

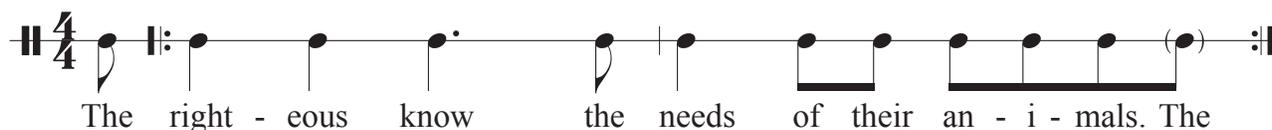
# Care of Creation

God created people to be earth stewards, to care for God's creation.  
To be created in the image of God is to respect nature  
and take responsibility for caring for the earth.



Bible Beat: **Proverbs 12:10**

*There are two Bible Beat options. The bottom rhythm is slightly syncopated.*



Songs: **"It Was Good"** and **"Wonder-Beautiful"**



Treasure of Nature: **Stone**



Art Experience: **Join Hands**



Game: **Scripture Mini-Golf**

## Materials You'll Need:

- Stone
- Sheets of white cardstock/paper
- Pencils, crayons, or markers
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Yarn
- Song pages for "It Was Good" and "Wonder-Beautiful"



# Treasure of Nature: Stone

*Hand each person a stone (or find one outside).*

## **Say:**

Hold the stone in your hand. Notice how heavy it is. Notice how solid it is.

There will be times in our lives when we are scared, or sad, or nervous. That's okay. God put all those feelings in us, and we get to feel them all.

It's important to remember, that no matter what we're going through, God's love is solid. God is with us every step of the way.

Listen to this passage from Psalm 18, verses 1-2 –

I love you, O LORD, my strength.  
The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer,  
my God, my rock in whom I take refuge,  
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Now let's sit in silence. Hold the stone and feel how solid God's love is.

*After a few moments of silence, pray (the children can echo):*

**Loving God,  
Your love is solid.  
We know that you are constant.  
You will never leave us.  
Amen.**



## Join Hands

**Materials:** sheets of white card stock (or white paper), pencils, scissors, hole punch, a length of thin ribbon (or yarn), decorative materials (markers, colors, paints, stamp/ink pad, etc.)

## **What to Do:**

Give each person a sheet of white card stock/paper and a pencil.

Have them trace their hands down to their wrist. Encourage them to really spread their fingers to make a larger-than-life handprint.

Next, decorate the card stock hands with symbols, shapes, colors, spirals, or crazy designs. Encourage them to fill up as much of the white space as possible.

Have each person cut out their hand shapes.

On the back, invite them to write their first name and/or an affirming message about the diversity of people in their school, the neighborhood, the church, the whole world.

Punch two holes in each hand near the wrist area. Thread the yarn/ribbon through the holes and connect all the hands together. Hang the string of colorful hands across your mantle, across a doorway, or in the sacred space you use for family worship as a reminder to use our hands in caring ways, for the good of our world.



## Scripture Mini-Golf

### Creative Game

**Players:** 1 or more

### How to Play:

Create one or more mini-golf holes based on the days of Creation.

You can only use what you have on hand to build your mini-golf course.

- Don't have golf balls? Make one from tightly wound duct tape, a small ball of yarn (tuck in the end), or an avocado pit.
- Don't have a putter? Use an upside-down umbrella or a yardstick.
- Use blankets, towels, or books to create "bumpers" so a ball doesn't travel too far out of bounds or roll under furniture.
- For the actual hole, turn a plastic cup on its side or lay a baseball cap upside down so the bill creates a natural "ramp."

A hole based on Day 6 of Creation can have stuffed animal obstacles to putt around.

A hole based on Day 1 can start in a darkened room and end up in a lighted area.

A hole based on Day 4 can be created outside, around trees or bushes.

See how many different days of Creation you can depict with a mini-golf hole. You can make a whole Creation Course through your home!

### A Few Rules:

- Take turns.
- Play safely. No "teeing off" on a ball.
- Be careful. Be safe. Be considerate. Have fun!



You have given them responsibility for the works of your hands;  
you put everything under their feet:

**Wow!**

All flocks of sheep and herds of cattle, and all the wild animals, too.

**Wow!**

The birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea,  
And all creatures that swim the pathways of the seas.

**Wow!**

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**Wow!**

The person who created this beautiful Psalm thinks all of Creation is a “Wow.” Not only that, but the psalmist is in awe of the role *people* play in Creation. To be responsible for Creation and to care for it is to have *dominion*, which is the word used in many Bible translations. Many people confuse dominion with *domination* and think we’re supposed to get to do whatever we want with the earth. But we’re not. What we are called to do is care for Creation and hold it with the same wonder the psalmist does. And God knows we can do it, because God has “made us little lower than the angels and crowned us with glory and honor.”

### **Prayer Experience: Care**

Think about one plant or animal in God’s Creation that you think of as a “Wow.”  
Use your finger to trace a picture of it (or write the name of it) into your open hand.  
Hold this picture on your heart as you echo me in prayer:

**Caring God,  
Help me hold onto wonder,  
that I will always do my part  
to care for your wonderful world.  
Amen.**

Now rub that picture into your heart.  
Breathe gently in... and sigh out, “Wow.”

### **Joys and Concerns**

*Offer everyone a chance to share something they want to celebrate (i.e. a birthday, a loose tooth, a yummy meal), and something that’s causing anxiety (i.e. I miss my friends, “Will Nana get sick?”)  
Encourage everyone to be present and listen to one another.*

*After a concern is voiced, people can respond by singing the last phrase from the hymn “How Can I Keep from Singing?” –* **How can I keep from singing?**

*After joy is voiced, people can respond by singing the first four notes of Handel’s Hallelujah Chorus –*  
**Hallelujah!**

### **Closing Song: Wonder-Beautiful**