

Caretakers of All That Is

The Prairies are far from boring. They hold a living world in the sod...

I may live along the Eastern Slopes of the Rockies, but I'm a real prairie gopher at heart. And there are times I resent the short-shrift prairie folk receive.

So, when I'm invited to speak in a small prairie community I take a container of prairie sod for the story time. Mind you, I make sure to include a few extra angle worms and beetles for a surprise. And, hidden in the grass and litter I will plant my collection of plastic frogs, garter snakes and grubs.

When the children assemble, I invite them to commiserate with me about all that "boring" prairie I've had to drive through. Then I confess that I know a secret about the Prairie. To some people it may be boring, but those who are given the magic gift see that there's a whole living world in the sod.

We start digging in the litter, and talk about how it protects the grass and critters from the burning heat and strong winds. Of course we find the surprises. Then we turn the sod onto a tray, and see a living world under the sod. Prairie might look like so much of nothing to the novice, but we know how to approach this world close up.

What a wonderful opportunity to talk about the unique ways by which God's gifts of nature are given to us. On the prairie varieties of plants hover together and take care of each other through drought and cold, wind and fire. On the prairies we see the tiniest of birds and the power of the raptors. On the prairies the sky carries all sorts of messages of beauty and peace, of anger and power.

In the midst of all this, God places loved ones, watches over us, and invites us to be caretakers of all that is here. Hallelujah!

Written by Joyce Sasse

Printed in CRCN/CiRCLe M Newsletter Sept 2011