

Introducing our Children to God's Wonder-full World



Today's child experiences, very little of the world God meant for us, ...a world of living things, of planting and harvesting, of harmony, growth and wonder. May one or more of the following activities help your family break through the artificial barriers of electronic games, television and busy-ness that keep us and our children from experiencing this world and seeing more of the God who created it and us.

The heavens declare the glory of God. Psalm 19:1. Ever go outside at night WITH your children and just let the stars SPEAK to your spirit. The rule for parent and child is no talking, just looking and being so still that you remember always the sense of God's presence. You might even take a blanket making it easier to just "Look Up". Just as you are ready to go back get out your flashlight and share the following verse: *"Oh, Lord GOD! You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too difficult for You!*

Look at the birds of the air: Matthew 6:26 Birds actually speak to us as much as the night sky. God actually commands us to pay attention to them, to the fact that he supplies all their needs just as he meets ours...that we should trust Him to meet our needs. God uses the birds to tell us not to fear, a big issue for many children. I have even heard Christians referred to as having two wings, one called Trust and one Called ObeY. Try keeping a birdfeeder or two for your children. For "Bird Putty" a great homemade food for birds we recommend a visit to www.bibleparent.com and click on "Creation for Parents".

For me God always speaks louder when I have a magnifying glass. This is especially true for children living in the city. It turns even the smallest bit of lawn into a wonder-full jungle of miracles, tiny bugs and flowers, little mushrooms and small seeds. It turns the human body into bits of hair and pores, wrinkles, big lips and funny looking eyes. There is nothing to help introduce creation so well as a magnifying glass or inexpensive microscope. God is like the world he gave us, the closer we look the more wonderful he is. Is your family looking closely? The nature of God is made clear in the things he has made. Romans 1:20

Tire Garden. A key lesson for children is that just as you must plant seeds if you want to pick flowers you must plant faith if you want to harvest God's promises. Almost any service station will give a child an old tire. Fill it with potting soil (garden soil is cheaper but does not work nearly as well) plant 5 or six cucumber seeds or a tomato plant. To draw butterflies and caterpillars sprinkle your garden with dill seed, the dill plants will attract butterflies. Butterflies are the perfect explanation of what happens when we accept Christ and are reborn. For instructions on an easy to make butterfly hatchery visit www.bibleparent.com and click on "Creation for Parents". May your

children learn the joy of being born again and to live their new life planting “Hope” and harvesting “Joy”. *Whatever you plant is what you’ll harvest. Galatians 6:7*

A MIRACLE PLANT FOR YOUR TIRE GARDEN

One day Jesus will return and “GLORY” , all those who have him in their hearts will be taken up to heaven. Bamboo is like that. Most species have their own “Resurrection Day” ...the day every plant in the world of that species will bloom and die...no matter what continent they are growing on...no matter how old the individual plant is. For some species resurrection day comes once every 60-70 years. For most species not so long. One species “mexican weeping bamboo” had never been known to bloom until recently when all the plants in the world bloomed, went to seed and then died...all at basically the same time. The same thing happened to “Arrow Bamboo” the staple food of nearly all the Giant Pandas in China. It did not matter if the seeds were planted 20 years ago or 60 years ago the plants had a preset resurrection day all died on that day...sort of a second coming. Other plants your children might like are Oregano, Aloe, and especially “Golden Purslane” a plant that could keep even the poorest of children from starvation.

Walking is a great way to share God’s wonder-full world with children...even very young children. It helps us view them as fellow travelers and not simply more baggage we tow through life. The number of walks is endless: Backward walks, blindfolded walks, speed walks, camera walks, man on the moon walks...v e r y s l o w, bird watching walks, walks in the rain, (even if it is not raining I always take an umbrella because of dogs. Open the umbrella in front of a dog and he runs away), star gazing walks, listening walks where you take twenty steps and close your eyes and listen, sunset walks, sunrise walks, cloud gazing walks, and last of all on Sunday a “Thank you God for your wonder-full world” walk. Without a parents sincere daily effort most children will never know what it is like to be immersed in the world God made for us...a daily dunk where they are free to touch and examine...to enjoy the wonders of the earth, wonders God intends for each of us. Walking just five minutes a day is a perfect first step to knowing God and the world he made...do your best on each walk to comment on the beauty or harmony of the Creation or asking questions like: “Doesn’t God make beautiful flowers or big trees or How does God get rain to come out of the clouds.” A perfect addition to any walk is an egg carton. The child can collect and keep anything that fits in the carton things like: rocks, seeds and seed pods, pine cones, bark from a tree, sea shells or acorns the child can keep it in his or her room until it starts to smell. If it is *alive* you can keep it till dark in a peanut butter jar covered with a bit of nylon stocking and a rubber band. If it is a lightening bug you can keep it until midnight. *Having a collection encourages a child to LOOK harder for the MANY wonders of the world God made and value the as part of his or her life.*

Painting with flowers. Every florist in the country throws away old flowers on Monday. Most will be happy to donate some OR get a few from your own garden. Give each child two or three petals to crush the petals between their thumb and first two fingers. When you see a small amount of juice. Have the child rub the little ball of crushed flower petals on a white piece of paper. Use as many flowers as you have colors and time. Most of the fun is in the doing so the first sheet of paper is for the JOY of doing. Don’t worry about the results. The children will never look at the world around them in the same way. They will see flowers as the source of color.

Next let the children watch as you make a cross and ask them if they think they could do one like it. The Bible verse we have chosen for this activity is Isaiah 53:5 “He was crushed (bruised) for our iniquities.” The Bible lesson is that just as the color from the flower flows onto the paper Christ’s life flows into our souls. You might lead your child (group) in a prayer something Like this: “Thank you Jesus for your love and for giving us all you had to give. Help us live worthy of that love.” Amen

May these activities help you and your children escape the man made media world that surrounds us all and find in God’s world a sense of wonder, a sense of majesty, a sense of his presence and love for each of us. If we protest the media world that is drowning our children we must offer them an alternative...daily INTERACTION with God’s world.

Charles White is a retired Christian preschool teacher with a lifelong interest in creation. View other activities for children and White’s “Nature Art” at www.bibleparent.com and click on “Creation for Parents”.