

# Inclusive catechesis & prayer

## Caretakers of God's World (CST Stewardship)



**Introduction for catechists:** We are all beloved children of God. Inclusive catechesis is about making sure that everyone has the chance to get to know about God the Father, Jesus His son, and the Holy Spirit. You can adapt this resource to meet the needs of your child / group, so that each one can build an engaging and joyful relationship with God – who loves each of us, just as we are.

**Opening hymn:** Playing quietly to introduce the liturgy. Our suggestion is *All Things Bright and Beautiful*. See [missiontogether.org.uk/sing-with-mission-together](http://missiontogether.org.uk/sing-with-mission-together)

**Sign of the cross:** Where appropriate children are supported to make the sign of the cross.

### Introduction for children

Today can you remember a story about God creating the world? He created the light and the darkness, the sun and the moon. He even created the birds, fish, animals and the first people, Adam and Eve.

### Bible reading

In the Bible, which is our special book about God, it says this about Adam and Eve, 'God blessed them and said, "Have many children and grow in number. Fill the earth and be its masters. Rule over the fish in the sea and over the birds in the sky. Rule over every living thing that moves on the earth."' Genesis 1:28

### Bible reflection

In the Bible reading we heard today it may sound like God is putting Adam and Eve in charge of everything and that they can do what they want! God isn't saying this at all. What God is really saying is that Adam and Eve are the **stewards** of the earth. A steward is someone who takes care of God's kingdom. In the same way that our caretaker Ms/Mr X looks after our school and keeps everything and everyone safe. In the story, God asks Adam and Eve to be caretakers for the world and all its animals, fish and plants. Today, God asks us all to be caretakers of the world, to care for and look after it. God wants us to be happy when we see all the beautiful plants, birds, trees and animals that are here for all people to enjoy, because God loves us. Let's say a prayer now for all the children around God's wonderful world:

**Mission Together prayer:** to the right.

**Sign of the cross:** Where appropriate children are supported to make the sign of the cross.

**Closing hymn:** *All Things Bright and Beautiful*. This time children can join in with percussion instruments and sing along if appropriate for the group.

**Follow up activities:** *Nature Pictures*. Found on page 2.

#### Mission Together Prayer

May all children  
In the world  
Share love  
Share friendship and live  
In the peace  
Of God's love  
Now and forever. **Amen.**

## Activity: Nature Pictures



### Tips for catechists / parents

The aim of this activity is to let the children create a picture of nature by using nature. This activity could be used indoors but it would be more effective if you could take the children outside into a safe place with access to leaves, flowers they can pick and twigs etc. Being outside will allow you to point out how beautiful God's creation is first hand as well as making this a sensory learning experience. Care will need to be taken that the area is secure to keep children safe and that any plants that children should not touch are outside the area.

### Instructions

- Allocate each child four sticks and support them as they create a 'picture frame' to put onto grass or onto a paved area. The frames need to be large enough for the children to create their picture inside.
- Explain to the children what they can use to create their picture and any rules about boundaries or anything they cannot do as well as all the things they can do.
- Allow the children to gather materials and bring them back to place in their stick frame.
- There is no right or wrong regarding what the children decide to create with their natural materials. Some children may decide to create a landscape of leaves and others may just like to pile stones or soil within the area. Everything is part of God's creation so anything is a celebration!
- Take pictures of each finished picture so that the children have a memento of what they have created.

### For this activity you will need:

- Long sticks/twigs for each child to create a picture frame.
- Access to a grassy area where leaves, flowers, blossoms, etc can be picked easily.

*You can 'hide' additional natural materials in the area e.g. flowers you have bought if there aren't many in the area.*



# Fundraising ideas



Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio – the Catholic Church's official children's charity for overseas mission. Thanks to children in England and Wales, we can provide life-changing aid around the world in whatever form it's needed. That could be a new school, feeding programme, or a generator for a children's home. Mission Together helps all children, regardless of background or beliefs. That's how we show the all-embracing nature of the Catholic Church and the true meaning of 'mission'.

Fundraising is a brilliant way to involve everyone in raising money for Mission Together. Below are a few ideas for different times in the year. You can find other ways to get involved by visiting our webpage <https://missiontogether.org.uk/fundraising-ideas/> Please **share your** fundraising events with us @missioUK adding the hashtag #missiontogether

## Ideas for Spring & Summer

**Valentines biscuits:** bake heart shaped cookies and sell them in pretty bags around Valentines Day. Try to involve children as much as possible, from adding ingredients and cutting cookies to shaking sprinkles.

**Spring flower sale:** everyone loves the first signs of spring after winter! Work with children to pot spring bulbs – snowdrops, mini daffodils, crocuses and hyacinths to sell as Easter gifts.

**Easter bonnet competition:** charge children to enter a competition for the best Easter bonnet. Prizes for the most fabulous creations!

**Weeding Week:** While the days are sunny and warm, why not raise money by weeding gardens? Ask for suggested donation, or sponsorship per bag of weeds. Maybe green fingered children could plant too!

**Scavenger hunt:** this is a great outdoor activity! Print off some sheets with summertime things to spot e.g. flowers in the garden, leaves on trees, birds singing. We have an accessible Scavenger Hunt available to download on our 'Inclusive Resources' webpage. Charge an entry fee. Every complete scavenger sheet is placed in a hat, with the pulled out winner receiving a prize.

## Ideas for Autumn & Winter

**Rake-a-Thon:** With autumn leaves falling, who not fundraise for Mission Together by tidying gardens for a suggested donation. Make sure children have strong gloves and bags if they take up the Rake-a-Thon challenge.

**Winter walks:** brave the elements and hold a torch-lit hike or winter walk to raise money for Mission Together. Make sure you have plenty of adults to supervise and assist when organising outdoor events with children. Better still, get the whole family involved!

**Christmas crafts:** get children involved in making and selling Christmas cards, ornaments, wreaths, biscuits, and any other Christmassy gifts and treats you can think of. Donate the proceeds to Mission Together. Visit our Advent webpage for instructions for our Handy Advent Wreath and other craft ideas.

Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission.

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