



Soil and Sprouts

Lesson 4: God created soil and filled it with plants.

On the third day of creation God separated the sky from the water and created land. He then filled the land with every kind of plant. Infants and toddlers can experience God's creativity as they play with soil, sand and stones. They can discover plants through leaves, seeds, vegetables and fruit.

Scripture from Genesis 1:9-13 "And God said, '...let dry ground appear...Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.' And it was so."

Class Schedule

(45 minutes)

Welcome Time (15 minutes)

On the mat in the soft corner. Time to settle in and free play. Music or singing.

Bible Time and Lesson (20 minutes total)

At the table

- **Bible Time**
- **Lesson:** Talk about the fact that God made soil and plants. Guide children in enjoying God's creation through sensory play.
Sort and play with rocks and stones of all sizes. Play in with sand.
Rattle seeds together and play with leaves. Blow leaves around the table.
Smell flowers and pick their petals.
- **Craft:** Any craft involving rocks, seeds, leaves or wood bark would be good today.
- **Snack:** Vegetables or fruit

Closing (10 minutes)

On the mat in the soft corner Quiet activities to settle down. Quiet music or nature sounds.

Teaching Items to Collect

(Some in the Theme Boxes):

- Land Items:
 - Soil
 - Sand
 - Stones of various sizes
 - Tins and containers for sorting the stones and listening to the various sounds they make when the container is shaken
 - Shallow container for sand
 - Small sandbox toys or various containers to play with the sand.
- Plant Items:
 - Wood
 - Bark
 - Leaves
 - Seeds
 - Flowers
 - Vegetables
 - Fruit
- Gardening Equipment
 - Watering tin
 - Trowel
 - Rake



1. Welcome Time

(15 minutes) *On the mat in the soft corner*
Time to Settle in and free play.

Today focus the conversation on flowers. The children will enjoy smelling them and noticing colours. Talk about how God is good God is to make flowers smell so nice.

*Take care choosing non-poisonous plants.

- Bubbles/toys/picture books
- Welcome each by name
- Mirrors, Peep Tube, Vehicles
- Bell to indicate class is about to start

2. Bible Time

When you move to the table spend the first 5 minutes in routines that you repeat each week.

- Pat the bible
- Find Jesus picture (sticker) in bible. Take time to talk about Jesus as our friend.
- "Read" - God loves ____.
- B-I-B-L-E

Vocabulary:

- Stone: Big, Small
- Sand
- Leaf
- Flower

Sensory:

- Stones: Rough, smooth
- Fine sand
- Leaves: Soft, prickly, hard
- Smells of flowers

3. Bible Lesson

(15 minutes) *At the table*

Guide the children in exploring the very tactile world of stones, soil and sand.

- Lift and roll large stones.
- Stack stones and sort into various containers.
- Rattle small stones in tins and cups. Allow children to pour them between containers.
- Fill a shallow pan with fine sand and provide small shovels and containers so children can dig and pour sand.

Provide plants so children can enjoy God's creation.

- Handle various types of leaves and blow them around the table.
- Let children use sticks and wood to make a variety of sounds.
- Smell flowers and pick off their petals
- Peel, cut and taste fruit and vegetables.
- Craft (optional): Make something using stones, sand, leaves, vegetables or flowers.
- Prayer: Folding hands and closing our eyes to pray.
- Snack: Serve fruit or vegetables

4. Closing

(10 minutes) *On the mat in the soft corner*. Quiet activities to settle down

As you settle down pick up any "stray" stones or leaves that might have fallen from the table during the lesson. Praise the children's helping skills and talk about how God is happy when we help people.

- Look at pictures or books with pictures of plants or flowers.
- Cuddle the baby dolls and "pray with them" and put them to bed.



Suggested Songs for this Lesson:

Note: Infants and toddlers enjoy the rhythm and melody of song but they are not critics of the teacher's abilities! It's fine if you sing the same tune every time, make up your own tune or even just say the words in a poetic or fun way. Just have fun with it and put the children's needs above your own shyness.

Who Can Make the Flowers?

Oh, who can make the flowers?
I know I can't, can you?
Oh, who can make the flowers?
I know it's God, 'tis true.
Red ones, yellow ones, pink ones too.
Purple, orange, white, and blue.
Oh, who can make the flowers?
I know it's God, 'tis true.

(Make up your own tune or recite as a poem)

Little Flowers Grow and Grow

Little flowers grow and grow.
Sometimes very very slow.
They start out to be so small.
Then they grow up oh-so-tall!

Tune: Start low and sing up the scale.

Action: Begin by holding a flower on the table and crouching down low with it. As you sing up the scale lift the flower gradually so that you are stretching your arms and holding the flower high in the air when you sing the last line.

God Made Apples Taste So Sweet

God made *apples taste so sweet.
Taste so sweet. Taste so sweet.
God made apples taste so sweet.
Thank you, God, for apples.

**Substitute any fruit or vegetable and appropriate taster texture (lemon so sour, carrot so crunchy, orange so juicy, etc.)*

Tune: Mary Had a Little Lamb

Action: Sing during snack time.

Let's All Nod Like the Flowers Nod

Let's all nod like the flowers nod.
Nod, nod, nod.
Let's all nod like the flowers nod.
Nod, nod, nod.
Let's all bend and sway in the breeze
Underneath the trees.
What a marvelous day. A marvelous day.
Nod, nod-non, nod-nod.

Action: Sway the flowers as you sing.

Thank You, God, for Sand

Pat my hand. Pat my hand.
Pat it in the sand.
I feel it in my fingers. I feel it in my hands.
Squeeze it and shake it and watch it slowly fall.
Thank you, God in heaven, for hands and sand and all.

Rhyme: Sounds like Pat-a-Cake

Action: Sing as you guide children in playing with a sensory tub of sand.

Hear the Stones Fall

Hear the stones fall. God made them all.
They drop in the tin. They drop in the tin.
They rattle and shuffle and make lots of noise.
It sounds good to girls and it sounds good to boys.
Hear the stones fall. God made them all.

Tune: Three Blind Mice

Action: Sing as you guide children in dropping small stones into tin cans. Rattle the stones in the tins (cans) so the children can hear the sound they make.



God Made Flowers Smell So Sweet

God made *flowers smell so sweet.

Smell so sweet. Smell so sweet.

God made flowers smell so sweet.

Thank you, God, for flowers.

Tune: Mary Had a Little Lamb





Items for Teaching this Lesson



Stones. Various sizes and textures. Children love sorting stones and putting them in various containers and rattling them.



Sand. Pour some into a shallow tub and let children enjoy running it through their hands. Add plastic spoons for digging.



Soil, trowel, watering cans, items to dig in soil (cup, spoon, shallow dish).



God made land and plants on the 3rd day.



Leaves, stems, bark and wood. Real or artificial. Be careful they are not poisonous.



Plastic or silk flowers. If you cut the stems make sure to cover any sharp wire is covered with tape. Caring for the garden.



Plastic fruit and pictures.



Fresh fruit to view, touch and taste. Ask parents beforehand about allergies. Be careful with seeds or any choking hazards with infants and toddlers.



Fresh vegetables to view, touch and taste. Ask parents beforehand about allergies. Be careful with seeds or any choking hazards with infants and toddlers.