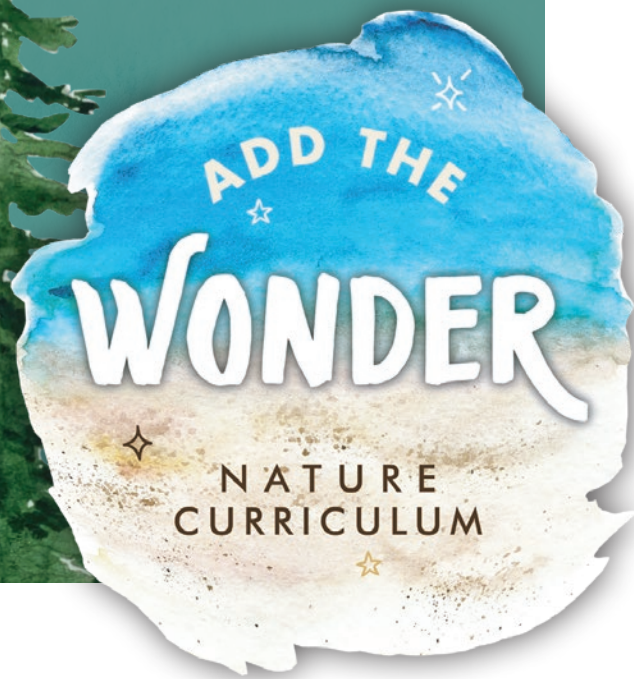
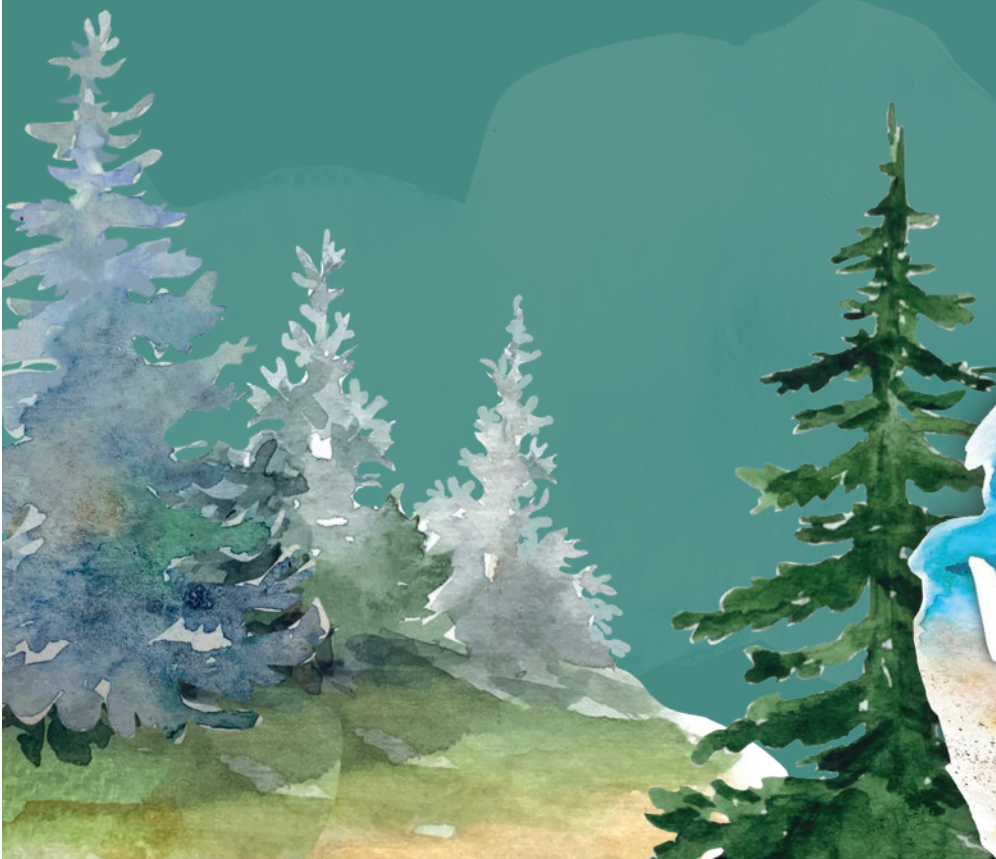




DEVOTIONAL

We are including this free optional devotional add on as a guide to help you dive into scripture topics related to the unit study as a family. Each devotional will include a passage of scripture to read together, ideas of what other scripture to focus on, a memory verse, and a hymn to learn over the course of the unit. All scripture will be in the ESV version.





We are learning all about how God designed certain species to rely on each other in order to thrive and survive. He designed the church—the body of Christ—the same way. We need each other! The church and all who are saved are often referred to as “the body” in the New Testament. Read the following verses and point out where we are called “the body.” Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 10:17; 1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 4:12; Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:24; Hebrews 13:3. Just as all parts of the human body are important, it is the same way in the Body of Christ. Use some of these verses as copy work during the unit. Illustrate some things that stick out to you.

Memory verse: Romans 12:5: so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually members one of another.

All believers are united with Christ as our head regardless of race, nationality, or social standing. We may worship differently and celebrate differently because God is a God of variety! 1 Corinthians 12:12 says: For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

Hymn Study: All Creatures of our God and King

This beautiful hymn was based on a poem written by St. Francis of Assisi. Assisi was Italian and died in 1226. Assisi was inspired to write the poem because of Psalm 148. Read through the Psalm and then listen to the hymn. Can you see the similarities? Assisi wrote this poem in the year 1225 and it was later translated into English by William Draper sometime between 1899-1919. It was first published in a hymnal in 1919. The words of this hymn are some of the oldest used in hymns. We have such a rich history in the body of Christ.





Seeds and soil are talked about many times in the Bible. The Parable of the Sower is found in Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20; and Luke 8:4-15. Read all 3 accounts and see if they are told the same way or if there are differences between them. In the Parable of the Sower, the seed represents the gospel message. The sower is the person who plants the seed and that represents the person who shares the gospel message. The soil represents how people respond to the gospel message. Can you name the 4 kinds of soil that Jesus describes in the Parable of the Sower? Which type of soil are you?

Memory Verse: Mark 4:8: Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times.

What other passages of scripture can you find that talk about soil or seeds? Read these passages over the course of the unit. You can use these verses as copywork or you can copy some of the scripture into your nature journal beside your nature drawings.

Hymn Study: The Sower Went Forth Sowing

Listen to this hymn while you read the lyrics together. The lyrics for this hymn were written by William St. Hill Bourne for his church's Harvest Festival in 1874. Bourne was an author and a pastor who also wrote a few hymns. This hymn is a beautiful and poetic retelling of the Parable of the Sower.





We have learned that mushrooms come from the fungi family which also includes yeast. Yeast is mentioned in one of the shortest parables in the Bible—The Parable of the Leaven or the Parable of the Yeast. This parable is found in Matthew 13:33 and Luke 13:20-21.

Matthew 13:33 says: He told them another parable. “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.”

Let’s use this as our memory verse during this unit, as well. We can memorize a whole parable in just one verse!

Jesus was explaining that the kingdom of heaven will grow. It started off small—Jesus started with just 12 followers! Yeast causes things to grow from the inside out and that is how it is with the kingdom of heaven. As we change from the inside due to the work of the Holy Spirit, we will cause external changes as well—within our home and community!

Take some time as a family and dig deeper into this topic. There is so much to learn!

Hymn Study: Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Thomas Chisholm was born in a log cabin in Kentucky in 1866. Thomas loved writing poetry and wrote a poem called, “Great is Thy Faithfulness” during a time of impaired health and limited income to express his gratitude for a faithful God. This poem caught the eye of his friend, musician William Runyan, who worked for Moody Bible Institute. Years later, after praying for a tune to go with the poem, Runyan completed this hymn, which is one of the most sung and well-known hymns of all time. Sometimes hymns are born out of times of great triumph or great tragedy, and sometimes they are born out of simple day to day thankfulness.





One of the first places we find clouds taking center stage in the story of redemption is in the story of Noah. Read Genesis 6-9 for the entire account of Noah and the flood.

Genesis 9:14-16 says: When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.”

Memory Verse: Genesis 9:17: God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

There are many other places in the Bible where clouds are mentioned. God even appeared in clouds! Look up these verses and use them as copywork. You can even include some of these cloud verses next to clouds you drew in your nature journal. Nature journaling is even more beautiful when it includes scripture passages.

Hymn Study: Lo! He comes with Clouds Descending

Listen to this hymn while you read the lyrics. It is a beautiful hymn written by the great hymn writer, Charles Wesley in 1758. Charles lived from 1707-1788 in England. He went to Georgia with his brother in 1735, but only stayed for one year until he returned to England. Charles Wesley wrote 6500 hymns!





Owls are often associated with wisdom. Have you heard people talk about the wise old owls? Associating owls with wisdom goes back thousands of years to the time of the Greeks and Greek mythology where the Greeks thought that owls had a special inner light because they were night hunters and could see in the dark. The owl was associated with the Greek Goddess of Wisdom, Athena, since she was often depicted with an owl. As Christians, we know that false gods do not give wisdom. Wisdom comes from the one true living God! There are three books of the Bible that are known as wisdom literature: Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes.

Proverbs 3:13-18 says: Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed.

Memory verse: Proverbs 3:13-14: Blessed is the one who finds wisdom and the one who gets understanding, for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold.

Throughout the Owls study, look up as many verses as you can about wisdom. There are many! God finds wisdom to be very important and He promises to give it to those who seek Him. (James 1:5) You can use these verses as copywork or write them in your nature journal beside your nature drawings.

Hymn Study: Be Thou My Vision

Listen to this hymn while you read the lyrics. It's a beautiful, Irish hymn written sometime between the 6th and 8th century. It was originally a poem that is attributed to Dallan Forgaill.

