

Family Page

Background Reflection

Many children are familiar with the ideas of cleaning up, recycling, and taking care of the Earth. Today's lesson approaches these ideas from our faith perspective. God created us and the entire world out of his love. When we make something that we love, we also make plans to take care of that thing. God did the same in by entrusting the care for his creation to us.

Everything God created has its own goodness and perfection because it has come from God's goodness and perfection. We must respect this goodness in each thing God created. We must be careful not to abuse creation or use it in a way in which God did not intend. As his stewards, we must make good choices to take care of what God has given us.

Family Activities

- Brainstorm with your child ways to participate in stewardship as a family. Is your community having a trash clean-up day? Does your local animal rescue shelter need old blankets or towels for the animals? Look through your parish bulletin, diocesan newsletter, or local newspaper to identify opportunities to care for God's creation.
- Read the Featured Story on page 22 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* together (Genesis 1:26–31). Invite your child to tell you what he or she remembers about the meaning of these verses.
- Watch and sing along to the video "I Sing the Mighty Power of God | Everest VBS Music Video | Group Publishing" (YouTube, 2:41). Then discuss with your child how amazing God's creation is. How does caring for and respecting creation show our love for God?

People of Faith

Pope Francis (1936–present)

Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio was elected Pope in 2013 and chose the name "Francis" for Saint Francis of Assisi (1197–1253), the patron of the environment. The Pope wanted to recall Saint Francis's simple lifestyle and care for the poor. Pope Francis wrote "*Laudato Si'*," the first papal encyclical focused on care for the environment.

Prayer

Pray this prayer together as a family, beginning and ending with the Sign of the Cross.

Lord God, thank you for all you have given us. Show us the way to be good stewards, and help us always to love one another. Amen.

