

# TEACHING FOR TRANSFORMATION (TFT) RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

## Continuing Christian Education at Home

TFT can be summarized through the phrase: **"See the Story: Live the Story"**

We need to recognize that we are all part of God's Story. We are part of His Grand Narrative! And we are all invited to play a role in this unfolding Story. Once we know this fact, then our next step is to figure out how to play our part in this Story. TFT provides 10 ways to think about this and we call these ways Throughlines. We can be on the lookout for Throughlines in all areas of our life: on a walk outdoors, in the media that we consume, in the science that we study, in the books that we read. But it is not enough to just talk about the Throughlines, we need to invite students to BE the Throughlines. For example, as we learn about Community Building, we need to create opportunities to BE Community Builders.

You have probably heard about TFT already, as your child's teachers use this framework. The Prairie Centre for Christian Education (<https://pcce.ca/>), with the help of some of our fantastic member schools, has created some resources to help you integrate TFT into this new learning journey at home. Each week you will receive a new resource that will provide a Throughline for your family to dive into. The resource package will include an overview of the Throughline, Scripture connections, related songs, activities and digital resources. But what we are most excited about are suggestions for Formational Learning Experiences (FLEx), where your family will not just learn about the Throughline, but will have an opportunity to BE the Throughline. As your family engages in the activities, we invite you to post photos to Instagram and Twitter using the hashtags: #LivingtheStory #YourSchoolName #PCCE. Follow PCCE on Twitter and Instagram ([@prairiecentre](#)). It will be exciting to see what other families in our Prairie Centre community are doing. Maybe you'll get a great FLEx idea from someone in Fort McMurray or Portage LaPrairie.

**As you begin the transition to working with your child at home, here are a couple Family Rhythms we encourage you to add to your routine:**

1

### MORNING MEETING

Spend a few minutes once per day and try these three things:

- **Name:** welcome each person by name so that everyone hears their name spoken in a positive manner. You can include a question for everyone to answer: your favourite part of yesterday, something you're looking forward to today, your favourite pizza, an emotion that you're feeling right now, a favourite joke. Let your children select questions too.
- **Game:** include something fun that gets people laughing and/or moving. There are lots of websites with team-building type activities if you want to try a few new things. Brain science recommends doing 10 minutes of vigorous physical activity at the beginning of the day to optimize learning and reduce behaviour management.
- **Frame:** end your circle with a reading that frames the learning for the day. You could use a scripture from the Throughline resource or another reading you find. Again, include your children in selecting and reading. Include a prayer time.

2

### FRIDAY REFLECTION TIME

Take some time each Friday to reflect on the week. The attached resource has some questions to guide this discussion as it relates to the Throughline of the week. Reflections can be done orally, in written form, video, acted out - be creative!

# WEEK 5 - CREATION ENJOYING

**SUMMARY** Students will celebrate God's beautiful creation.

**GOING DEEPER**

Students are encouraged to be curious about God's world, to celebrate God's incredible creation, and to develop the confidence to look at their environment with the joy of critical awareness. They will also celebrate the gift of having eyes to see, ears to hear, and hands to touch and create. Their study can give testimony to the presence of God in creation. People are also created by God. Education also tries to bring students to a better understanding of the human beings God has created.

Creation enjoying is looking at, talking about, studying creation. Ordinary things become extraordinary when seen in a new way. It is all about noticing and drawing attention to what there is to be seen in God's world. Creation enjoying is helping to coax the "songs of joy" (Psalm 65:8) from ourselves and from our students. This beautiful creation is a gift. We all know how much fun it is when you give someone a gift and they really LOVE it; that is what it's like for God when we and our students get out, live in and experience the gift of creation.

"Regardless of the season, how awesome is it that as adults we get to be tour guides who show our children God's wonderful creation? When we view the whole world as God's classroom, we get to encourage wonder in children. Using our creation-enjoyer senses, we see the eagle soar, touch a baby's tiny hand, and feel the warmth of the sun on our faces. Children's experiences point to the presence of our active Creator God. Creation-Enjoying helps kids understand also our responsibilities to creation and how people before us and right now are using, and maybe abusing, this beautiful world." ~Ron VandenBurg

**BIBLICAL REFERENCES** Could be used for devotions or memory work.

**Psalm 19**  
The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

- We are to enjoy God's presence and bask in his glory. This passage makes clear that we can find and enjoy God's glory and power in the creation.

**1 Timothy 4:4-5**  
For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

**Psalm 65:8-13**  
Those living far away fear your wonders; where morning dawns and evening fades you call forth songs of joy.

- Have you ever seen a sunset, or a mountain range or a baby's tiny hand that made you sing?

**Psalm 8**

**Other Passages to Ponder:**  
**Genesis 45:18** - Joseph's brothers are told to go to Egypt where they can "enjoy the fat of the land."  
**Ecclesiastes 2:24-25**

Creating enjoying results in God Worshipping. We don't worship creation, we worship the Creator.

- **Psalm 96:11-12**
- **Psalm 102:25**
- **Psalm 121:2**
- **Psalm 95:3-5**
- **Psalm 24:1-2**
- **Psalm 33:6-9**
- **Psalm 104:24-25**
- **Psalm 100:3**
- **Psalm 74:16-17**

# WEEK 5 - CREATION ENJOYING

## SONGS

You can use these as part of your morning devotions or to play in the background during work

- [GOD OF WONDERS](#) (CHRIS TOMLIN)
- [INDESCRIBABLE](#) (LAURA STORY)
- [OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART LORD](#) (MICHAEL W. SMITH)
- [FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH](#) (WWW.JIMSPENCERMUSIC.COM)
- [THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD](#) (AMY GRANT)
- [MORNING HAS BROKEN](#) (THIRD DAY)

## ACTIVITIES

Ideas that you can connect to the learning that is happening or encourage in your student's free time.

- Do a "nature" themed digital [photo scavenger hunt](#)
- Take a drive ([play car games](#))
- Visit a local geographical point of interest
- Go for a walk or bike ride
- Build a "[natural playground](#)" in your yard
- Explore [Alberta](#), [Saskatchewan](#) & [Manitoba](#)
- Go fishing (check your local regulations)
- Camp in your backyard
- Try [geocaching](#)
- [Save your local honeybees](#) (#beethesolution)
- Find some frogs
- Plan a future family vacation
- Learn how to take better pictures - [photo challenge](#)
- Build a [birdhouse](#) and set it up in a good spot
- Play outside - [family outdoor activity ideas](#)
- [Join eBird](#) and start contributing to the database
- Grow a plant/garden (research indoor/outdoor options)
- Do your school work outside
- Study your backyard bugs
- Have a picnic
- Fly a kite
- Take 100 pictures within a 10 meter space (appreciate the intricacies of God's creation)
- Rainy day idea - Watch a planet Earth documentary

## DIGITAL RESOURCES

Digital books, devotion ideas, online resources, blog articles, etc.

### Student Focused:

- [The Creation](#) - Youtube poem (Div 1-4)
- [God's Beautiful Creation](#) - Music video (Div 1-3)
- [How a Seed Grows](#) - Read Aloud (Div 1)
- [The Listening Walk](#) - Read Aloud (Div 1)
- [The Boy and the Ocean](#) - Author Read Aloud (Div 1)
- [God Speaks to Man](#) - Youtube (Div 2-4)
- [Lessons from God's Creation](#) - Youtube (Div 2-4)

### Teacher/Parent Focused:

- [God's Masterpiece](#) - Devotion
- [How Great is Our God Tour](#) - Video Devotion
- [Exploring By the Seat of Your Pants](#) - Live virtual field trips
- [God's Creation](#) - Devotion
- [How Nature Speaks to the Glory of God](#) - Devotion
- [God Is In Nature](#) - Devotion
- [Creation-Enjoyer: Be a Tour Guide](#) - Blog
- [Biologos](#) - Faith & Science Website/Organization
- [TFT at SFC: Creation Enjoying](#) - Collection of devotions

## FORMATIONAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES (FLEX)

These are experiences that connect our learning/work to real people/problems (to go beyond our normal classroom walls). These are authentic opportunities for students to practice living the Kingdom story.

Find a quiet spot somewhere outside where you can sit for a while. Spend some time in prayer and write down words that come to mind that describe the Creator. Spend some time sketching what you see (can be something close up or a landscape picture). Write down words that describe what you see, smell, hear and feel. Take your sketch and word bank and write a Psalm of Praise. Share your Psalm of Praise with someone (e.g., could be with the person you connected with during the Community Building week), ask your teacher if you could lead your classroom devotions or find a creative way to share it on social media.

## REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS/SENTENCE STARTERS

It is said that we don't learn from doing, but from reflecting on what we do. Give students time and space to reflect on their experiences and learning this week.

- How did/can you look at your environment with "the joy of critical awareness?"
- What does paying attention to creation teach us about the heart of The Creator?
- Why should we enjoy creation?
- Who is somebody that has taught you to be curious about God's creation?
- When was a time you found yourself in awe of The Creator? Tell me about that experience.
- Where is your favourite Creation Enjoying place?