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# Lesson Plan: God's Wonderful Water Cycle

## Materials Needed:

- A clear glass cup or jar
- A ceramic or glass plate
- Hot water (adult supervision required)
- Ice cubes
- Hairspray (aerosol works best)

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## 1. Learning Objectives (3 minutes)

**Goal:** To understand that water moves in a continuous cycle and to appreciate the wisdom behind this design.

**Teacher says:** "Where do you think rain comes from? Does it just appear in the sky? Today, we're going to discover the amazing journey that water takes. It's called the water cycle! It’s a super smart recycling plan that our loving and wise Creator designed to give water to all the plants, animals, and people."

**Activity:**

1. Ask the student: "What happens to a puddle on the sidewalk after the sun comes out?" (It disappears/dries up).
2. Explain: "That's the first step! The sun's warmth turns the water into an invisible gas called water vapor, which rises up into the air. This is called **evaporation**. It’s like the water is traveling up to the sky."

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## 2. Instructional Strategy: Hands-On Experiment (8 minutes)

**Goal:** To create a mini water cycle in a cup to demonstrate evaporation, condensation, and precipitation.

**Teacher says:** "Let's make our own water cycle right here on the table! This will help us see exactly how God designed clouds and rain to work."

**Step-by-Step Plan:**

1. **Evaporation:** The adult carefully pours about two inches of hot water into the clear glass cup. "This hot water is like the sun warming up the ocean. Can you see the steam rising? That's our evaporation!"
2. **Condensation (Making a Cloud):** Place the plate on top of the cup to trap the steam. Then, place a few ice cubes on top of the plate. "This cold plate is like the cold air high up in the sky. When the warm water vapor hits the cold air, it turns back into tiny water droplets. Let’s look at the bottom of the plate—we are making a cloud!" Wait about a minute and lift the plate to show the condensation on the bottom.
3. **Precipitation (Making Rain):** "Real clouds need tiny bits of dust for the water droplets to stick to before they can become heavy enough to fall as rain. Our cloud needs some help!"
    - Quickly remove the plate, spray a very short burst of hairspray onto the bottom (the
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cloudy side), and immediately place it back on top of the cup (with the ice still on it).
    - The hairspray particles act like "dust."
4. **Observe:** Watch the inside of the cup closely. The water droplets on the bottom of the plate will start to gather together and become larger. Soon, you will see drops fall back into the hot water. "Look! It’s raining in our cup! The droplets got so heavy they had to fall. This is called **precipitation**."

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3. Assessment & Discussion (4 minutes)

Goal: To check for understanding and connect the scientific process to the concept of a wise Creator.

Teacher asks:

- "What made the water go up?" (The heat)
- "What happened when the warm vapor hit the cold plate?" (It turned into water drops / made a cloud)
- "What made the 'rain' fall down?" (The drops got too heavy)

Connecting to the Creator:

Teacher says: "Isn't that an amazing and perfect circle? The water goes up, forms clouds, and comes back down to give everything a drink. God designed this so cleverly to take care of our world. Without this cycle, the plants wouldn't grow and we wouldn't have water to drink. It shows how much He loves us and how wise He is to create such a perfect plan. Every time you see rain, you can remember this amazing journey and the Creator who designed it."

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