



B REVEALING WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

Caring for God's world



Why use this Bible study?

This Bible study can help us explore our responsibility to care for God's Earth.



The Earth is very good

The Bible says a lot about how we relate to the Earth on which we live. This has implications for our attitude towards it and how we care for it.



Key points

- The Earth was created by God and he called it 'good'.
- The Earth belongs to the Lord.
- God has blessed us and we are responsible for caring for the Earth.



Questions for discussion

Read Genesis 1

The Earth and all that God has made is 'very good' (Genesis 1:31).

- How does this help us to see that spoiling the beauty of the Earth is wrong?

Read Psalm 24

- If we start to see the world as God's and not ours, how might we treat it differently?

Read Genesis 1:26-28 and 2:15

- What do these verses say about our relationship with the rest of creation?
- How might we reflect God's character by being creative in our care for the world?

Read Exodus 23:10-11 and Deuteronomy 20:19-20 and 22:6

God has set limits to our use of the natural world. We should no longer see it as something to pollute or waste. It can be easy to fall into despair with all the problems of pollution and the lack of care for God's creation.

Awareness-raising

Children & youth

Climate & environment

Conflict & peace-building

Corruption & governance

Disaster risk management

Discrimination & inclusion

Food & livelihoods

Gender & sexual violence

Health & HIV

Influencing decision-makers

Migration & trafficking

Water, sanitation & hygiene

Read Psalm 8, Psalm 104 and Psalm 145 Think about God's goodness in creation, God's faithfulness to his people and God's provision for all needs.

- How do these things bring hope rather than despair?



Notes

This Bible study was written by Bob Carling and first published in Tearfund (2004) Footsteps 59 - Pollution http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/footsteps/footsteps_51-60/footsteps_59/

Related tools

- A1 – Revealing climate change: information for facilitators [A1: *Climate & environment-1*]
- A1 – Revealing environmental degradation: information for facilitators [A1: *Climate & environment-2*]
- A2 – Raising awareness of environmental change [A2: *Climate & environment-2*]
- A2 – Linking climate change, environmental degradation, food, water and disasters [A2: *Climate & environment-4*]
- A2 – Mapping our past, present and future environments [A2: *Climate & environment-6*]
- A2 – Slides and ladders – helping or harming the environment? [A2: *Climate & environment-3*]
- B – Biodiversity (Bible study) [B: *Climate & environment-1*]
- B – Caring for our environment (Bible study) [B: *Climate & environment-3*]
- B – Stewardship of the land (Bible study) [B: *Climate & environment-4*]

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