

Walkabout with the Spirit

Daily Themes

"Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."

-Galatians 5:25

| | Day One | Day Two | Day Three | Day Four | Day Five |
|--------------------|--|--|--|---|--|
| Daily Theme | Appreciate His Creation | Discover His Forgiveness | Follow His Map | Drink Lots of Water | Prepare For Danger |
| Theme Verse | "God saw all that he had made and saw that it was very good." -Genesis 1:31 | "For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." -Galatians 3:27 | "My steps have held to your paths, my feet have not slipped." -Psalm 17:5 | "Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." -John 7:38 | "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves." -Matthew 10:16 |
| Bible Story | Creation | Baptism of Jesus | The Israelites Escape | Woman at the Well | Jesus Sends the Twelve |
| Story Ref. | Genesis 1 | John 1 | Exodus 14 | John 4 | Matthew 10 |

STORY: DAY ONE

DAILY THEME: Appreciate His Creation

THEME VERSE: "God saw all that he had made and saw that it was very good." -Genesis 1:31

BIBLE STORY: Creation

SIMPLE TRUTH: What God has made is very good.
Let us learn to take notice.



“AND GOD SAID”

QUICK OVERVIEW OF THE STORY:

Children will learn to understand the difference between building something and creating something.

SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR 10 CHILDREN:

None

PREPARATION:

The following account of creation leads the campers to appreciate God's creation and the Creator himself. It is taken from Genesis 1.

The campers will be led to discover the difference between simply *building* something and actually *creating* everything. Certainly, God built with great skill, but nothing existed before he began his creation project. He created absolutely everything out of nothing for people to enjoy.

The counselors have a fun role in helping you tell the story. They get to act out what happens on each day in front of the campers. The counselors will do this while you read/relay the story. Meet with them briefly prior to beginning the activity. Tell them to try acting out something for every single day of creation when it is read. What really makes this activity unique is that everyone is doing something and that the campers get to watch creation unfold in front of their eyes. They also get to hear the story from the leader, so be enthusiastic.

It will help you a lot to practice reading the story several times before your first session.

When it is time for the story, read it slowly and let the actors/actresses do their jobs. It is written in the present tense to give the campers the feeling that they are actually witnessing God's creation. Enjoy witnessing creation with your campers!

LESSON BEFORE THE STORY:

"Campers, you will assist me in telling the story today. I will divide you into two groups. One group will be responsible for the line, "**LET THERE BE!**" The other group will be responsible for the line, "**IT IS GOOD!**"

"Okay, group one over here, and group two over here. Quickly huddle together to make your own unique way of saying your line. Add some actions or a quick dance to make it a fun part of the story. You will know when to say your line during the story because I will point to you when your line comes up.

STORY:

"To begin, everyone here must close their eyes, please. Very good. We are about to watch something incredible happen. We will see what someone powerful did only by speaking words from his mouth. But, right now, nothing is happening. There is nothing. Keeping your eyes closed, slowly lift up your head. You feel no wind and you see no sky or birds or clouds. Keeping your eyes closed, tilt your head down. You don't see your toes, the ground, green grass, or colorful flowers. There is nothing. But, there is someone. He is God.

"Keeping your eyes closed, get ready to say your line, group one. And God says, here you go group one, "**LET THERE BE!**" LIGHT!

"Open your eyes! (Counselors begin acting out something that has to do with light.)

"How could that have happened? There was nothing, but now there is something very bright and brand new! The light is happening during the day and the dark happens at night. There is day AND night on the first day!

"Ready, group two? "**IT IS GOOD!**"

God isn't finished. He has more to create. He wants to make more without using tools, wood, nails, or a magic wand, but by using his words.

"God said, (Signal back to group one.) "**LET THERE BE!**" SKY! Clouds of all shapes and sizes are above us now! Some bring rain and wind, others bring snow, and others just bring shade. We could sit here all day and talk to each other about what strange and cool shapes we see up in the clouds, but day two is over. God has only just begun his amazing building project. (Signal to group two.) "**IT IS GOOD!**"

"It's day three, now. We have light and sky, but nothing solid or green yet. God said, (Signal) "**LET THERE BE!**" DRY GROUND and PLANTS! God doesn't have a plow or a shovel, but he still makes plants appear with his words! Watch the plants grow in front of our eyes! Smell them, taste them, and feel them. (Signal) "**IT IS GOOD!**"

“Could that all really have happened in one day? Corn takes all summer to grow! Redwood trees grow for hundreds of years! It would take such a long time to move all that dirt to cover the whole earth! But, remember, God put all of this here on earth first, which means that he created it. He did not have a dump truck or a combine or a big storage shed full of plants and dirt. We are only on day three and God has already done a ton. He’s still not ready to rest.

“God said, (Signal) **“LET THERE BE!”** SUN, MOON, and STARS! There are tons of lights, now. People standing all over the world will be able to look up and see the same moon at night! Wait, there are no people yet. Let’s continue watching. (Signal) **“IT IS GOOD!”** That was day four.

“God said, (Signal) **“LET THERE BE!”** FISH AND BIRDS! The air is full of chirps and songs and the water is full of splashes on day five. (Signal) **“IT IS GOOD!”**

“God said, (Signal) **“LET THERE BE!”** MORE ANIMALS! No, you’re not at a zoo. These are wild animals that God just spoke into being. Watch the animals play right in front of you. (Signal) **“IT IS GOOD!”**

“God said, (Signal) **“LET THERE BE!”** PEOPLE! Wave to Adam and Eve. They lived here first and all the people of the world came from them. Day six is the end of creation. God created everything that exists in six days. That’s less than a week! (Signal) **“IT IS GOOD!”** God is resting, now, but only for this day, the seventh. After this, God will do so much more for us. He will bring us into the earth and make us his people. Stay tuned for more about what God will do after creation. As for now, enjoy what he gave us and take great care of the earth.

AFTER THE STORY:

“Have you ever tried to build or make something? What was it and how was it difficult or fun? What was different about how God made the world?”

“In one minute, let’s try to come up with a huge list of things God created.

Depending on the size of the group, you could hand everyone a writing utensil and have them gather around the board or a giant piece of paper. Each person can write as many things as possible. An alternative would be splitting them into several groups and having a counselor write down their ideas. Have them share their lists with each other at the end. Emphasize how enormous God’s creation really is and how we haven’t even discovered everything yet.

“What parts of God’s creation do you enjoy most? How do you enjoy them?”

“God rested on the seventh day. Did he keep resting after that and just forget about what he made? What has God done since creation? What is God doing today?”

CRAFTS: DAY TWO

DAILY THEME: Discover His Forgiveness

THEME VERSE: *"For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."*

-Galatians 3:27

BIBLE STORY: Baptism of Jesus

SIMPLE TRUTH: We have a Savior who has covered us with His perfection. We praise and thank him for this.



RAIN-STICK

QUICK OVERVIEW OF THE CRAFT:

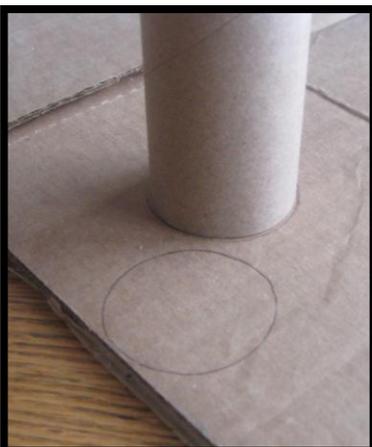
Children will make a rainstick. The sound of the water can remind them of their baptism.

SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR 10 CHILDREN:

5 cups of small dried beans (like lentils),
unpopped popcorn, dry rice, or tiny pasta
10 cardboard paper towel tubes
20 cardboard circles to use as end caps
15 feet of 12 inch wide aluminum foil
One roll of masking tape
Scissors
Yarn, construction paper, markers,
and/or crayons to decorate



Optional: two liter soda bottle with the bottom cut off as a funnel



PREPARATION:

Cut two cardboard circles to match the ends of the paper towel roll.

Create a funnel by cutting off the top of a two liter bottle, or use a funnel that you already have.

Gather the items for filling the rainsticks. Use dried beans, unpopped popcorn, uncooked rice, tiny pasta, plastic beads, or any other small items that won't rot.



The sound will be more unique if you use a variety of fillings.

Gather supplies for decorating the rainstick. You can use construction paper, stickers, markers, string, colored tape, or extra masking tape.

Cut out 18 inch sections of aluminum foil and split them down the middle.

LESSON BEFORE THE CRAFT

“Today we have been talking about baptism and what a wonderful gift it is.

“It is so amazing that God is able to wash away our sins since we are not able to. God uses the water and His Word in Baptism to give us forgiveness of sins and bring us into his family.

“The craft we are going to do today has to do with water. We are going to make rainsticks. If you’ve never seen a rainstick before, you should know that as you turn the stick side to side, it makes a sound like rainwater.

“Hopefully, this will help remind us of baptism, and help us to remember what a wonderful gift it is.

“People make rainsticks in the desert by taking a cactus and drying it out, and then hammering the cactus needles into the stick. That way, when they put things inside, they bump into the needles and they trickle down the inside of the cactus.

“We are going to use cardboard and aluminum foil inside to make a similar trickle down sound.

DIRECTIONS FOR THE CRAFT:

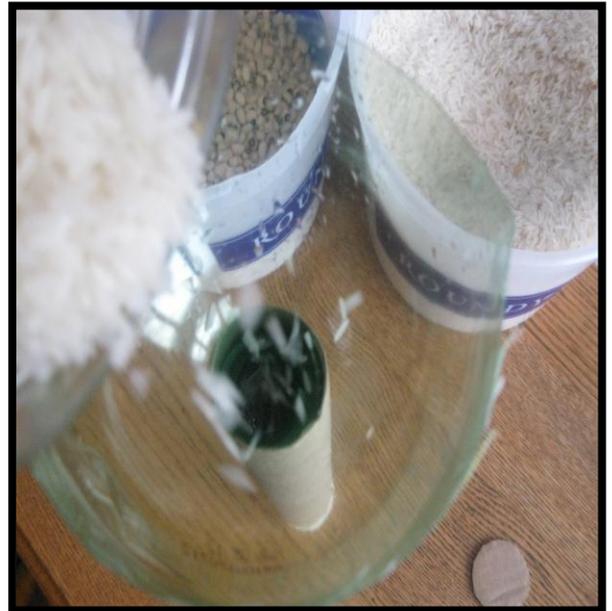
1. Give each camper one tube and two end circles. They will also need masking tape and two of the 6 inch by 18 inch pieces of aluminum foil that you prepared ahead of time.



2. Start by having the campers tape on one cardboard circle as an end cap, like in these pictures. It needs to be taped well enough that the fill won't have any gaps to fall out. (for younger campers, you can tape one end in advance, and help them tape the second one later in the craft)
3. Once one end is taped, the campers should take their two pieces of aluminum foil, and roll them tightly into a long skinny snake.



4. Then they should twist the snake into a spring shape, small enough that it will fit inside their tube.
5. Stuff both of the aluminum foil twists into the tube.
6. Get your funnels ready, and your fill.
7. Pour the fill into the rainstick until it is no more than one quarter full.
8. Tape the other end cap the same way you did the first one.



9. After the campers close up their rainsticks it is time for them to decorate them. Campers can wrap yarn around it as a decoration, or cut out colorful shapes and glue them on. Markers should work really well on the rainsticks also.

LESSON AFTER THE CRAFT:

“These rainsticks will hopefully be a reminder of the water and the Word that God uses to bring people into his family.

“Can you think of someone who you would like to remind of the blessings of baptism?

“When is a time when it is good to remember that God has washed away all of our sins, and brought us into his family? *When we have done something wrong, when a Christian we know is very sick or has died, When we are feeling like we are not worth very much to God.*

“Our theme verse for today is Galatians 3:27: *“For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”* When we say you are clothed with Christ, we mean that you are wearing God's perfection. When Jesus died and rose again to forgive your sins, he gave you his perfect clothes. And now, even though we have sinned, we get to walk into heaven because we are wearing the perfect Savior's clothes.

VARIATIONS:

You can tape two paper towel rolls together or use a wrapping paper tube to make a longer rainstick.

If you want to make a more direct connection to baptism, you could put some Baptism Bible passages up in front, and they could pick one to write on their rainstick.

Galatians 5:25, Mark 16:16, Acts 1:5, Acts 2:38, Matthew 28:19 are all good verses to use.

SNACK: DAY THREE

DAILY THEME: Follow His Map

THEME VERSE: *"My steps have held to your paths, my feet have not slipped."* -Psalm 17:5

BIBLE STORY: The Israelites Escape

SIMPLE TRUTH: God is our trustworthy guide. We can and should follow his directions.



GUIDED BY THE LIGHT

QUICK OVERVIEW OF THE SNACK:

Campers will make a trail mix cup to give a visual as to how God was the guide for Israel, light to guide and darkness for the Egyptians.

SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR 10 CAMPERS:

10 plastic cups
10 small pieces of paper
Tape

INGREDIENTS FOR 10 CAMPERS:

*Be sure to check for allergies with these foods.

Bag of M&Ms
Container of Peanuts/other assorted nuts
Bag of Chocolate Chips
Raisins
Broken pretzels
Box of goldfish/cheezits
Package of Graham Crackers

PREPARATION:

Write the theme verse for today on the pieces of paper and tape them to the bottom of each cup. If you choose to buy all ingredients separately you should mix them together in a large bowl. Make sure the graham crackers are in pieces that will fit in the bottom of their cups. You may have to cut or break them to fit.

LESSON BEFORE THE SNACK:

"Today the story we had was about the Israelites. What happened to the Israelites? Exactly Moses led them out of Egypt and then the Egyptians started chasing them. If you were running away from someone where would you go? Far away and to an open area where they can't corner and trap you. But God had a different plan. He wanted his people to trust him. He led them to a body of water so that there was nowhere for them to go.

"But God was faithful to them. He did not leave them to die; he allowed a way out for them. He used the pillar of fire to lead his people out of a dangerous situation.

"The same is true for us. Sometimes it seems like we are going nowhere and everything around us is intended to hurt us, but this is not true. God has a plan for each and every one of us. We just need to follow his directions and let Him lead us.

"Today for a snack we are going to make a visual that reminds us that God is always with us. When we remember that our feet will not slip."

DIRECTIONS FOR THE SNACK:

1. Place a graham cracker upright in the middle of the cup. Be sure to hold it up and down while you start to fill it. After you have some on each side it will stand on its own.
2. Tell them to take out anything that looks like fire and place it in one side of the cup. This will probably include goldfish; cheese-its; and red, orange and yellow M&Ms.
3. Have them take out dark colors and place it in the other side of the cup. This will probably include chocolate chips, raisins, and maybe the nuts, depending on if the campers think of them as dark or fiery.

LESSON AFTER THE SNACK:

"While we were making this snack what was very important for you to do? Right listen to directions. If you didn't listen to what I said what would have happened? You would have been lost and you wouldn't know how to make it. This is the same way that we are with God. He knows the end result, but we don't. We need to listen to him and follow his map.

"We just created the cloud that God used to guide the Israelites. Which side faced Israel? Right the fire side did and the darkness was faced toward the Egyptians. We always want to keep Jesus as our guiding light. Even though Israel was whining and complaining, God was still there with them. Even though they doubted his plan and felt like their own ways would be better, he was still there. Always remember that he will be there to guide us.

"You may eat the snack now.

"It seems that as you are finishing, you are discovering something else. Attached to "God" is the theme verse for today. Our feet have not slipped because we are linked to our God. As long as we stay following His lead, our feet cannot slip. Let's close with prayer.

"Dear heavenly Father,

“You have guided us in all we do. Even though we sometimes doubt you as the Israelites did, you stay with us and protect us. Help us to always follow your map.

“Amen.

CREATION ENCOUNTERS: DAY FOUR

DAILY THEME: Drink lots of Water

THEME VERSE: *“Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” -John 7:38*

BIBLE STORY: Woman at the Well

SIMPLE TRUTH: God works through His Word to nourish our faith, and help us grow.



WATER FILTRATION

QUICK OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITY:

Campers will make a water filter that will clean obvious dirt from their water.

SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR 10 CAMPERS:

five 2-liter soda bottle cut in half (by an adult)
napkins or paper towels
gravel
sand
paper towel
cotton balls
about 15 cups of dirty water
(water mixed with cooking oil, food coloring,
paper shreds, and bits of Styrofoam)

PREPARATION:

Make dirty water by adding cooking oil, food coloring, pieces of paper, and tiny pieces of Styrofoam to water.

Organize filter supplies into stations for groups of 2-4 campers.

LESSON BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:

“Our Walkabout rule for today is that we should drink lots of water. When we are travelling, this is a really important rule. Without water, it is impossible for people to live for more than a few days. It is important to find water in the



wilderness, but water is not usually safe to drink directly from an outdoor source. What might be in water that would make it not good for drinking?"

ACTIVITY:

1. Put the top half of the soda bottle upside-down (like a funnel) inside the bottom half. The top half will be where you build your filter; the bottom half will hold the filtered water.
2. Layer the filter materials inside the top half of the bottle. Think about what each material might remove from the dirty water and in what order you should layer the materials. (An example would be to put the cotton balls in the bottom, then paper towel, then gravel, and sand on top).
3. Pour the dirty water through the filter. What does the filtered water look like?
4. Take the filter apart and look at the different layers. Can you tell what each material removed from the water?
5. Time allowing: Wipe the bottle clean and try again. Try putting materials in different layers or using different amounts of materials.
6. Do not let the campers drink the water.

LESSON AFTER THE ACTIVITY:

"Now you have water that looks cleaner than when you started. However, it may still not be safe to drink. There are dangers that are too small for our eyes to see. There are germs that can make you sick even if you filter the water. There are steps Kody can take after he filters water that will remove or kill the germs, but filtering the water is a good start."

"Just like a filter, God's Word also cleans. The Bible cleans us. The difference is that the Bible cleans both our inside and our outside! When we are baptized our sins are forgiven and we are covered with Jesus like we talked about yesterday. Our inside is clean.

"Because we are clean on the inside, now we also want to show that and be clean on the outside! We want to show our thankfulness to Jesus by being kind to one another, listening to our parents and teachers, and by doing good things. Without Jesus, we want to do things that are bad, but with Jesus we want to be good because he loves us. We should love each other. Today try to think of at least one way you can show your love for Jesus by helping your parents, or being nice to your siblings or any way you can think of. Let's pray,

"Dear heavenly Father,

"Thank you for being our filter. You have purified us in the inside and the out. Help us to daily show our love to each other because you loved us first.

"Amen.

ADVENTURE: DAY FIVE

DAILY THEME: Prepare for Danger

THEME VERSE: *"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves." -Matthew 10:16*

BIBLE STORY: Jesus sends out the twelve

SIMPLE TRUTH: When God sends us out, warns us that it will be hard, and directs us to avoid temptation.



MAKE YOUR OWN OBSTACLE COURSE

QUICK OVERVIEW:

Campers will split into teams and create an obstacle course for the other team. They will then race through each other's courses.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- *Desks
- Chairs
- Playground equipment
- Ropes
- Cones
- Hoola Hoops

*This list can be adapted depending on whether you are doing this outside or inside.

PREPARATION:

Preparation will vary depending on how you choose to do this activity. You will need to pick a location that will be good for running through obstacles and either set them up or empty it so that campers have an area to set up. For younger campers you might want to create your own course and have them simply participate.

ADVENTURE ACTIVITY DIRECTIONS:

"Danger awaits you at every corner! Be on your guard guys because there are wallabies waiting around every corner for you! You need to make your way safely through all the obstacles to avoid them.

"You might be confused and say, 'where are the obstacles?' That's a good question. You will be on two teams and create an obstacle course for the other team to pass through. It will be a race through them so you will have 10 minutes to create them and then the race shall begin.

You can divide the teams however you want. For example, have each person get a partner that is about the same height as them, and then have one partner be Kangaroo and one be Koala. The campers are now divided in half, into Koola and Kangaroo.

“Alright now that the courses are designed you will have one representative explain the path of the course so each team knows how to make it through. You will pass through one at a time and the first team that gets their whole team through wins.

IMPORTANT LEADER NOTES:

Be cautious as to the supplies they are using. If they task is to climb over a desk and jump across a table, it will probably be unsafe. So it is your job to monitor their actions and determine what is or isn't a safe idea. Remember that they will be racing through the obstacles so make sure they are safe. If campers are stuck with ideas help them think of simple things like; do 10 jumping jacks and then spin in a circle, or crab walk across the parking lot. Each obstacle does not have to involve a physical object, it simply has to be challenging.

DISCUSSION AFTER ACTIVITY:

“How tiring was that for you? What was the hardest part of the challenge? Were some of the sections harder than others? What sorts of things helped you make it through?

“This challenge was physically harder for some of your teammates than others right? But how did they help each other make it through? *This is a good time to talk about encouragement and the support system that you have as a team.*

“Today's theme is 'Prepare for Danger.' Why do you think we did an obstacle course challenge on this day? That's right the obstacles are like the dangers we face in our life. Some are harder than others and they make us tired because of it. Who would be like our teammates in this challenge? Who are the people in your life that support you and encourage you, they are there for you even when times are hard? *Again you will hopefully get answers like teachers, pastors, parents, friends, you could maybe talk about the WELS as a Synod and how we all pray for each other and support those who are even in countries as far away as Africa and China.*

“It certainly is important for us to have a support system here on this earth. Having someone to talk to and help us through our obstacles is a great joy, but when life gets hard and people let us down, who is there for us? Who never leaves us or lets us down? That's right, God is always there for us. He is on our team, so we know that we are going to face dangers. But we can be prepared for these struggles by growing in His Word and strengthening our faith.

VARIATIONS:

It might be very fun to have the group start by doing a quick obstacle course all together. You can give them some simple commands and challenges. This may help them understand the spirit of the activity.