

Friday March 2nd 2018
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
“All God’s creation is very good!”
CHILDREN’S SERVICE
From the WDP Committee of Suriname



Narrator: Welcome to our service.
Today we will be learning about Suriname.
We will be thinking about the world God has made. Let's sing...

SONG

Narrator: There are many different communities in Suriname.
We will start with the Indigenous peoples -
most of them live in the rainforest where they hunt, fish and grow food.
May I introduce you to Tokoro.

Tokoro: Hello, I am Tokoro. I am 8 years old.
When I was 6 years old, I moved with my parents from the interior to Paramaribo,
so I could go to school.
Not everywhere in the interior has a school
and often we had to walk long distances to get to one.
But in the city the schools are crowded.
Sometimes there are not enough tables, chairs or books for all students.
Still, I like school very much.
Let's pray.
We thank You, Lord, we enjoy learning.
We pray that education will be accessible
for all children anywhere in our country at every level
and for children all over the world.

Narrator: Tokoro goes to church every week.
Every year they have a special celebration for the World Day of Prayer.
This year everybody will pray with the Suriname children.
Tokoro likes to invite her friends to go with her to church.
Today, she invited Kwame, a Maroon boy.
(*Kwame and Tokoro come forward*)

Tokoro: Hello Kwame. Fa waka? How are you? What do you have there?

Kwame: This is Afingi soup for the celebration.
It is a soup of wild meat and cassava balls which we Maroons love very much.
In the interior of Suriname, we used to eat it with fish from the river.
That is really tasty!

Tokoro: Cool! I heard my parents saying that there is gold in the interior.

Kwame: Yes! But my family had to flee to the capital
to escape the armed conflict in the rain forest.

Now the people there are concerned
that the miners are washing the gold with mercury in the river.
It is polluting our rivers.
It would be good to tell everyone about it, so they stop doing it.

Tokoro: That is bad for the river, the fish and for us as well. I will help you tell others.
Let's pray.
We pray, Lord, for the protection
of the forests, rivers, fishes, and minerals that are on earth.
Help us learn how to live with them without destroying them.

Narrator: Tokoro and Kwame walk to the Chinese shop. They meet Liang, a Chinese girl.
Her father now owns her great-grandfather's shop.
He came a long time ago to work in the coastal area of Suriname.
Many Chinese people continue to live in Suriname,
just like Liang's great-grandfather.

Tokoro: Hello Liang, we have come to take you to the celebration.
What are you bringing for the World Day of Prayer Celebration?

Liang: Hello Tokoro, Hello Kwame.
I am taking soft drinks with me, but I have to return the plastic bottles.
My friends and I collect the bottles for our school.
The bottles are picked up by a collector and sent to a bottle recycling plant.
There they are shredded into small pieces to be used again.

Kwame: We could do it in our church as well!
We can help to clean plastic bottles from our yards and streets!
Let's pray.
Lord, help us to prevent diseases in our communities
by keeping our streets and yards clean of waste and discarded plastic products.

SONG

Narrator: The three children see two of their friends,
Viresh, a Hindustani boy, and Samanie, a Javanese girl.
Their ancestors also came to work in Suriname,
and they have chosen to continue living in Suriname.

Tokoro: Hello Viresh and Samanie. What do you have there?

Viresh: This is a tabla drum from India. I'm going to play music at the celebration.

Samanie: I have baka bana (*fried plantain*)
which I am bringing for the World Day of Prayer Celebration.
My Simba, grandmother, prepared them. What are you bringing?

Tokoro: I have two maracas! I will play them when we sing.
Let's go now or we will be late.
Let's pray.

Thank You, God, that in spite of our differences of religion, ethnicity and culture, we can live in peace with each other.

SONG

Narrator: *(the children arrive and greet all who are there)*

Let's hear a Bible story about God's creation from the book of Genesis chapter 1.

Reader 1: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
The earth was chaotic and a shapeless mass.
(pause)

Reader 2: And the Spirit of God was hovering over the mass of waters.
(pause)

Reader 1: Over the waters was deep darkness.
(pause)

Reader 2: Then God said: "Let there be light."
(pause)

Reader 1: And then there was light. God saw that the light was good.
God was pleased with it, and divided the light from the darkness.
God called the light "day" and the darkness "night."
Together they formed the first day of God's creation.
Then God created the oceans, and between the oceans God created land,
and on the land all kinds of trees and plants
(pause)

Reader 2: And God was pleased, because God saw that it was good.
God spoke and everything happened just the way God wanted.
God did not need anything else to make the beautiful creation.
God is so good and kindhearted! God also wants us to say:
"Lord God, You are so wonderful!
Thanks for all the beautiful things you have made for us."
Shall we say it together?

ALL: **Lord God, You are so wonderful!**
Thanks for all the beautiful things you have made for us.

Reader 1: Then God let a brilliant light shine during the daytime and called it sun.
(pause)

Reader 2: And at night a glittering moon.
(pause)

Reader 1: In the sky, God put millions of twinkling stars.
(pause)

Reader 2: And so the world began.

Reader 1: Then God filled the oceans with fish, crawling crabs,
sharks, whales and other creatures.
Above the land the birds, butterflies, bees and bats filled the air.
(pause)

Reader 2: Through spoken words, God created all these animals.
God looked at them with pleasure and blessed them.
Can you name a few kinds of birds and fish? What sounds do they make?

Reader 1: God said to all the creatures:
Multiply, make sure there are always lots of you filling the earth.
On the fifth day God made all kinds of wild animals, cattle and creeping beasts.
(pause)
And God saw it was good and God was pleased.
On the sixth day God made something else that was beautiful.
God said: "Let us make humankind to be caretakers of all life
on the earth, in the skies and in the seas."
And God created us, the children of the world, each of us different from others!
And God loves us all.
Let's look at each other and say, "All God's creation is very good!"

All: **All God's creation is very good!**

Reader 1: On the seventh day God rested.
Everything that exists - people, animals, all of nature - owes its life to God.
God blessed all living creatures and declared them all to be good.
Let us now give thanks for God's goodness, kindness and love.

Reader 2: Lord God, we thank you for the beautiful earth you have given us.
Forgive us when we do not properly care for the earth,
and when we do not show love to our neighbours.
Help us to interact more lovingly with our environment and nature,
and inspire our friends to do the same.

SONG (and offering if there is one)

Narrator: Let's pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us...

CLOSING PRAYER

*Please use the Leader's Notes - these include suggestions for songs.
See also the Activity sheet and the website
www.wdpScotland.org.uk*

*If an offering is taken please send to the WDP Scottish Treasurer:
Suzanne Foster Delnapot, Blacksboat, Banffshire AB37 9BQ*

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