

KINDERGARTEN SUGGESTIONS: WHEN TO TEACH THE THEMES



BLUEBERRIES FOR SAL
By Robert McCloskey



| Theme: | When to Teach: | Explanation of Theme: |
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| <p>CREATION IS A GIFT</p> | <p>Fall (Students can recognize the change in seasons. The change in nature is easily recognizable as a gift from God.)</p> <p>Thanksgiving Holiday (Thanksgiving is a time to focus on gratitude for the gifts of God.)</p> <p>Spring</p> | <p>All of creation is a gift from God to mankind. Through the lens of the <i>Theology of the Body</i>, we see God’s creation (animals, nature, each other, etc.) not as <i>scary</i>, but as <i>a loving gift from God</i>.</p> <p>One of the simplest prayers we can say to God is “Thank you.” There is a beautiful transformation that happens when we begin to view the world as a loving gift from God. Every raindrop, bird’s song, or rainbow is realized for what it is: <i>God’s burning desire to give good gifts to us because he loves us</i>.</p> <p>God not only gives us his beautiful creations as a gift, he gives us the ability to create. When we create artwork, poetry and music we mirror God’s creative nature. Moms and dads image God in a special way by having babies. Procreation is a special way that God allows us to participate in the continuation of his creation!</p> |
| <p>ORIGINAL SOLITUDE</p> | <p>Fall</p> <p>National Pet Day (April 11th)</p> <p>National Love Your Pet Day (Feb. 20th)</p> <p>Spring</p> <p>When teaching the color “BLUE” or the letter “B”</p> | <p>Adam was alone in the garden before original sin. His experience of being alone or “solitude” is called ORIGINAL SOLITUDE.</p> <p>The experience of ORIGINAL SOLITUDE helps Adam discover his identity. Adam learns he is different from the rest of creation after he names the animals.</p> <p>Children can discover that they are different from the rest of creation by naming their pets. Naming our pets also shows that humans have been given a special task by God to care for creation.</p> |

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| <p>HUMAN WORK</p> | <p>Spring</p> <p>Feast of St. Joseph the Worker (May 1st)</p> <p>In Preparation for Mother's Day (2nd Sunday in May)</p> | <p>Work isn't God's curse on humans. Work is actually a gift from God that helps us to image him. We work because God works.</p> <p>God worked for 6 days to create the world. Jesus worked for most of his life before beginning his public ministry. God gave Adam the task of cultivating the garden. By working, Adam learned that he is set apart from the rest of creation.</p> |