



"Taking Care of God's World"

Would you all agree that life has **LOVE** at its core? God is **LOVE**, right? But what does "**God is love**" really, really look like? How do we show "our little world" that we carry the **LOVE** of God with us each and every day? God so loved the world that God gave us Jesus, and we are called to show God how much we **LOVE** God's world.



Think It Through Knowing that God is woven into every fabric of life, have everyone take a moment to recall one way that they have either shown another person God's **LOVE** or someone has shown them God's **LOVE**. Write the responses (you might need to use the back):

Act If you stop and think about it, doesn't God's world consist of, literally, **EVERYTHING**? So, along with what your family has already remembered, consider the following thoughts about **Taking Care of God's World**. Take time to discuss anything that comes to mind.

People: Who are my neighbors? What do I know about other cultures? How do **I** treat the person who others make fun of or gossip about? Do an act of kindness for someone you know who is lonely or ill.

Respect: How do I show **LOVE** and respect for myself and others (including my parents!!)? How do I show respect for all living creatures? Have I ever teased an animal (including the family pet)? Do a small kindness for your pet or show your care for wildlife by putting up a bird feeder and watching for visitors from God's world.

Attitude & Appreciation: When I visit a park, or maybe go for a hike, do I notice God's little gifts such as: the breeze on my face, the color of the sky (especially at sunset) or the many other "rewards" of nature around me? How do I show care and concern about environmental issues? How do I feel/what do I do when I see litter/trash around me? Go on a family walk, and pick up litter as you go.

Yourself: *Before* I can take care of God's world I have to take care of me. How might I take better care of myself? What gifts has God bestowed upon **me** to share with this world? How am I the ears, eyes, hands, feet, & voice, of Christ in my "little world?" Make it a priority to set aside time for God in order to nurture your spirituality.

How has this discussion caused you to realize more about God's world?
By the way, what does the first letter of each underlined word (above) spell? _____

Scripture **Genesis** 1:27-30, **Psalms** 104, **Eccl.** 3:1-8, **Matthew** 5:14-16, **John** 3:16

Resources (1) *Teaching Kids to Love the Earth* by Lachecki Marina, et.al., (2) World Peace World Love Kids Club – www.planetpals.com, (3) Institute for Peace and Justice – www.ipj-ppj.org. (4) You may want to study more about **St Francis of Assisi** who had a great respect for God's beauty as revealed in creation.