



TODAY'S TOPIC:

I Love the Earth

You are welcome to use this lesson to inspire spiritual conversation in your family or youth classroom. It is written for elementary age but could be adjusted as needed.

THINKING JOB: Ask a “thinking job question” to get everyone thinking about something pertinent to the lesson. This could be asked moments or hours before your conversation.

What is Earth Day and why do we celebrate it?

Lesson

Materials	Things to Prepare	Today's Goal
T-shirt bag or other samples of upcycled items.	Images or video to tell the “Wolves of Yellowstone” story	Learn how everything is connected and the importance of protecting our home – planet Earth.

ASK: Has anyone ever heard of Earth Day? What is it? When is it? Earth Day is a holiday that is celebrated all over the world and this year it is on Wednesday, April 22. On Earth Day you might:

- Do something to protect nature.
- Participate in a community clean up of an outdoor space.
- Learn about ways you can make good choices for our planet. (Reduce, reuse, recycle)
- Learn about the rules and laws that protect our planet.
- Learn about specific wild animals that need to be protected.
- Plant a tree or some seeds.

ASK: What are some ideas you have about Earth Day? What needs to be taken care of? What can you do?

IDEAS:

1. Be a habitat hero!

2. Reduce, reuse, recycle!

- Before you throw something away, stop and think about what else it could be used for! ***Show the T-shirt bag (directions available online) or other examples. Maybe there is a project you can do together.***
- Fight plastic pollution by using reusable water bottles, bringing reusable bags with you to the shops, and always taking your trash home with you.
- T-shirt bag sample

3. Go on a “vampire hunt”! When things are plugged in, they keep using power! Household appliances that are unnecessarily left on standby are known as ‘vampire devices’ as they sneakily suck up lots of electricity! Make sure they’re all turned off at the wall, to stop them wasting power. "Vampire" appliances suck energy even when turned off. Kill these monsters by unplugging phone and laptop chargers when not in use and use power strips for lamps and TVs.

5. Be a planet advocate! Learn more about nature, our planet, and how we can make changes to protect it. Share what you learn with others!

ASK: If we make changes in one way, what are other things that might happen? Examples: less trash, use less electricity. ***Show the video or tell the story of “The Wolves of Yellowstone”. Many images and graphics are available online.***

AFFIRMATION – The small things I do make a difference. Repeat 4X

Note: Printable affirmations and coloring sheets for this lesson are available at <https://www.milehichurch.org/youth-family/> .