

God's Wonderful Water Ride!

Focus: Understanding the water cycle as a creative and purposeful design.

Time: 15 Minutes

Materials Needed:

- One clear, sealable plastic bag (a sandwich or freezer bag works best)
- A permanent marker
- 1/4 cup of water (add a drop of blue food coloring for fun, but it's not necessary)
- A piece of tape
- A sunny window

Lesson Plan

1. The Big Question (2 minutes)

Start with a sense of wonder! Sit with your student and ask:

"Have you ever looked at a puddle after it rains and wondered where the water goes? And where does rain come from in the first place? Does the Earth ever run out of water?"

"It doesn't run out because a wise and loving Creator made a super special recycling plan for all the water on Earth. It's called the water cycle, and it's like a fun ride that the water goes on again and again to keep our world healthy and alive. Let's make our own little water ride right here!"

2. Activity: Make a Water Cycle in a Bag! (8 minutes)

This hands-on activity makes the concept visible and easy to understand.

1. **Decorate the Bag:** Hand your student the plastic bag and the marker. Help them draw a bright sun in one top corner and a fluffy cloud in the other. At the bottom, draw some wavy lines to be the ocean or a lake.
2. **Add the Water:** Carefully pour the water into the bag. Explain, *"This is our big ocean! All the water in the world starts somewhere, usually in oceans and lakes."*
3. **Seal and Hang:** Seal the bag tightly, leaving some air inside. Use the tape to hang the bag on a window that gets direct sunlight.
4. **Explain the Ride:** Point to the different parts of the bag as you explain the cycle in simple terms.
 - **Evaporation (The Lift-Off!):** *"The sun (point to the drawing) acts like a giant, warm hug for the water. It warms it up so much that some of it turns into an invisible gas called water vapor and floats up, up, up into the sky. Let's pretend our fingers are water vapor and float them up from the water."*
 - **Condensation (Making Clouds!):** *"As the water vapor goes higher, it gets cold. All the tiny bits of water huddle together to keep warm and they form a cloud! (Point to the cloud drawing). Soon we will see little droplets forming in our bag, just like a cloud."*
 - **Precipitation (Time to Splash Down!):** *"When the cloud gets so full of water droplets that it can't hold any more, the water falls back down to Earth as rain! Or snow! This is called precipitation, and it waters the plants, fills the rivers, and gives us water to drink."*

3. The Wonderful Design (3 minutes)

Connect the science to the purpose behind it.

"Isn't that an amazing plan? A wise Creator designed this perfect circle so that everything on Earth gets the fresh water it needs. The sun gently lifts the water, the sky cleans it in the clouds, and then it's sent back down exactly where it's needed. It never stops. It's a beautiful way to show love for all the plants, animals, and for us, by making sure we always have clean, fresh rain."

4. What Happens Next? (2 minutes)

Leave your student with something to look forward to.

"Let's leave our water ride in the sun. Over the next hour or day, let's be scientists and watch it closely. We should see little water droplets forming at the top and then 'raining' back down. You'll get to see the whole water cycle happen right in this bag!"

Ask one final question: *"What do you think is the most clever part of this whole water ride?"*