

Earth Day Family Devotional

(For www.pmrfirstthirdresources.ca)

Every year on April 22 we celebrate **Earth Day**, which is a day to remember how we need to be good stewards of God's creation, how precious this Earth is and how we need to take care of it. How can one celebrate this as a family? We have put together a short Family Devotional for you and your family to do together as you reflect on the scripture and apply this through some family activities and reflections.

Focus Scripture: The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for [God] has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers. - Psalm 24:1-2 (NRSV)

Family Devotional:

- Gather the family around a special place in the house where you all feel the most comfortable!
- Opening Prayer (someone in the family might like to recite this and everyone else can repeat after them especially with little ones!)
 - Dear Heavenly Creator, As we gather today to celebrate Earth Day, we praise you for this beautiful world and creation that you have bestowed upon us to be good stewards of, though we remember that we have not always been so as we work to better our actions to take care of this place we call home. We thank you for the birds in the trees, ripples in the waters, breezes in the air, and that we are deep and rooted in you. On this day and all days, In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.
- A story that is a wonderful read for Earth Day is one called "Grandad's Prayers of the Earth" by Douglas Wood. I have recorded a reading of it for you and your family to enjoy together. While you are listening to the words and looking at the pictures, think about what kinds of prayers you hear the Earth pray when you are in nature.

- Here is the link to the Video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQUK1JOQjcM>
- After hearing this reading of “Grandad’s Prayers of the Earth”, ask each member of the family to share what kinds of Prayers they hear when they are in nature (allow each family member to share).
- Group Activity:
 - **Earth Day Backyard Scavenger Hunt** (courtesy of Buildfaith.org, full list can be found at <https://buildfaith.org/backyard-scavenger-hunt-for-earth-day/amp/>)
 - **Supplies:** You may want to have some crayons, a couple of pieces of paper, and a small bag (like a paper lunch bag). But don’t worry if you don’t – your eyes and ears are all you really need. Check off items or add your own answers, and have fun!
 - **Items:**
 - First, look up! Check the sky. What do you see?
 - Name something living in your yard:
 - Place a nonliving, but not manmade, thing in your bag.
 - Find 3 different trees in your yard and make tree bark rubbings with your crayons, using your extra paper.
 - Is one of the trees taller than your house?
 - Put 3 different leaves in your bag, and try to find a Y-shaped twig to add to your bag.
 - Can you see any bird’s nests in your trees? How many?
 - What birds do you see – what colors are they?
 - Find some flowers in your yard and draw a picture of them.
 - Do the bees like your flowers?
 - Name the other insects that you see. Maybe they help to spread pollen like the bees. You can talk with your family about why pollinators are important.
 - Can you find a spider web? Is the spider at home?
 - Close your eyes and listen for a minute.
 - What do you hear? Enjoy nature with your family!

*****Fun Fact: We are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day
which started back in 1970! Happy Earth Day!*****