Planning

Sunday, September 1 – Saturday, September 7 • 2019

SUN 1
12th Sunday after Pentecost
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Proper 17 (22)
Season of Creation 1

MON 2

TUES 3

WED 4

THUR 5

FRI 6

SAT 7

Things to keep in mind this week…

Planning ahead…

Season of Creation (Year C)

Job 38:1–18
The focus for age-level materials
Psalm 104:1–9, 24–26
Ephesians 1:3–10
Luke 5:1–11

Resources based on **semi-continuous readings** of the *Revised Common Lectionary* can be found in the RCL folder.

Liturgical colour:
aqua

Lection Connection links current events with this week's scriptures. Go to www.seasonsonline.ca and click on the link.

September 2019

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

August 2019

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

October 2019

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	39	30	31		

Ecumenical Prayer Calendar

Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia

Based on *In God's Hands: Common Prayer for the World*, ed. By Hugh McCullum and Terry MacArthur (Geneva: World Council of Churches, 2006).

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Job 38:1–18
The focus in the age-level materials
Psalm 104:1–9, 24–26
Ephesians 1:3–10
Luke 15:1–11

Resources based on **semi-continuous readings** of the *Revised Common Lectionary* can be found in the RCL folder.

God of all mystery and wonder, your being is as vast as the ocean – beyond our comprehension, life-giving, and unfathomable. Yet you invite us to swim in the wonder that is your grace, to bask in the refreshing presence of your unquestionable and unquenchable love. Keep us ever mindful of the importance of the ocean in our daily living, and of the vast life it gives to our world. Amen.

Ocean Sunday

The vastness of the ocean is the stuff of poets and painters; it is a reality, too. The five oceans of our planet cover over 70% of the surface. Waves pound relentlessly on shores of every continent as if the land were a mere interruption of the ebb and flow of the water. The oceans are a source of life for all things; the smallest (plankton) and largest (whales) creatures in the world live there. The fascination that humans have with the ocean perhaps mirrors the fascination with the Creator: a sense of familiarity with a few aspects, a brief encounter here and there; enough to know that there is far more we may never grasp or understand.

Job 38:1–18 Job has demanded answers from God that will explain his life circumstance, but God's answers come from another place, a place of soaring above the trees and seeing a broader picture.

"Why have these things happened to me? What have I done wrong?" Job has wondered. His friends have encouraged him to curse God and die, telling him that seeking answers is not the right approach. But Job has insisted, and in today's reading things appear to pay off as God offers an explanation. Yet the explanation does not address Job's concerns.

"Have you ever tried to create a universe?" seems to be the summation of God's questions. God points out to Job – and to us – that there are things that happen in the universe that are far, far beyond us. While we cannot control them and may even have a minimal influence on them, they still matter and are relevant to our daily living.

This is a good reminder for human beings today, as we are becoming increasingly aware of the vast amounts of plastic that have ended up in the world's oceans. Plastic generally takes about a thousand years to biodegrade – or so we think; it hasn't been around long enough for us to know this as a fact. Yet what we do know is disturbing: over 100 million marine animals are killed **each year** by plastic – either from ingesting it or being strangled by it.

Too often, what occurs in the depths of the ocean can seem out of sight and out of mind. Similarly, Job's awareness of the ways of the universe seems out of sight and out of mind, too, but God helps Job refocus. A great deal goes into making the different parts and aspects of life coincide; whenever that is thrown even just a tiny bit of that out of balance, huge problems can take place.

The author of **Psalm 104:1–9, 24–26** speaks of God covering the earth with a "watery deep, like a piece of clothing" (v. 6 *Common English Bible*). A sense that comes immediately to mind is of clothing that comforts and protects us, that keeps us warm. Similarly, God has provided the ocean as a means to giving life to the earth.

In the letter to the **Ephesians 1:3–10** the author speaks not of the ocean, but of God's grace which has been lavished upon us. Like the ocean, God's grace is overwhelming, overflowing, and beyond any limits. It is this grace that gives us new life and brings us ever closer to God.

The story in **Luke 15:1–11** is of the disciples fishing in Lake Gennesaret**,** also known as the "Sea" of Galilee. It is not a part of the ocean, but a land-locked body of fresh water. The significance of the story, however, does not lie in the location but the realities of what happens. The disciples have been fishing all night, have caught nothing, and now are ashore washing their nets. Jesus invites them to go back out on the water and to put down their nets once more. They agree – albeit quite probably with some muttering under their breath! – and when Jesus tells them to drop their nets, they do so and achieve a considerable catch. The point seems clear: at God's invitation we can dare even the deeps of the unknown, and find hidden treasures.

• • • • •

God is present in many aspects of our world and our lives. At times we find God close – like gentle waves lapping at our feet – and at other times God seems vast, impenetrable, overwhelming, like a stormy ocean crashing on the rocks. How do you experience God like the ocean? How does God appear in the depths of our lives?

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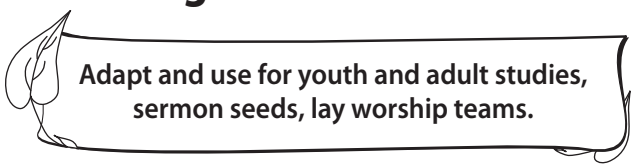
Reflecting on the Word



Connecting with life

Five oceans of our planet cover over 70% of the surface.

- **What feelings does the ocean conjure up for you? Does it fill you with excitement or fear, or both?**
- **What about the ocean brings excitement? What brings fear?**

Scripture

Job 38:1–18 Job calls on God to answer questions of what Job perceives as injustice. God responds by taking Job on a world tour. Offering a series of rhetorical questions, God avoids Job's specific questions.

- **What point does God seem to be trying to make in this list of rhetorical questions?**
- **How would you feel if God spoke to you this way?**

The Message translates the opening part of verse 16 as "Have you ever gotten to the true bottom of things, explored the labyrinthine caves of the deep ocean?" Job is challenged to explore the deep beneath the seas, the mystery of the unknown.

- **How and in what ways and for what reasons might this be a challenge for us, too?**

Psalm 104:1–9, 24–26 speaks of God covering the earth with a "watery deep, like a piece of clothing" (v. 6 *Common English Bible*). A sense that comes immediately to mind is of clothing that comforts and protects us, that keeps us warm. Similarly, God has provided the ocean as a means to giving life to the earth.

- **If the ocean is a means to giving life, what is the challenge to us in this age of overfishing, oil drilling, and the plastic waste that occupies the oceans?**

Ephesians 1:3–10 Here the author notes how all human beings are set free in Christ, and all creation is brought together in Christ.

- **What does it mean, to you, to be "set free in Christ"?**
- **What does it mean for "all creation" to be brought together in Christ?**
- **When you hear an expression like "all creation," what is your first reaction – all created things, or do you think of human beings first?**

Luke 5:1–11 While we might have a romanticized image of fishers in the time of Jesus, the reality is that often they worked for others who only gave them a portion of the catch as pay. The work was hard, and there was little hope for change.

The scene here is intriguing: Jesus comes upon some people who have worked all night, and he sits down and begins to teach. After this, he tells Peter to put the boat back in the water, invites them to try for another catch, and this time they cannot contain all that they catch.

- **What might convince you to try again when you are exasperated after apparent failure?**
- **What do you make of Simon's response, where he recognizes his own weakness in comparison to Jesus?**

As Job is challenged by God to "explore the caves of the deep," Jesus call the disciples to "Put out into deep water" (v. 4). Deep is a place of mystery and wonder.

- **What depths are you being invited to explore?**

Connecting scripture and life

Like the deep and diverse oceans, creation is bigger than we can imagine, and so is its ability to sustain all that lives in it.

- **In what ways might you, individually and as the church, be guided by awe and reverence to shift the need for sustenance toward the call and the faith to sustain our oceans and land?**

Focus for Worship, Learning, and Serving

In all the readings for today, there is a sense of something much greater than ourselves. An awareness of such a thing can lead us into a state of awe or can overwhelm and even frighten us.

The ocean can be a wonderful, consoling thing, or it can be a place of fear and foreboding. In worship, learning, and serving this week, try to be aware of how you are a small portion of something much greater – not an insignificant portion by any means, but a small one. You have a role to play, and there are unique things you can do to make a difference in the world. What is your significance? How can you make a difference?

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Ocean Sunday

Prepare

NOTE: All of these suggestions are mere starting points; adapt, delete, and add according to your local needs.

- ❑ Recruit volunteers needed for worship.
- ❑ Choose an option for hearing Job 38:1–18. For the Bible story, arrange for a storyteller, to present "Job Remembers" on p. 34, or the story "Who's in the Ocean?" (in children's activity leaflet at the end of this week's materials). For the paraphrase, arrange for a reader to speak as the ocean to humanity.
- ❑ Bring items for setting the worship space.
- ❑ As people enter, arrange to have ocean sounds playing as people enter the worship space. Alternatively, arrange to project images of ocean waves or a video of ocean waves rolling, waves gently lapping on the shore, boats in a storm, sailboats on the sea, children swimming, whales breaching, and so on.
- ❑ Prepare to project a video of ocean waves crashing on rocks or a beach while the psalm is read.
- ❑ Arrange for a group to mime the actions as Luke 5:1–11 is read.
- ❑ You might choose to print *Milford Sound, New Zealand* on or in your bulletin (in the Images to Project and Print folder). For background to the art and artist, see "Connecting with the Art" on p. 8.
- ❑ Bring song "The Earth Is Our Cradle" (p. 7).
- ❑ Set stations as described on p. 35–36.

Music Suggestions

The Earth Is Our Cradle
Christopher New; *page 7*

You Are Holy/*Hamba Nathi*
South African traditional; *Seasons Songbook, vol. 8*

All Is Wonder
Trisha Watts; *Seasons Songbook, vol. 5*

Come and Follow Me
Tom Franzak; Seasons Songbook, vol. 5

A Voice Is Heard
Trisha Watts and Monica O'Brien; *Seasons Songbook, vol. 2*

All Things New
Ramon and Sario Oliano; *Seasons Songbook, vol. 2*

Deep Waters
Trisha Watts; *Seasons Songbook, vol. 2*

Listen, God Is Calling
Tanzanian traditional; *Seasons Songbook, vol. 2*

A chart that shows the licence holder(s) for each song in each of the 9 *Seasons of the Spirit* Music Volumes can be found at www.seasonsonline.ca. Click on Library; Seasons Music Information. Please contact a licence holder for permission to duplicate.

Gather

Before worship, as people are coming into the worship space, play some ocean sounds in the background. These can readily be found on CDs of sound effects, and/or on the Internet. You may wish to project images of ocean scenes or a short video clip of ocean waves. You have a diversity of ocean experience: for example, some scenes of waves crashing against rock, waves gently lapping on the shore, boats in a storm, sailboats on the sea, children swimming, whales breaching, and so on.

Call to worship

One: The ocean is all around us *(pause to hear ocean sounds for a moment).*

All: **God is all around us.**

One: The ocean can seem overwhelming, and calming and gentle, too *(pause to hear ocean sounds for a moment).*

All: **God can seem overwhelming, and calming and gentle, too.**

One: The ocean can be a powerful reminder of the presence of God *(pause to hear ocean sounds for a moment).*

All: **We rejoice to be in the presence of God always.**

One: Come, let us worship God!

Opening prayer

Divine Creator, we come with questions,
and ask you to open us to receive your answers.
Sometimes, we feel hard done by,
and think the world is out to get us.
We want – we demand – answers.
Yet you, gracious One, are eager to show us another way,
and invite us to see the grander picture of the world
of which we are a part.
Open us to your presence in our world
and in our lives. Amen.

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Prayer of confession

There are times, gracious God, when we are tired of trying new things. We want the familiar; we want things back the way they were; we do not want to have to imagine or dream. Yet, in the midst of all this, you come and challenge us to see in new ways. You call us to try new methods and new ideas. You dare us to wonder what the world could be.

Forgive us when we close our hearts to you and encourage us to dare to cast our nets in new directions, that we might encounter a new harvest. Open us to embrace how it can impact our lives, instead of panicking over the potential loss of control and identity. We pray in the name of the one who never gives up on us, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Words of affirmation

Jesus challenged the disciples, and they dared to try something new. When they were confronted with their own inadequacies, Jesus said, "Don't be afraid. From now on, you will be fishing for people." So may we be assured that Christ does not dwell on what we have done, or on any sense of failure we might have, but invites us into new possibilities. Always. Amen.

Engage

Opening the word

Psalm 104:1–9, 24–26 It can be very effective simply to project video of ocean waves crashing on rocks or a beach in the background while the psalm is read.

Luke 5:1–11

Invite a group, perhaps young people, to dramatize this while it is read.

Verses 1–2	*Jesus is on one side, and we see some disciples on the other side, perhaps pretending to row a boat, and/or trim the sail.*
Verse 3	*Jesus goes and joins them in a boat, and pretends to preach to the congregation.*
Verse 4	*Jesus mimes pushing the boat out into deeper water.*
Verse 5	*Simon appears to argue with Jesus.*
Verses 6–7	*Disciples mime dropping nets, and then struggling to draw them in. They indicate to the other boat to join them.*
Verses 8–10a	*All the disciples are amazed; Simon Peter falls at Jesus' knees in apparent shame.*
Verses 10b–11	*Jesus speaks, and then leaves. The disciples all follow him.*

Moving into Job 38:1–18 *the focus scripture for age-level materials in ENCORE*

Job has been questioning, and now God is answering – although the answers do not really match the questions! Instead, God invites Job to look at the bigger picture, at the universe as a whole, and at the various parts that make it work together. One of these is the ocean, which God has created and upon which God has placed limits. The ocean, in its amazing vastness, quite beyond our comprehension, is a reminder of the awesomeness of the entire world. How do we respond to it? We are becoming increasingly aware that, within the seeming limitlessness of the ocean is a finite system of delicate balances. A small change in the world's temperatures changes things drastically; small amounts of cosmetics washed into the ocean have led to tiny sea life ingesting plastic microbeads and, in turn, passing these up the food chain; species we thought had a long life are becoming extinct. How do we see the ocean? What does it mean to us? How can it be an illustration of God's response to Job?

Choose from the following.

Bible story Have a storyteller present the story "Job Remembers" (p. 34). Aternatively, for younger children, arrange for a storyteller to present the story "Who's in the Ocean?" (on the children's activity leaflet at the end of this week's materials).

Paraphrase: Job from the point of view of the ocean

Arrange for someone to read this paraphrase of Job 38:1–18, which is spoken as a challenge from the ocean to humanity for how we treat the world.

You people think you are so important! You treat the world as if it is yours to abuse, without any care about others. You don't think about the future generations who will have to live with the world you leave behind. It's time you paid attention to what is all around you, instead of thinking only of yourselves. I am Ocean, and I want to invite you to think for a moment.

Have you ever thought how amazing it is, that I am home to countless animals that affect your life? From fish that you eat to plants and animals that are the source of serious medicines. Do you ever stop to think of the plankton and krill, some of the smallest living things on the planet, and how they are the food source of the great whales, the largest living things on the planet?

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How about the tides that balance things out, giving water for swimming and boating and playing, and low tides for walking for kilometers/miles?

Have you ever gone to the bottom of the ocean – or even just gone swimming with a mask and a snorkel – and seen some of the amazing creatures of the deep? Have you ever stopped to think how amazing they are, how ingenious, how clever?

Too often you focus only on yourselves. Broaden your horizons! Awake to the wonder and the beauty that are all around you. When you do, often you'll find a lot of your concerns about yourself disappear, and you care more about the world in which you live. And when you do that, our Creator is pleased!

Invite children, young people, and all who wish to move to the stations. Others will remain seated for proclaiming the word.

Respond

After proclaiming the word, you might invite those who have not already done so to move to and around the stations, taking ten minutes or so with a chosen practice.

Sing or listen to a song such as "The Earth Is Our Cradle" (p. 7).

Prayers of the people

Holy One,
we gather this day to praise you
for all your goodness.
You have created this magnificent planet
and established a sense of harmony and balance
that enable all things to live together.
The Earth provides us with the things we need for life,
and we are so very grateful.
Yet, we are also aware of the damage and devastation
that we are capable of wreaking on this land,
in the seas, and in the air,
and we ask your guidance to help us change our ways.
Help those in authority over people and nations and corporations
to seek ways to do their work
without harming the precious balance of things around them.
Help us not only to stop polluting but to seek actively ways to restore the ecosystems that surround us.

For those who find their lands threatened by extinction
because of rising tides due to global warming,
grant a sense of hope and trust in tomorrow.
For those who find their livelihoods changed
and even rendered obsolete
by the misuse of the ocean's resources,
we pray for guidance in finding new ways to support themselves.
For all your people,
for all your creatures,
for all who call this planet "home"
we pray. Amen.

Prayer of dedication or offering prayer

Generous Creator,
take these gifts we offer now
and use them to help sustain
the fragile and delicate balance and harmony
you first designed for our world.
We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

Bless

We are holy and blameless in God's presence,
and have been since before the creation of the world.
So go out in joy,
knowing you are God's holy ones.
And take the blessings of God into your living
this day and always. Amen.

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Earth Compassion

Many who explore the evolution
of my mother Earth
tend to see a battle ground,
the survival of the fiercest in
a dog-eat-dog world.

My sympathy
is with those new scientists
who discern the survival of the caring,
the web of compassion
that creates community
and integrates ecosystems.
Can I trust their views?

And Earth, some would argue,
is part of that community
communicating concern from
species to species
and from the depths to the heights.
Can I discern such a mystery?

Then one frightening day,
I sensed something in the tsunami
that flooded islands of the Pacific
and inundated Indian Ocean shores.

The groaning of Earth, the
dangerous dislocations, were
not just selfish quaking
but a message of empathy to all creatures,
a caring cry
that some Earth beings heard
and then left for higher ground,
like the elephants in Sri Lanka
and the reptiles of Acer.

Sad to say,
most of the Earth beings called humans
were not listening
and so did not sense Earth's compassion.

Rainbow of Mysteries: Meeting the Sacred in Nature *by Norman Habel.*
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Job Remembers

Based on Job 38:1–18

You know that experience, where you are talking about something and someone else joins the conversation, and what they're saying just doesn't quite click? It happened to me once. And it wasn't just any old conversation with anyone – it was a question and answer session with God! Let me tell you about it.

The name's Job, and you may have heard about some troubles I'd been having. It turns out that I was caught up in a kind of bet between God and someone else, over whether I'd stay faithful to God no matter what happened. (It turns out that I passed, by the way – but I didn't know any of this at the time.) In any event, things in my life went from bad to worse and then from worse to even, well, worser, if that's a word!

One day I lost everything – all my herds and flocks, and even all my children. It was horrible, but I knew that somehow God was still with me.

Then a short time later, I became inflicted with horrible sores from the bottoms of my feet to the top of my head. They itched, and I scratched until I was sore from scratching. Again, I knew that somehow God was still with me, but it was hard.

One by one a bunch of friends came to tell me I must have done something wrong – God would only inflict this kind of suffering on someone who had done wrong. I should admit it, they said, even though it probably meant that I would die.

But I knew that wasn't true. I knew I had *not* done anything wrong. So I turned to God with questions: "Why is this happening to me?" I asked. And when I didn't get an answer, I shouted it all the louder: "Why is this happening to me?" And then when I still didn't get an answer, I screamed at God: "Why is this happening to me?"

And then, one day, quite out of the blue I heard an answer, although it didn't address any of my questions.

I heard God's voice saying to me, "Hey there, Job. Were you around when I created the earth's foundations?"

"What???" I wanted to shout. But God kept on talking:

"Who set the measurements for the earth? Surely you must know – you who seem to know everything. Or the oceans – have you ever tried to calculate a millennium of tide tables for the whole earth? Not an easy task, Job."

God went on, for quite a while, with this kind of questioning. And finally it dawned on me: I had been asking the wrong kinds of questions! My questions were all about *me*, and God's concern was for the whole of creation – which included me, of course, but was much bigger. I was more than a little embarrassed, and I told God so.

And – I know this will sound strange – I could swear I heard God smile, if that's possible. And life began to get better.

A recording of this story is available in MP3 format in the Audio Stories folder.

Bible story

Materials recording of today's story "Job Remembers," player, paper, crayons, pencils, a copy of the directions displayed where all can see; alternatively, arrange for a storyteller to present the story

The practice of storytelling

Directions

1. Listen to the story "Job Remembers."
2. Use the art supplies to draw and write your response to the story.

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Living, Learning, Growing as Disciples

The following stations might be set up around your worship space or in other places around the church. Choose one or more practices, depending on your space and numbers. Display the directions.

For your convenience, instructions are formatted for printing and available in the Stations folder.

The article "Connecting with the Art" on page 8 provides some background to the two posters for Season of Creation, Pentecost 2 and some art engagement ideas for individuals and groups. You might choose to add an Art Engagement station each week, using one of the art engagement ideas.

Experimenting with water levels

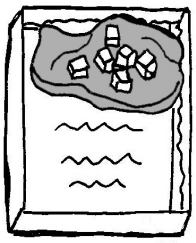
Materials Bibles, computer with Internet access (optional); two baking dishes about 20 x 20 cm /8 x 8 in, one labelled "Ice on Land" and the other "Floating Ice"; a large lump of modelling clay; room-temperature water; ice cubes in a thermos (to avoid melting too soon); pens, ruler, paper, copy of the directions displayed where all can see

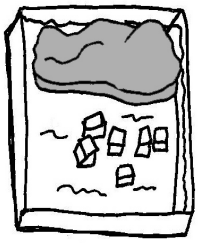
Suitable for ages 6–adult

The practice of awareness

Directions

1. Working together, divide the clay into two halves, roughly, and place in the end of each of the baking dishes, building a "land mass."
2. Place half the ice cubes on the clay in the dish marked "Ice on Land, and the other half on the bottom of the other dish.
3. Add water to each pan until the levels are equal – but make sure the water does not go above the top of the clay.
4. Measure the water depth in each dish, and jot this down on a piece of paper.
5. Let the experiment sit for a while. While it is doing that, you might visit another station; go online and research "global warming" or "sea levels" to learn some more about the rising oceans; or read Job 38:1–18.
6. After a while, measure the water levels again. Which one is deeper? *(the "Ice on Land")* This is because the other ice was already taking up some room in the water. This is a way of understanding rising ocean levels. You can see how countries that are quite low (such as Tuvalu, Kiribati, and other islands in the Pacific Ocean) are at risk of disappearing as the ocean level rises. What did Job 38 say about how God created the ocean?





Creating an ocean

Materials a variety of cloth, fabric, silk, and ribbons the colour of the ocean (blues, aquas, greens, purples, whites); construction paper in a variety of colours; scissors; glue; crayons; markers, picture or reference books with fish, sea creatures, and water plants; Bibles; if the space allows, a recording of ocean/water sounds and a player, copy of the directions displayed where all can see

Suitable for all ages working together

The practice of creativity

Directions

Using the different cloths, fabrics, silks, and ribbons, create an ocean.

1. Table or worship space.
2. Create fish and sea creatures using the construction paper and other supplies. Use the picture/reference books for ideas.
3. Place the fish, sea creatures, and water plants among the waves of the ocean.
4. Sharing the Bibles, read Job 38:1–18,

Younger children Invite younger children to help create the ocean, fish, and sea creatures. Encourage them to engage with the ocean and play with the fish and sea creatures in the "water."

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Fish in a boat

Materials Bibles; copies of the directions (one for each person) sheets of copy paper, nylon net, stapler, fish-shaped crackers (both regular and gluten-free), *optional:* crayons or markers

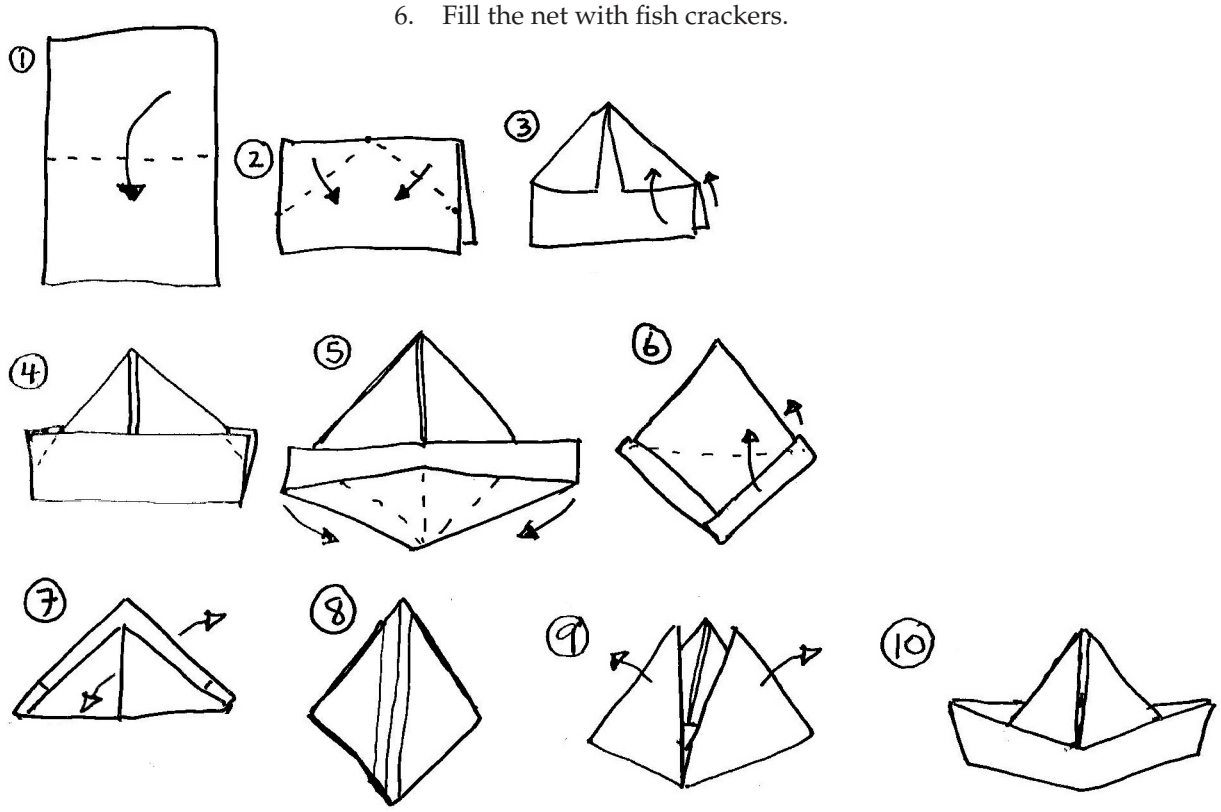
Suitable for all ages working together

The practice of creativity

Directions

In Luke 5:1–11, Jesus challenges the disciples to fish from the other side of their boat. When they did, they caught a boat full of fish. This reminds us that sometimes we should try something new, and we might be surprised by the results!

1. Read Luke 5:1–11.
2. Colour or decorate the paper, if desired.
3. Following the directions to fold the paper into a boat.
4. Cut a small piece of nylon net and staple the top of it to the side of the boat.
5. Fold the sides up and staple each side.
6. Fill the net with fish crackers.



Writing a poem or story

Materials pillows and blankets to create a welcoming space; a low table, votive candles in small jars, matches; Bibles; paper, pens, coloured pencils; personal journals; if space allows, recording of ocean/water sounds and a player; copy of the directions displayed where all can see

Suitable for all ages working together

The practice of telling your story

Directions

1. Read Job 38:1–18 and Psalm 104:1–9, 24–26.
2. Write a short story or poem about an ocean or a water memory. What was the ocean/water like in your memory? What did it sound like, look like, feel like, smell like, taste like? Include these details.
3. Display your story or poem for others to read.

Younger children Write a story about the ocean or water or draw a picture of a time you visited the ocean or other body of water (a river, a lake, a pond, or a stream).

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CREATE

The oceans are filled with wonderful things, and we are called to care for their ocean home

Turn handprints into ocean creatures or plants — a crab, a fish, a dolphin, a creature you imagine.

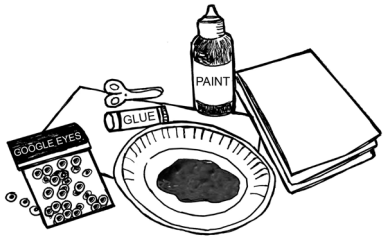
You will need

- art paper
- tempera paint
- shallow tin foil trays, or paper plates
- clean-up supplies
- markers

Directions

1. Squirt some paint into a shallow tray.
2. Press your hand into the paint and then "stamp" your handprint onto the art paper.
3. If you want to create more creatures, "stamp" another handprint on the paper, perhaps your other hand or in a different direction.
4. Use your markers, and maybe google eyes to give your creature features.

What are some ways we can care for the ocean?



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STORY TIME

Who's in the Ocean?

There are so many interesting things in the ocean. Pretend you are a swimmer under the water. What might come and swim with you?

Swimmer, swimmer, what can you see?
I see an octopus swimming with me.

Swimmer, swimmer what can you see?
I see a shark swimming with me.

Swimmer, swimmer, what can you see?
I see seaweed swimming with me.

Swimmer, swimmer what can you see?
I see a crab crawling to me.

Swimmer, swimmer, what can you see?
I see an ocean made for all that I see.

Swimmer, swimmer, what do you say?
Thank you, God, thank you, all through the day.

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ACTIVITY

God's Ocean Creation

God created the oceans and all the streams and rivers that flow into them. The fish, sea creatures, plants, and humans are part of God's ocean creation. Draw the fish, sea creatures, and plants that are part of God's creation. Think about the ways the water we see in our local ponds, streams, rivers and oceans are connected to all water around the world.

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