



God's Seasons

A CELEBRATION OF
GOD'S CHANGING
SEASONS

Written By
Lydia Cox

RH1501A4



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CREDITS

Some of this material has been adapted from Mervin Paul's original Sunday school Lessons. My mother, Merle Kember, has been most helpful in providing the basis for this lesson, for which I am very grateful.

VERSES

Scripture references have been taken from the King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise indicated.

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Thank-you.

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Introduction

The following are some brief points and suggestions to consider when teaching these lessons.

Verse Memorization

2 Timothy 3:15

And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

We need to encourage children to hide God's word in their hearts (Psalm 119:11). Verse memorization should be a high priority during your class. Take time to teach the verse to your students instead of just sending it home with them. Most young children are not yet reading and many of them do not have help at home to learn the assigned verse. Encourage memorization by using different incentives such as a point system and prizes. Hand motions are included with the verses in this lesson plan to aid children in memorizing more readily. Young children can memorize a lot more than we think they can! Let them surprise you and themselves!

Lesson Style

These lessons were originally created for very young children, and will seem very repetitious to an adult. Asking the same questions, and reviewing the same material and subject matter over and over could seem redundant, yet to impress on their young minds the importance of God and the wonders of His creation, repetition is very important. Some of these concepts are difficult for an even adults to understand, yet are fundamental for the knowledge of salvation later in life.

Classroom Set-up

These lesson plans will expect you to have the following classroom materials available:

- pencils / erasers
- crayons/pencil crayons
- glue
- tape
- a table

Additional Suggested Materials

The following materials are excellent resources for teaching any primary Sunday school class. The younger the children, the more need there is for visual materials to help them learn and understand as well as keep their attention! These resources are only suggestions. If they are not available, these lessons can easily be adapted using other material.

Flannelgraph

Betty Lukens flannelgraph is awesome. It is expensive, but well worth it as a lifetime investment. Most Christian bookstores carry this product or will order it for you. Go to www.bettylukens.com to view this product and to order on-line.

ABeka Bible Flashcards

ABeka provides these beautiful, full colour flashcards that cover all the Bible stories. The flashcards are large (some are 12"x15½" and others are 10"x13") and come in individual sets for different stories. Go to www.abeka.com for more information.

Additional Suggestions

Props

All lessons use props. When teaching, keep all props hidden out of sight until the appropriate time. If your students can already view the items, there is no suspense, which is all part of holding the attention of you students.

Craft/Activity

Make sure you make the activity/craft that goes along with the lesson before your class time. Even if the instructions look straightforward, you will know exactly how to make it and avoid any problems during your class time. It is also much easier for children to make their craft, and they often require much less help, when they can see what the finished craft is supposed to look like.

Picture Collection

Magazines and periodicals are a wonderful, cheap way to acquire pictures as visual aids for your lessons. Ask your friends and acquaintances for donations to your collection.

Lesson Continuity

To make your lesson flow smoothly, when you are mounting things on the wall or other surface during your lesson, make rolls of tape or have other mounting supply all ready so your lesson doesn't lose its momentum. Also have all your pictures or other props for the lesson in the correct order, and upside-down so children cannot see them ahead of time.

Wall Display

Creating a visual display is a great lesson reminder to the students, is wonderful for review and adds interest to your classroom. Most office supply stores carry pre-cut letters which are great. They come in different sizes and in a variety of colours and designs. This lesson plan includes an appendix with suggested wall display material.

Questions/Comments

We would love to hear from you. If you have any comments or questions, please let us know. An attempt has been made to avoid any mistakes and to make this material easy to be understood. However, if you find mistakes or have any difficulties, please contact zonya@reachhearts.com so the necessary corrections or adaptations can be made. Thank-you for using our materials and may your efforts to reach hearts for Christ be blessed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lydia Lopez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'L' and 'P'.

Lesson Plan Layout

The following lesson plan covers 1 week of classes. The lesson plan is laid out in the following way.

Bible Reference:

-where the story is found in the Bible

Memory Verse:

-this is the main object of the lesson - the lesson script leads up to this verse

Lesson Point:

-a brief overview of the main focus of the lesson

Props/Materials Needed for Lesson:

-these are the items you will need to develop and teach the lesson to your class

-some of these materials you will need to make and others are found around the house

Props/Materials Needed for Activity:

-these are the items you will need for the activity to reinforce the lesson you have taught

-some of these materials you will need to purchase and others are found around the house

Preparation for Lesson:

-what you need to make and other things that need to be done prior to teaching the class

Preparation for Activity:

-what to cut out, photocopy, etc. for the activity part of the lesson

Lesson Script:

-this is the actual lesson layout

-suggested exact words are printed in regular script

-teacher's instructions are printed in brackets

Activity:

-this usually concludes each lesson

-most instructions for making the activities are found in the appendix

THOU HAST MADE SUMMER AND WINTER

Psalm 74:17

Bible Reference: creation account as recorded in *Genesis 1-2*

Memory Verses: "Thou" (point up)

"hast made" (put fist in other hand and rub it back and forth)

"summer" (wipe back of hand across forehead, as if very hot)

"and winter." (hug arms and shiver, as if very cold)

Psalm 74:17

Lesson Point:

The Lord and Creator of everything made the beautiful seasons for us to enjoy. When the children look at each season, they will be impressed with how awesome our God is.

Props / Materials Needed for Lesson:

Note: the following list is quite long and may look daunting, however the majority of the items should not take any time at all to collect together. Look through magazines for some of the pictures, use your own family photos or find some clip art on a computer program.

-children's clothing of all sorts and for all seasons such as the following:

-mittens

-scarf

-winter coat

-winter hat

-bathing suit (preferably a girl's suit as this is more recognizable)

-T-shirt

-shorts

-light jacket

-umbrella

-raincoat

-rubber boots (optional)

-pictures of seasonal activities such as the following:

-children swimming

-someone biking

-children playing at a park (swinging, etc)

-a family having a picnic

-a baseball game

-a fall tree

- a child jumping in the leaves
- a snowy landscape
- a snowman
- children sledding
- children splashing in puddles (spring)
- clothespins
- rope
- coloured leaf shapes
- cut-out snowflakes
- several sheets of white 8 ½ by 11 sheets of paper
- one sheet of dark blue construction paper
- one sheet of light blue construction paper
- two sheets each of yellow, red, orange and green construction paper
- one copy of the verse "Thou hast made summer and winter. Ps. 74:17" found in Appendix B on page 23

Props / Materials Needed for Activity:

- several sheets of white copy paper
- one copy of the Four Seasons Activity Page for each child in your class, found in Appendix A on page 17
- crayons or pencil crayons in many colours, including yellow, red, brown, blue and green
- gluesticks

Preparation for Lesson:

- collect all the props listed above in the *Props/Materials Needed for Lesson* section
- before class, place all the clothing in a large bag in the order as follows, so as not to have to search for the article of clothing. Place spring clothes on the bottom, then fall, then summer and then winter clothes, as this is the order they will be used in the lesson.
- using the yellow, red, orange and green construction paper, cut out leaves using leaf templates in Appendix A on page 21
- copy large rake diagram on white paper from page 20
- make one copy of large verse, "Thou hast made summer and winter. Psalm 74:17" found in Appendix B on page 23
- mount large verse, "Thou hast made summer and winter. Psalm 74:17 on coloured construction paper
- using white paper, cut out 4 or 5 large white snowflakes
- using white paper, copy cloud diagram found on page 19
- cut out cloud diagram
- adhere the cloud diagram to the light blue construction paper
- using dark blue paper, cut out lots of raindrop shapes using raindrop templates on page 19

- stick cotton balls to cloud on cloud diagram
- stick raindrops below cloud on light blue construction paper
(this will create a rainy cloud picture for the discussion about spring)
- before class, hang up the rope at the children's eye level so that clothing can be pinned to it - it should be fairly secure, as you don't want the clothes to fall down (two chairs with the rope tied between them, or hooks in the wall work well)

Preparation for Activity:

- see Appendix A page 16 for materials and instructions needed

Lesson Script:

Note: Depending on the current season, you may need to change the way you begin this lesson and adjust the order of the seasons accordingly. For example, if you are teaching this lesson in the middle of winter, you may want to start by playacting that you are going to go out and play in the snow and pull out your swimsuit and sunscreen!)

- (a little playacting)
- it was very hot at our house the other day, so we decided to do something fun
- (put up picture of children swimming)
- do you like to go swimming?
- we do too!
- so, I opened my closet (mimic opening closet) ...and found ...THIS! (bring mittens out of the bag)
- ...and THIS! (bring scarf out of the bag)
- ...and I found THIS! (bring winter coat out of the bag)
- ...and THIS! (bring winter hat out of the bag)
- these will be perfect for going to the swimming pool!
- here put them on so we can go the swimming pool!
- (try to get several children to put on the different winter articles of clothing - if they will cooperate!)
- now we are ready to go swimming!
- (Children will respond negatively, of course)
- you mean to tell me you don't wear mittens, (point to, or hold up mittens) or a coat, (point to, or hold up coat) or a scarf or a hat when you go to the swimming? (point to, or hold up these articles of clothing)
- why not?
- isn't it cold outside when you go swimming?
- (children will respond negatively, of course)
- no, of course it is not cold when you go swimming!
- it is hot outside when you go swimming!
- God made summer to be nice and warm so we could go swimming outside

- (take the winter clothing off the children and set aside for later in the lesson)
- what else do you do when it is nice and warm in the summer?
- (allow children to each have a turn telling you what they do in summer - use pictures of biking, playing at the park, picnicking, and baseball, to put up if they suggest the idea, and if not suggest the activity to them)
- when it is summer we don't wear these kinds of clothing (point to the pile of winter clothing)
- we wear bathing suits (bring bathing suit out of the bag and allow a child to use a clothespin to hang it up on the rope/clothesline)
- T-shirts (bring T-shirt out of the bag and allow a child to use a clothespin to hang it up on the rope/clothesline)
- and shorts (bring out a pair of shorts and allow a child to pin it to the rope/clothesline).
- these clothes allow us to do all of these fun summer activities like swimming (point to picture), biking (point to picture), and playing at the park (point to picture).
- God is SO wonderful to have made summer for us

- but summer soon ends and then it starts to get cooler
- the days get shorter, and God makes something beautiful happen to the trees
- do you know what happens to the trees?
- the leaves on the trees start to change into beautiful colours
- soon the trees in the park, along the road, in your backyard, and all over the neighbourhood start to look like this one
- (put up picture of fall tree)
- then the leaves will all fall off of the trees, down, down to the ground
- (slowly toss the cut-out fall leaves into a pile on the floor)
- then you can walk in them ... and they make a wonderful crunchy sound when you step on them
- (allow children to each have a turn to pretend to 'jump' in the leaves)
- have you ever raked leaves? (put up diagram of rake)
- it is cooler when the leaves fall off of the trees and so we have to wear a jacket when we go outside
- (have a child pin the light jacket to the rope/clothesline)

- soon it will get even colder! (hug arms and shiver)
- when it is cold outside, do we wear bathing suits?
- (point to bathing suit hanging on the rope/clothesline)
- why not?
- that's right, because it is too cold!
- when it gets cold outside, big, big clouds bring white things floating down, down, down from the sky
- SNOW!! (have children help to put up the cut-out snowflakes)

- have you ever caught a snowflake on your tongue? (stick out your tongue - and allow children to tell you if they did)
- the snow falls and falls and soon it piles up in big piles on the ground like this and covers all of the grass. (put up snowy landscape picture)
- we go outside with our mittens on, (have a child pin the mittens on the rope/clothesline)
- our hat on, (have a child pin the hat on the rope/clothesline)
- our scarf, (have a child pin the scarf on the rope/clothesline)
- and our winter coat (have a child pin the winter coat on the rope/clothesline)
- what do you do outside when it is cold and snowy?
- I like to make a snowman!
- have you ever made a snowman?
- do you put a hat on him and a carrot nose?
- (put up picture of snowman -- all of the children will want to tell you the specifics of the snowmen that they have made)
- have you ever gone sledding?
- you go soooo fast down the big hill! (put up picture and let several children respond about their experience sledding)
- have you ever licked an icicle?
- God is so wonderful to have made winter for us

- but it doesn't snow all of the time, does it?
- soon it starts to warm up
- then instead of snow falling and falling from the big clouds, it rains big drops of water!
- (put up big diagram of the cloud and raindrops)
- it rains lots and lots in the spring and makes big puddles!
- do you like to splash in the puddles?
- I like to make a big splash!
- let's all pretend to make a big splash together. (everyone jumps together)
- do you get wet feet? (opt. bring out rubber boots from bag)
- I have a big umbrella (bring umbrella out of the bag and allow a child to hang it from the rope/clothesline)
- it helps to keep me dry when it is raining a lot!
- do you have an umbrella?
- who has a raincoat? (bring raincoat out of the bag and have a child pin it to the rope/clothesline)
- do you like being outside in the rain like these children? (put up picture of children in the rain)

- "THOU HAST MADE SUMMER AND WINTER. (put up large verse)
- God is SO great

-He made SO much!
-He made warm weather for us so we can have fun swimming, (point to pictures as you refer to them) biking, playing at the park, playing baseball, and having a picnic
-lots of fall leaves to make our world beautiful (point to fall tree picture)
-so many snowflakes falling down, down from the sky (point to snowflakes you have put up during lesson), so we can make snowmen, (point to picture of snowman) so many raindrops to make puddles for us to splash in! (point to diagram of cloud and raindrops you have put up during lesson and hold up umbrella) Aren't you glad we have such a GREAT God! THOU HAST MADE SUMMER AND WINTER. (get children to repeat verse several times)

Four Seasons Activity Page:

-each child makes a Four Seasons Activity Page to take home
-hand out one sun, one umbrella, one rake and one small snowflake to each child
-each child colours the sun, umbrella and rake
-each child glues the above items in the appropriate season box
-if the children cannot read, you may have to help them to know where to glue each item

Appendix A

Lesson Activity

Thou Hast Made Summer and Winter

16

Thou Hast Made Summer and Winter

Activity for: Thou Hast Made Summer and Winter:

-each child will create a four seasons activity page to take home

Instructions:

-make one copy of the Four Seasons Activity Page for each child in your class, found in Appendix A on page 17

-cut out a snowflake that measures approximately 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " square, one for each child

-make one copy for each child of the small rake found in Appendix A on page 18

-make one copy for each child of the sun found in Appendix A on page 18

-make one copy for each child of the umbrella found in Appendix A on page 18

-cut out the copies of the rake, sun and umbrella into small rectangles to fit into the appropriate season box on the Four Seasons Activity Page

Additional Suggestion:

-find seasonal stickers (enough for each child to have a few) and have the children add these to the appropriate season box on their Four Seasons Activity Page

Four Seasons Activity Page:

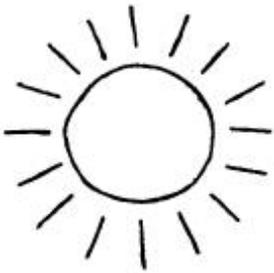
Spring	Summer
Fall	Winter

Diagrams for Four Seasons Activity Page:

Small Rake:



Sun:

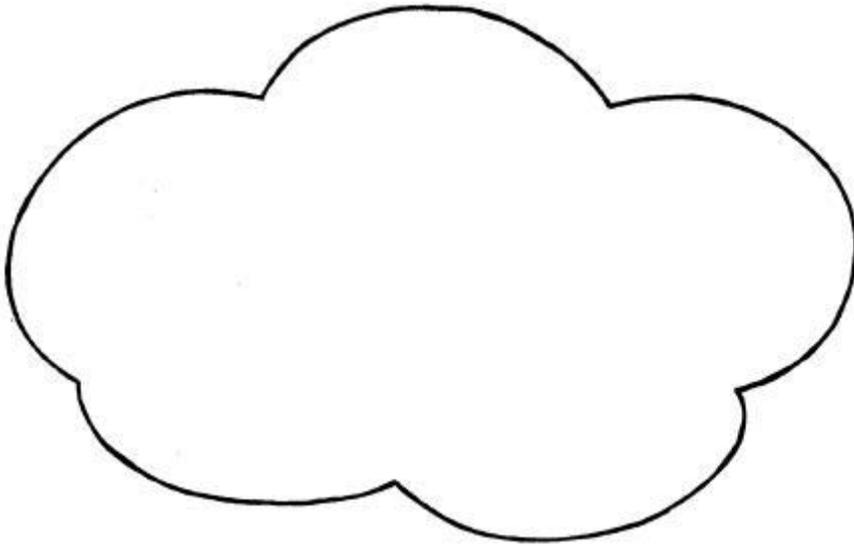


Umbrella:



Rainy Cloud Picture for Lesson:

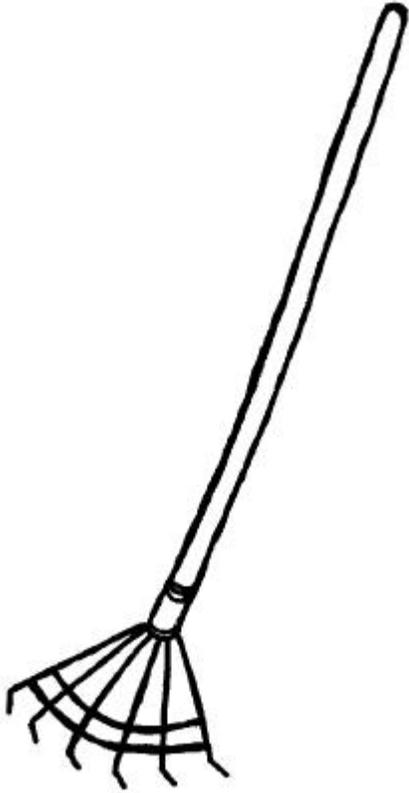
Cloud Diagram:



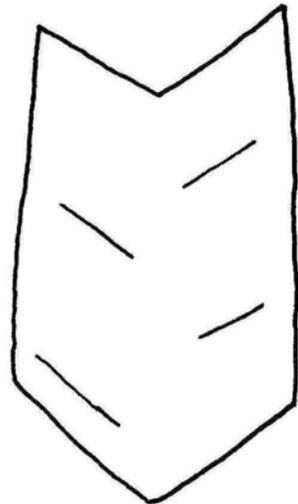
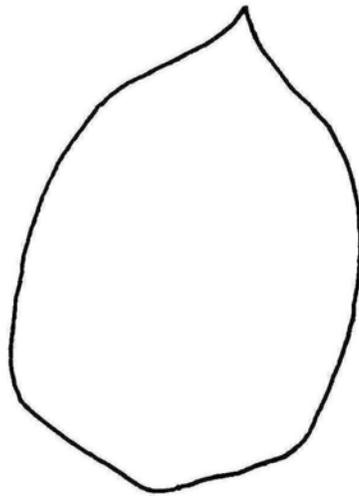
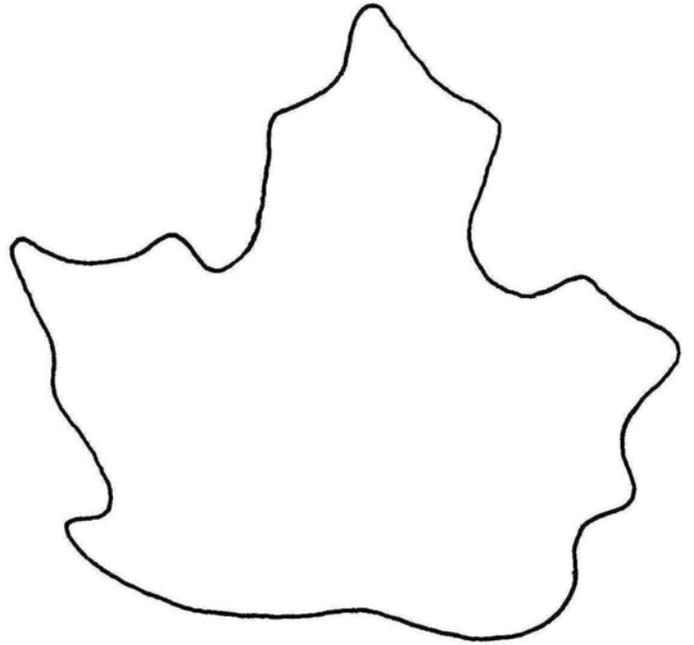
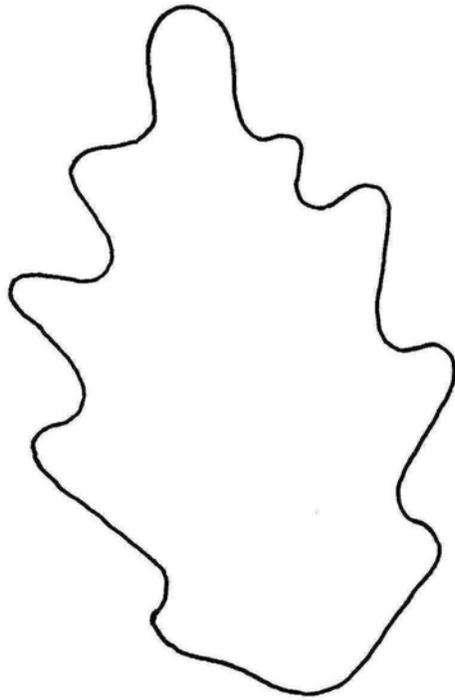
Raindrops:



Large Rake:



Leaf Templates:



Appendix B

Wall Display

Thou hast made summer and winter

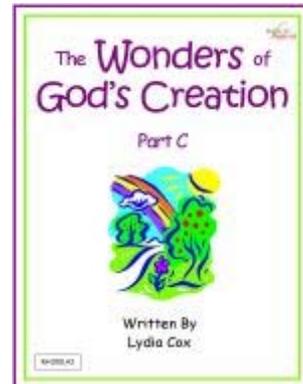
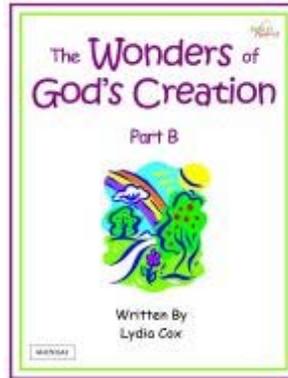
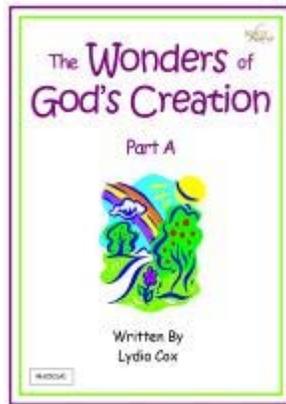
23

Thou hast

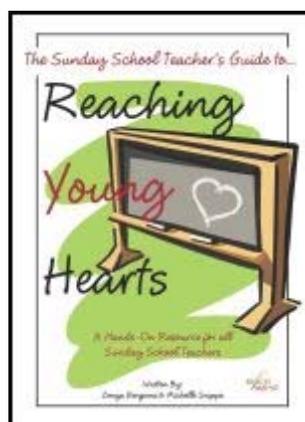
made summer
and winter.

Psalms 74:17

This lesson has been adapted from *The Wonders of God's Creation*, a series on the Days of Creation for primary aged children. Visit www.reachhearts.com to view and download the entire collection in this series.



The Sunday School Teacher's Guide to REACHING YOUNG HEARTS has been written by Zonya Bergsma and Michelle Snippe based on the teacher training classes they have taught. This book will benefit all teachers who take seriously the privilege and responsibility of a Sunday school class, whether new to the ministry or having taught for years. The information is presented in a hands-on format providing many opportunities for practice. Use this book for individual study or for interactive teacher training classes. Equip yourself or the teachers you know with a solid resource to help them fulfill their responsibility of reaching hearts for eternity. Visit www.reachhearts.com to view and download this book.



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