

Welcome to Week Three of
Equipping Parents to be spiritual leaders in their own homes.

Creation for Parents

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Helping parents break through the artificial barrier of TV, computer games and social media INTO the world God meant for us all, a world full of living things, harmony, planting and harvesting.

May one or more of these activities help your family break through the artificial barriers... Electronic games, television and busy-ness...that keep you and your children from experiencing the world God meant for us all, a world of harmony and growth, a world of living things, a world of planting and harvesting.

1, A perfect starting place is a magnifying glass. It turns even the smallest bit of lawn into a wonder-full jungle of tiny bugs and flowers, little mushrooms and tiny seeds. It turns the human body into bits of hair and pores, wrinkles, big lips and funny looking eyes. There is nothing to help introduce creation so well as a magnifying glass or inexpensive microscope.

2. For second step try an egg carton museum. If it fits in an egg carton you can keep it in your room until it starts to smell...things like: rocks, seeds and seed pods, bark from a tree, sea shells, acorns etc.. If it is *alive* you can keep it till dark in a peanut butter jar covered with a bit of nylon stocking and a rubber band. If it is a lightening bug you can keep it until midnight.

3. Another great tradition is flowers for the cook. In parts of Russia it is a custom that those who don't bring a flower for the cook don't eat. This custom encourages children to notice and acknowledge what others do for them. We can't send them out to pick the neighbors flowers but a bit of grass, leaf or twig from a tree allow the child to give SOMETHING.

4. Walking is another great tradition, a great model for relating to our children. It helps us view them as fellow travelers and not simply more baggage we tow through life. The authors coloring book offers 28 different ways to walk with children. God to www.bibleparent.com and click on Bible coloring pages then "Walk with Me". The authors favorite is the nighttime walk or stargazing walk.

Without a parents sincere daily effort most children will never know what it is like to be immersed in the world God made for us...a daily dunk where they are free to touch and examine...to enjoy the wonders of the earth, wonders God intends for each of us. Walking just five minutes a day is a perfect first step to knowing God and the world he made...just for us.

5. Tire Garden. Two key lessons for children are: If you want to pick flowers you have to plant seeds and if you want to harvest God's promises you have to plant faith. Almost any service station will give a child an old tire. Fill it with potting soil (garden soil is cheaper but does not work nearly as well). For a lesson on planting and harvest plant 5 or six cucumber seeds or a tomato plant. To draw butterflies and caterpillars sprinkle your garden with dill seed and maybe a butterfly plant or two (*asclepias tuberosa*). For instructions on an easy to make butterfly hatchery visit www.bibleparent.com and click on "Creation for Parents". May you plant "Hope" and harvest "Joy".

The homework for next week is a walk a day. We will **start today** with an egg carton or paper paper bag museum. You can put anything in your museum that is not alive and not wet. Then if mom says it is ok keep it under your bed for future "collecting walks"