

CapKids Small Church

Oct 13, 2024

Thanksgiving Reflection and Prayer:

I was listening to a podcast this week and they were discussing an article from the New York Times about financial disparities within friendships. They discussed how difficult it is to navigate friendships in light of varied levels of financial success. The discussion then led into how families navigate this when it comes to sharing in life, vacations, etc. This can be a difficult thing to navigate, but what stuck out to me was actually the realization that it is easier to give than it is to receive. Even with something like money, it can be difficult to receive generosity from others; we feel undeserving or like we haven't earned the generosity we are receiving. And yet, how good does it feel to witness the surprise on someone's face when you pick up the bill or give the perfect unexpected gift? It is vulnerable to be the receiver, and sometimes we have to wade through some feelings of shame or embarrassment in the midst of receiving generosity from others. We are told and believe we need to take care of ourselves. However, what would it do for us if we were able to receive generosity from others graciously and joyfully, acknowledging that we have been cared for and provided for in an unexpected way? This applies also to our relationship with God, how we allow space for the Holy Spirit and take notice of the ways God is at work. Part of the beauty in our relationship with God is being open to receive, to lean on and to bring our doubts and curiosities. Creation reminds me of this. In the midst of an insane rainfall, orange light fills the sky and as I take notice, it causes me to slow down, pause, and wonder. Then I see a beautiful rainbow so unexpectedly, and I giggle with my son as we joke about finding gold at the bottom of it. However in that moment I receive something I didn't ask for or expect and I accept it with awe and delight. Receiving something without shame or guilt is so freeing, it feels like warmth, safety, and hope. God is an extravagant giver and we continue to find ourselves on the receiving end; what a beautiful and uncomfortable place we get to be in. I pray you can find opportunities to practice receiving as well as giving this Thanksgiving.

– Janine Coxford

Thanksgiving Prayer for your family

From "Every Sacred Season" by Kayla Craig

*Jesus, help us to be more like you. When we eat
help us to remember that You are near.*

*When we share meals with friends and
family, help us to celebrate the ways we are
alike and the ways we are different. Help
us to be generous with others and to be
grateful when others are generous with us.*

*Thank you for giving us what we need
for each day. We love You, Jesus. Amen.*

Read Psalm 104 or read a book from the list below.....

Song of Creation from The Peace Table Bible

Praise the Lord, O my soul!
God, you are very great!
You wear light like a majestic coat.
The heavens are like a tent
The clouds are your chariot.

You send water rushing down into the valleys,
giving drink to every animal.
The birds sing by the streams.
You make grass grow for animals to eat.
The earth brings forth food for people.

Birds build their nests in the trees you made.
The stork has a home in the fir tree.
The mountains are for the wild goats.
The rabbits hide safely among the rocks.

You made the sun, the moon, and the darkness.
Animals come creeping out at night.
The lions roar, needing food from you.
People go out to work until evening.

How wonderful are your works, O Lord!
The earth is full of your creatures.
Everything on earth looks to you for food.
When you open your hand,
all creatures are filled with good things.
When you take away their breath,
they return to the dust.

May your glory last forever!
I will sing to you my whole life.
As long as I live, I will praise you.
You are very great!
Praise the Lord!

Read: Psalm 104 from Psalms for young children

I praise you, God!
You are like a marvelous king
who wears beautiful, bright robes!
You make the water run in rivers,
And the animals come for a drink.
You make the plants grow,
And we have food to eat.
You open your hands and give us
Everything we need.

God is my shepherd.

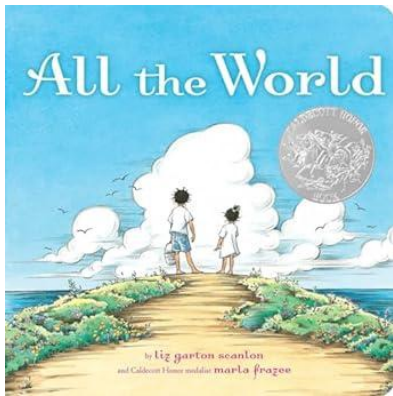
He leads me in the right direction. And even if I
have to walk in a dark place,

I am not scared.

I know nothing will hurt me if I walk with God!

Prayer Activity - Praise God for creation. Name animals, birds, insects, and plants in your prayer. If you enjoy drawing, make a creation picture that includes your favourite things.

Book Recommendations:

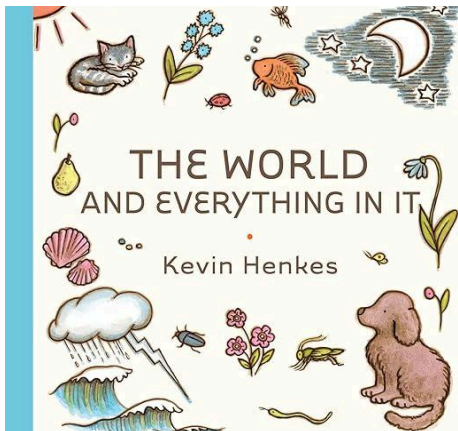


For Preschool

“Following a circle of family and friends through the course of a day from morning until night, this book affirms the importance of all things great and small in our world, from the tiniest shell on the beach, to the warmth of family connections, to the widest sunset sky.”

The illustrations in this book are beautiful and a great short read for younger kids.

Recommended for Ages 2-5

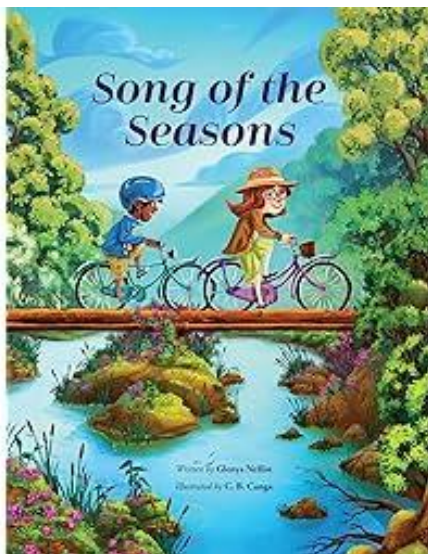


For Elementary

“*The World and Everything in It* explores concepts such as curiosity, self-awareness, belonging, and size. Combining a precise, evocative, and lovely text with exquisite illustrations, Kevin Henkes deftly captures the wonders and mysteries of the world for any reader just beginning to think about how they fit in.”

Another great book for younger kids bringing attention to all aspects of the world, big and small.

Recommended for Age 3-7

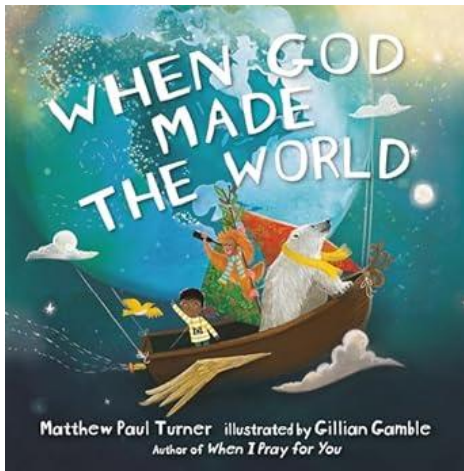


For Elementary

“a rhyming, whimsical, faith-building journey through the four seasons -- for early readers who love nature and wonder and the beginnings of all things.”

This book dives into christian views on creation and how the seasons change and reflect God's design and detail in each season. It also uses the metaphor of song throughout which fits our current theme perfectly. The pictures are also stunning, this is a great one to revisit during any seasonal transition.

Recommended for Ages 3-8



For Elementary

“a rhythmic, whimsical journey through creation--for little readers who love science and wonder and the beginnings of all things.”

This book is one of my absolute favourites about creation. It does such an excellent job blending the complexity of our world and how creation reflects its creator. This book is deceiving as the pages have longer verses, so I would definitely recommend it for an elementary aged audience.

Recommended for Ages 5-10