# THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY

## CHILDREN’S MEETING LESSON

**DATE:** June 10, 2018

**SUBJECT:** **CREATION:** **God Created the Land and the Seas**

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 1:9-10; 2 Peter 3:5; Jeremiah 5:22; Proverbs 8:29; Psalms 74:17a; 89:9a; 33:5b; 104:24c; 67:6; 104: 26a; 65:9-10; 24:1; 89:11; Exodus 9:29c; Deuteronomy 10:14; 1 Corinthians 10:26; Revelation 10:2b; Psalms 37:9, 11, 22; John 1:3.

**AIM:** That the children would see God’s power and purpose in creating the land and seas of the earth, and that they would be grateful to Him for the earth on which we live.

**MEMORY VERSES TO CHOOSE FROM:** Genesis 1:10 (And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas; and God saw that it was good.); Psalms 104:24-25a (**24** How many are Your works, O Jehovah! In wisdom You have made all of them; The earth is full of Your creatures. **25** Yonder is the sea, great and extensively wide;…)

**SUGGESTED SONGS:** 61 (Who Made?); 60 (The Creation – verses 1-4 only); 4611 (My God is So Great!); 9005 *BSS God’s Design #5* (All Things Came into Being through Him); 55 (God Made the Earth and Sky); 9014 *BSS God’s Design #14* (God Put Them There); 9002 *BSS God’s Design #2* (Before God Put the Leaves on The Trees)

**CRAFT IDEAS:** 1) Divide a paper plate in half; on one side, show the land with flowers and trees made from construction paper and tissue paper and on the other side, show the seas with fish, seaweed, etc. 2) Create a collage to visualize God’s creation of the land and the seas.

**APPROACH:** Ask the children to either write or tell a story of what life would be like on the earth if it were completely covered with water. Ask them why the sea has a definite boundary.

**CONTENT:**

**I. Order of Creation Displays God’s Wisdom.**

In Genesis 1:1-10, we see that the earth was covered with water and that there was no life. The first things that God created were light and air. Both are crucial to the existence of life. But, without the land to provide a foothold, all things including man (us) would have to hang in the air! How uncomfortable it would be to be suspended in the air all the time! Or, imagine if the whole earth were like Venice—a city surrounded by water. Praise the Lord that before He created any living things, He created the dry land and the seas.

**II. God Created the Land and the Seas.**

In Genesis 1:9-10, we see that the Lord was working upon the waters seeking to confine and limit them. When the Lord restored the earth, He just said, “Let the waters under heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear; and it was so.” Thus, in 2 Peter 3:5 we are told the land stands out of the water and through water. In Jeremiah 5:22, we are told that the Lord placed the sand as a boundary for the sea. Regardless of how hard the waves would beat against the shore, they could go only so far. Once the water was confined, the dry land appeared on the third day. God called the water “seas”, and the land “earth”, and He saw that it was good.

**III. The Land and the Seas are Full of the Riches and Goodness of the Lord (Psalms 33:5b; 104:24b; 67:6)**

1. **Some wonderful facts concerning the land**
2. The oceans cover approximately ¾ of the earth’s surface. Therefore, the earth’s entire population of more than 7 billion people is wholly dependent upon only ¼ of the earth’s surface. Imagine how much food it takes to feed this many people three times a day, plus snacks, for thousands of years!
3. Soil is more valuable than anything else on the land. Nearly all of our food comes from the soil. The soil lies on the earth’s surface in a very thin layer. Under it are the rocks of the earth’s crust. Without this thin cover of soil, plants would not grow. Without plants, animals would starve. The plants and animals which are our source of food and clothing would disappear.
4. Soil helps plants in several ways. It provides them with a foothold. Plants firmly rooted in the soil do not wash or blow away. Soil also holds moisture and food that plants suck up through their roots. Finally, the soil stores heat. This helps plants to grow. The heat of the soil is especially important in spring and fall. When the air cools at night, the soil keeps the plants warm.
5. Only 1/10 of all land is used for growing crops. It is called arable land. Two thirds of arable land grows cereals—grains such as wheat, barley, and rice. Fruits and vegetables plus oil-producing plants (such as olive trees) are also grown. We don’t eat cotton or rubber but they are grown to give us other things we need. Forests provide timber. Softwood from northern forests is used for making paper. Hardwood trees from warmer areas are used for building. Their wood is also used in furniture making.
6. One fifth of all land is used for pasture. Animals such as cows, chickens, and goats are raised. Farm animals give us meat, eggs, and milk. Wool and animals skins are used for clothing.
7. The food we eat comes from soil and water. But many other things we use come from rocks. Tools, machines, cars, even pots and pans, are made of metal. And the metal comes from rocks under ground. Some rocks are rich in mineral ores. Ores contain metals. Iron, copper, tin, lead, and zinc are among the metals we get from ores.
8. The land is also rich in oil, coal, and gas from which we get our fuel. Aside from this there are many precious stones contained in land. What a rich and wonderful provision God has made for us!
9. Our God is a wonderful Creator. He did not make all the land in the same way. Some of the land is large in mass such as the continents, sometimes small like islands and peninsulas. Neither is the land uniform; it is so varied. Our God created mountains, valleys, hills, deserts, swamps, prairies, etc. The location, climate, and topography all contribute to beautiful scenery.
10. **Some wonderful facts concerning the seas**
11. The earth is sometimes called the blue planet because it has so much water. Mars has canals but it has very little water. The moon and the other planets, with the possible exception of Venus, are as dry as dust. However, the earth has lots of water. Approximately ¾ of the earth’s surface is covered with water; only ¼ of its surface is dry land. By these proportions alone we can see how crucial water is to life.
12. The oceans, rivers, and lakes provide ship navigation and communication (Psalms 104:26).
13. They provide an important source of food (seafood, seaweed, etc.).
14. Water is very important for our recreation and pleasure. It provides swimming, fishing, boating, water skiing, scuba diving, etc.
15. The oceans store heat and water that have a profound effect upon weather and climate.
16. Water is rich in movement—in tides, waves, and shore currents. This movement is very useful. For example, when persistent winds blow along a coast, the water from deeper layers replaces the water that is blown offshore. The replacement water comes from depths of 600-1000 feet. This water is colder and richer in plant nutrients than the water it replaces. This exchange of water can considerably modify the climate of the coasts where it occurs. (The coastal fogs of California are the result of this kind of water action.) It also produces productive fishing areas.
17. The water of the earth is so wonderfully varied. We have oceans, seas, lakes, rivers, brooks, salt water, fresh water, spring water, hard water, soft water. How marvelous is our Creator!
18. We see that it is God’s goodness toward us that He visits the earth and waters it (Psalms 65:9-10)

**SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:** *Please pray and fellowship over which applications to cover. Covering one or two applications may be sufficient depending on the age group****.***

* **The Lord is the Creator of the land and the seas.** The earth belongs to Him; it is His possession. Today, we should be grateful to the Lord for His wonderful blessing in providing the earth with all its riches for our life and enjoyment. We should appreciate the land and seas by taking care of them and not abusing them or polluting them.
* **The land and seas are God’s provision for us today.** He also gives us a wonderful promise. Psalms 37:9b, 11, 22a tells us that if we wait upon the Lord we’ll inherit the earth; that the meek shall inherit the earth; and that those who are blessed by Him shall inherit the earth. How marvelous that the earth that belongs to the Lord will one day become our inheritance! May we be those who are thankful to the Lord for His wonderful creation and promise to us.

References:

Encyclopedia Britannica

The Planet Earth. By David Lambert.

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