

Let the Little Children Come

Lesson 6. **FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON**

- Purpose: a) To allow the child to realize that all living things need a time to rest (or sleep).
- b) To teach the child that during each day there is a time for getting ready for bed, for sleeping, for getting up, and for going about our business (play, school, work, eating, etc.)
- c) To help the child realize that plants need all four of these times, too.
- (That Fall is the time for their “getting ready for bed,” Winter is the time for sleeping, Spring is the time for waking up, and Summer is the time for “going about their business.”)
- d) To introduce the “fourth day” of Creation.
- e) Indirectly, to begin the concept that “time is relative.”

Materials: Some Fall leaves;

A black piece of construction paper with stars and a moon pasted on it;
A white piece of paper with a yellow sun pasted on it.

- Presentation:
- 1) Review the first three days of Creation.
 - 2) Tell the children that on the fourth day God made the sun to rule the day (while holding up the white paper) and the stars and moon to rule the night (while holding up the black paper).
 - 3) Ask the children what they do at night. If they don't know, ask them if they go to sleep. (If you're lucky, they'll say that they do!)
 - 4) Then tell them that **daytime** and **nighttime** aren't the only two times of the day.
 - 5) Tell them that there is a time when it is just starting to get dark and that's the time when we start getting ready to go to bed. That time is called **evening**.
 - 6) Describe the process of taking off the clothes that they have been wearing all day...because they're probably dirty; and, besides, we wouldn't want to wear them to bed, anyway.

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- 7) Remind them that if it's a chilly night, they'll probably snuggle under a nice warm blanket.
- 8) In other words, in the evening we get ready for bed...and at night we sleep.
- 9) Ask the children if they know what happens when they're done sleeping. If they don't know, tell them that they wake up. That's the time when they get out of bed and get dressed, and it's called **morning**. It's the time when we get ready to do all the things we want to do during the day.
- 10) And during the day, we do those things...like going to school, or going out to play...or eating. It's the time for doing things.
- 11) Repeat the four times, so that the child has them firmly in mind:
 - a. A time for getting ready for bed
 - b. A time for sleeping
 - c. A time for waking
 - d. A time for doing other things
- 12) Tell them that all living things have a special time set aside for doing these things.
- 13) Ask them if they know when a tree gets ready for bed. If they don't know, tell them that the trees are getting ready to go the sleep right now...just like we take off the clothes that we've worn all day, the trees are taking off the leaves that they've worn all Summer.
- 14) Tell them that the Winter is nighttime for the trees, and because it's cold in the Winter, God covers them with a blanket of snow to keep them warm.
- 15) Tell them that in the Spring, when the weather starts to get warm again, the trees will start to wake up...and they'll put on fresh new "clothes"...or leaves...and be ready to do whatever trees do during the Summer.
- 16) Ask the children if they know what the time of the year is called "when the leaves fall." If they don't know, tell them that it's called Fall (but sometimes we use a big word called Autumn).

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- 17) Tell the children that **Fall**, to the trees, is the same as “evening” is to us...a time when we get ready to go to sleep.
- 18) And **Winter** to the trees, when it’s cold and there’s snow on the ground, is like nighttime to us...when we are asleep under our blankets.
- 19) **Spring** time is like morning to us...when we wake up and put on fresh clothes.
- 20) And **Summer** is like the daytime...when we go about our business.
- 21) So, you see, getting ready for bed and sleeping and waking up and going about their business takes a tree much longer to do, than it would for us.
Their “day” is longer than ours!...and so is their nighttime!
- 22) But God made a special time for these things to happen...a special time for each and everything that He made...because we need our rest in order to grow.

(Do the song before the activity, today, since the activity involves going outside.)

Song: **The Creation Song**, verses 1, 2, 3, 4

4. And then it was “day four,” and still God worked some more.
He made the lights to rule the days and nights.
Light upon the earth and time for us to grow,
And God saw it was good, don’t you know.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

Activity: Have them go outside and help pick up the leaves (or rake them if you have enough small rakes). Tell them that trees don’t know about “dirty clothes hampers,” so it’s OK for them to just let their leaves fall...but when people get ready for bed, they generally put their dirty clothes in a special place.

(If you like, you can point out to the children that the trees are like very young children who take off their clothes and just throw them on the

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ground, and then their mothers or fathers have to come along and pick up after them...like they are doing with the leaves.

But always be positive, and affirm that you know that they don't do That(!)...that, of course, they are old enough to help put their clothes where they belong!)

P.S. If a year is like a day to a tree, then even a 2000-year old redwood is only 5.4-years old, when compared to Man-Time.