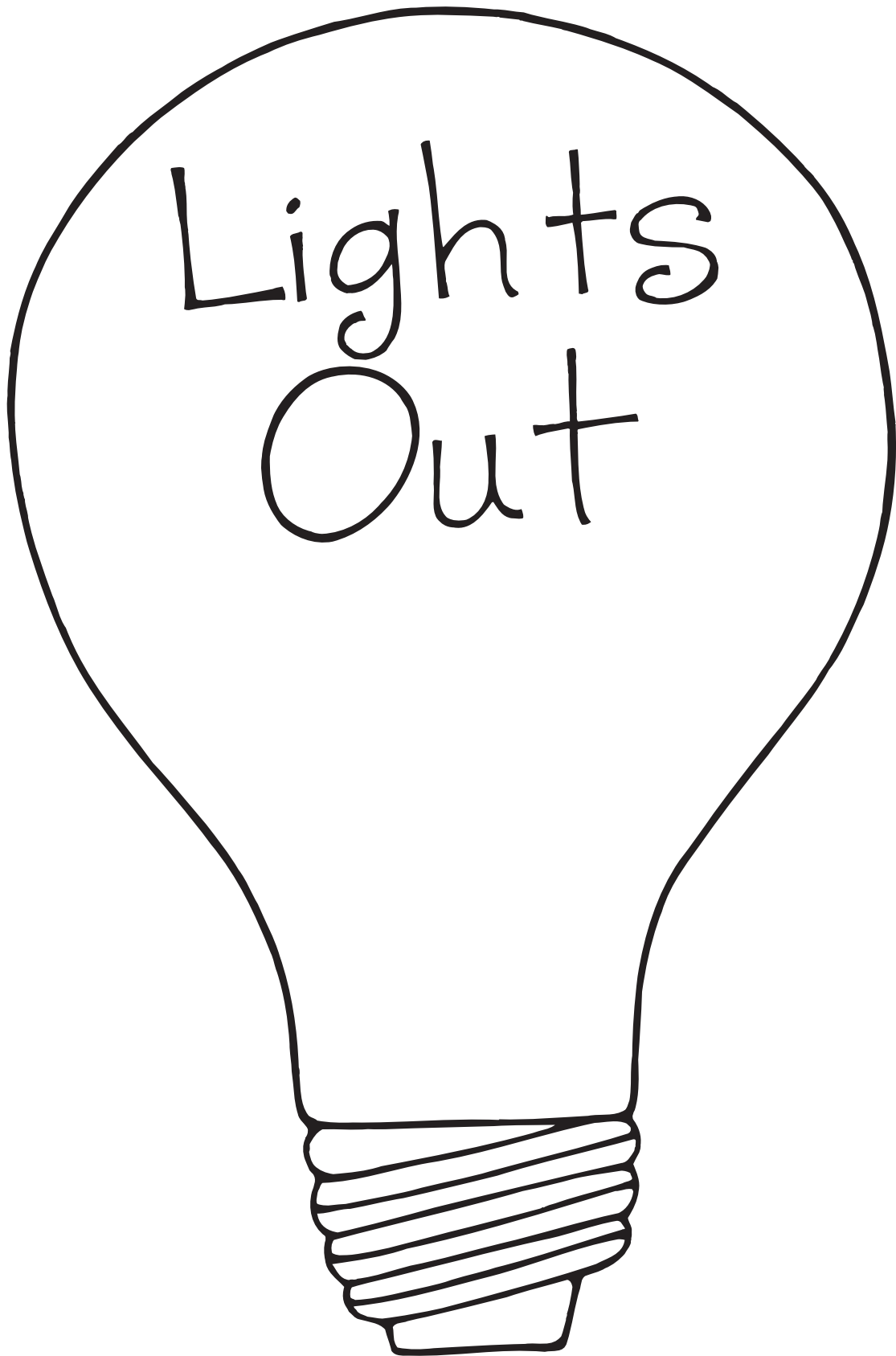


### ■ **Story Picture: Caring for God's World**

Give each child a copy of the "Today I Learned..." handout. Set out crayons or markers, and have children color their pictures. Then let each child tear pieces of scrap paper and glue them in the recycling box in the picture. As children work, talk about all the wonderful things God made. Remind them that ► God made our world and wants us to take care of it.

# Lights Out

Photocopy and cut out the light bulb.



# Today I learned...

God made our world and wants us to take care of it.

Help me learn this:

God made the world (adapted from Genesis 1:1).

Ask me:

- What did God ask people to do for his creation?
- What can you do to take care of God's world?
- What can our family do this week to keep our home and neighborhood beautiful?

Family Fun

- Take a family field trip to a local recycling plant or local sanitation center. If tours aren't available, check out a book on recycling from the library. Find out how you can recycle!
- Walk down your street together, and pick up any trash you see. If you meet any neighbors, encourage them to join you in keeping God's world beautiful.

**God Wants Us to  
Care for Our World**  
(Genesis 1:28-31)



