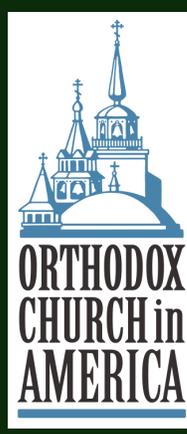


# All of Creation Rejoices: Welcome to the Zoo!



Lesson 1

PreK-5th

## Creation

Lesson—25 min

Prior to class gather as many kinds of stuffed animals as you can—at least two or three per student. Have the stuffed animals lined up behind you while you start the lesson.

Read Genesis 1:20-25.

Say “God created all things. Here we see that he created all the animals, the birds, and the fish, and he said that it was good. Do you know what God created next?” (Take suggestions right or wrong.) Then say, “Let’s read more to find out.”

Read Genesis 1:26-31.

Say “God created man and gave to man all of the rest of creation—the plants and the animals. He said it was very good, and then He rested on the 7<sup>th</sup> day. So what did Adam do with the animals? Does anyone know?” (Take suggestions right or wrong.) “Well God created a garden, and He put Adam in the garden. Listen to what he did then.”

Read Genesis 2:19-20.

Say “Adam named all of the animals. Let’s look at some examples of the animals Adam named.” Ask students to name a stuffed animal behind you. As they name them, toss the stuffed animal to them to hold for the remainder of the lesson.

Say “God was the creator of all, and we were called to be stewards over it, caring for it. The first step of that was Adam naming each of the animals. How can you care for God’s creation?” Take answers.

## Video Connection

Watch a video of the creation of the world, such as the one below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cstDniigA-w>



## Lesson Activity

### I Spy Rice Bag

Supplies needed: Ziploc bags, rice, foam animals, sequins or glitter, tape

Students fill their Ziploc bag about half full with rice. They then add in a scoop of sequins or glitter and about 10 foam animal cut outs. (If possible, they should be the same animals for each student.) Tape the Ziploc side of the bag so that it can’t open accidentally.

The teacher can then call out “I spy with my little eye... and name an animal in their rice bag. The students try to find that animal by moving the rice around.

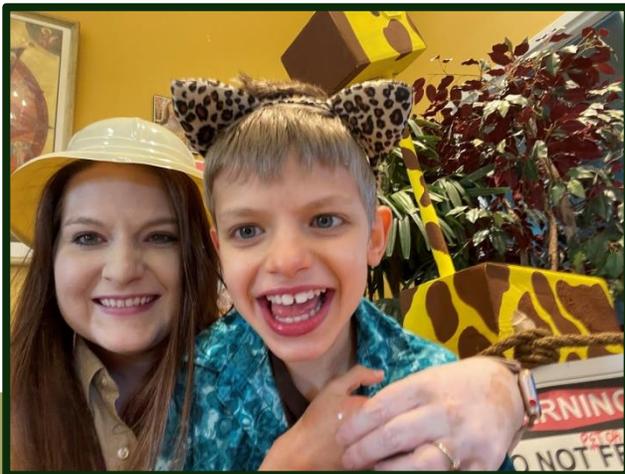


## Games

### The Zoo Keeper Says—15 min

Similar to Simon Says, this game has a Zoo Keeper (Simon) who stands facing the rest of the group. The Zoo Keeper gives directions to the group and as long as they start with the phrase “The Zoo Keeper says...” then the group does what he or she says. If the Zoo Keeper gives a direction without saying “The Zoo Keeper says...” and a person follows it, then they are out. Try to keep the directions revolving around animal or jungle actions, such as “climb a vine”, “jump like a kangaroo”, “roar like a lion”. The last student standing gets to take over the role of Zoo Keeper.

If there is extra time, ask the students for animals that they remember from Bible stories or Saints’ lives. What moves could the Zoo Keeper ask them to do to be like these animals? Some examples include fly like a dove (Theophany, Noah’s Arc), roar like a lion (Daniel in the Lion’s Den), caw like a raven (Elijah in the desert), or even slither like a snake (Eve’s fall).



### Pool Noodle Donkey Relay—10 min

Supplies needed: preassembled pool noodle donkey

With a little bit of hot glue, duct tape, and fabric, a pool noodle can easily be fashioned into a donkey. See the picture below for guidance.

Ask the group where donkeys can be found in a Bible story. Guide them to remember Mary riding one in the Nativity story and Christ riding one into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. If icons of these events hang in your parish, direct them where to search for them at the next service.

Split the group into two or three teams, each team receives a pool noodle donkey. Have each team race to complete a relay task, such as riding their donkey to a line and back. Other relays could include riding sideways, backwards, and weaving between cones. The team who completes the task first wins.



## Troparion —Tone 3

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad!  
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm!  
He has trampled down death by death! He has become the first-born of the dead!  
He has delivered us from the depths of hell and has granted the world great mercy!

## Craft & Snack

### Snake Key Chain—25 min

Supplies needed: pipe cleaner, pony beads, keychain ring, googly eyes, and red felt cut into a tongue

Ask students what roll a snake had in the Bible. Mention where the snake tempted Eve, where Moses' staff turned into a snake, and that the bishop's staff has two snakes on the top of it.

Fold the pipe cleaners over on one end about an inch and twist to make a larger end/head type shape. String pony beads onto the other end until the desired snake length is reached, reserving at least an inch on the other end. Thread through the key chain ring, and twist the pipe cleaner to secure it to the ring. Glue two googly eyes and a felt red tongue onto the head end and let dry.



### Sheep Cupcake—25 min

Supplies needed: baked cupcakes that are not iced, white icing, mini marshmallows, black jelly beans, candy eye balls

Read or play a recording of Psalm 22: The Lord is My Shepherd. Ask the students, "What does a shepherd do?" (Take care of sheep) "How does he take care of his sheep?" (Feeding, sheering, watering, protecting, etc.) "If this Psalm says that God is our shepherd, what does that make us like?" (Sheep) "How does God protect us?"

Have students ice their cupcake, and then add marshmallows as the sheep's wool. They will add black jelly beans as ears and a nose, and finally two candy eyes.

If time permits, students can color a picture of a sheep or an icon of Christ the Good Shepherd.



### Closing—5 min

Stand in the church and ask students to find animals pictured throughout. Look at icons, woodwork, and vestments. See if they can find a sheep, a snake, or a donkey like they learned about today.