

Pollution and Environmental Conservation

God is Pure and Holy

Spiritual Awareness: The effect of sin on God's perfect creation

God's original creation was perfect and unpolluted. With the fall of man, sin entered the world, and so did imperfection. Instead of caring for the creation, man started exploiting it. God's beautiful world started to deteriorate.

God has provided for us richly through the creation. These resources need to be used wisely. Conservation of soil, water, plants and animals requires wisdom and foresight. Many species of plants and animals are currently endangered because of greed and carelessness. People have changed, polluted and destroyed many of the Earth's ecosystems. Although the creation can never return to its original state of perfection, there are steps we can take to conserve it.

Sin has not only affected the physical environment, but also our hearts. Only Jesus, who is perfect and without sin, can forgive us.

Our response to 'God is Pure and Holy'

Because God is Pure and Holy I will...

- Obey Him.
- Try to do the things He wants me to do.
- Ask God to forgive me when I sin.
- Ask Him to make me clean inside.
- Admit when I make mistakes.
- Remember the fruits of the Spirit and try to show them in my life.
- Have respect for other people.
- Put God first in my life.

Supporting devotional resource

Themes Level for Christian Studies 7, (Pure) - What happened to God's perfect creation?

Themes Levels for Christian Studies 2, (Pure) - God is pure because he is without sin

Themes Level for Christian Studies 1, (Wise) - It is wise to obey God

Biblical References

Bible stories and passages

Genesis 1-2 - the perfect creation

Genesis 2:15 - God took man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work and take care of it.

Genesis 2 - the Fall

Genesis 4 - The sin of Cain

1 Peter 1:18-21 and Hebrews 9:14 – Jesus was without sin, a perfect lamb sacrificed for us.

2 Cor 5:18-21 – Christ became sin for us, that we might share the righteousness of God.

Romans 8:19-22 - The creation groans, waiting to be freed from bondage.

Memory verses

Romans 5:12 - Sin came into the world through Adam, and his sin brought death with it. As a result death has spread to the whole human race because everyone has sinned.

Psalm 18:30 – This is God – how perfect are His deeds! How dependable are His words!

Isaiah 1:18 – The Lord says, “You are stained red with sin, but I will wash you as clean as snow.”

Isaiah 43:25 – “I am the God who forgives your sins; and I do this because of who I am.”

Romans 3:23-24 - Everyone has sinned and is far away from God’s saving presence. But by the free gift of God’s grace all are put right with Him through Christ Jesus who sets us free.

1 John 1:9 – If we confess our sins to God He will forgive us our sins and purify us from all wrongdoing.

Psalm 103:12 – As far as the East is from the West, so far does He remove our sin from us.

Key Questions

What is the meaning of perfect?

What was God's original creation like?

What was Adam's responsibility in the original creation? (Genesis 2:15)

How was it different to our world today?

What effect did sin have upon the world?

What effect does sin have upon today's world?... (environment; people)

How is man directly responsible for pollution?

How can people's minds become polluted?

How does pollution harm man, plants and animals?

What can we do to help clean up the environment?

What is conservation?

How can we conserve the things God has given us in the creation?

Outcomes

Students will

knowledge

- understand the reasons for environmental pollution (land, air, noise, visual, moral)
- understand the effects of pollution on the environment
- outline steps in cleaning up the environment
- suggest ways to minimize pollution and conserve/preserve the earth's valuable resources
- research ways in which scientific understandings, discoveries and inventions can be used to solve environmental problems

Skills

- identify and investigate local pollution problems
- identify and investigate global pollution problems
- locate, develop, communicate and utilize strategies to minimize pollution and preserve resources

Values

- understand that sin is another form of pollution that can affect people's hearts and minds
- show wisdom in waste management and recycling
- appreciate the beauty of God's creation and desire to maintain and preserve its resources
- Seek to keep their own lives free from moral and spiritual pollution

Activities

- Identify the types of environmental pollution - land, air, water, noise, space
- Compare today's world with Genesis 1. Discuss reasons for the difference.
- Identify the causes of environmental pollution e.g. chemicals, oil spills, car exhaust fumes, litter, sounds of jets.
- List the consequences of the different types of pollution, i.e. its effect on human, plant and animal life.
- Collect detergent and shampoo bottles and identify chemicals that cause water pollution and destruction of water life. (Use a material safety data sheet that gives information on harmful chemicals in household and personal care products.)
- Draw a picture of your kitchen rubbish bin, showing what goes in it.
- Draw examples of polluted environments.
- Predict the possible effects of pollution on the environment and mankind in the future.
- Identify and investigate local pollution problems.
- Locate, develop, communicate and utilize strategies to minimize pollution and resources.
- Prepare a publicity campaign to promote awareness of pollution problems.
- Make anti-litter posters.
- Formulate ideas for educating people to drink from non-disposable drinking bottles, or use non-disposable cups, instead of buying water in plastic bottles. Do the same for polystyrene cups.
- Discuss ways in which poor waste management can contribute to pollution.
- Compare waste disposal 100 years ago to today. List differences.
- Find out what happens to dirty water and sewage when it leaves your home.
- Find out what happened to sewage in the old days.
- Make a compost heap and discuss the benefits of composting.
- Discuss the benefits of recycling. (helps get rid of the rubbish; helps save the earth's resources)
- List ways in which rubbish can be recycled.
- Name or draw items that can be recycled.

- Discuss the environmental problems caused by excessive and unnecessary packaging.
- Discuss the best and worst types of packaging for environmental friendliness.
- Suggest more environmentally friendly ways of distributing products e.g. refilling glass jars; using less packaging.
- Research nuclear waste.
- Discuss problems caused by bad land management, exploitation of forests and soils.
- Research discoveries and inventions that can be used to help solve environmental problems.
- Discuss pollution of space and the possible consequences.

Assessment

1. Make a poster showing environmental *problems* on the one side, and possible *answers* on the other side.
2. What have I learned from the study of pollution...
 - about God?
 - about doing what God wants me to do?
 - about the Bible?

Link with Australian curriculum

Science Year 5: Science as a human endeavour - Scientific understandings, discoveries and inventions are used to solve problems that directly affect peoples' lives

Learning Connection

English: Create a class newspaper for distribution to the whole school. Write letters and articles on how to make our environment cleaner and how to be responsible with resources.

Mathematics: Problem solving exercises concerning recycling, e.g. calculate how many plastic water bottles a person would throw away in a month if buying one bottle per day.

Health: Identify problems with drinking water/drinks from bottles containing PCBs; Discuss the health benefits of making your own food from basic raw materials rather than eating packaged food. Calculate the saving in packaging waste.

History: Compare pollution and waste management today with 100 years ago.

Thinking Skills: See *Creative Thinking Skills* on this web site – “Pollution and waste management” (Middle/Upper Primary).

Additional resources

For Creation and Fall see <http://creation.com/creation-for-kids> - “Seven C’s of Creation” and “Temptation; Choices; The Fall”