

TAKEAWAY

Earth Matters

CARING FOR CREATION

Sunday 14th July 2019

INTRODUCTION

We're starting a mini-series looking at the environment, faith and what the Bible has to say about it all. This week we focused on why the Bible says we should care for our planet, God's creation. There were five key reasons: 1) OBEDIENCE. When God made humankind, he told them to tend and watch over his creation (Gen 2:15). 2) LOVE God looked at His creation and said that it was very good (Gen 31:1) loving God's creation is part of loving Him. 3) JUSTICE: our decisions have an impact on people around the world, Isaiah 58 talks about God's desire for worship that cares for the poor and releases captives. 4) HOPE: The prophets spoke of a day when God would restore the relationship between earth, heaven and people (Hos 2:18) and Jesus fulfilled the promise, we carry that hope of a peaceful relationship with us. 5) MADE IN THE IMAGE: God made mankind in His image – an image of creativity and care.

READ

Colossians 1:15-20

DISCUSS

1. In this passage, Paul describes the relationship between Jesus and creation, how does it help you develop an understanding of biblical creation care?
2. What do you love about God's creation?
3. How does creation help you connect with God?
4. How do you carry the creative image of God? How do you express that in respect to the environment?

5. Honestly, how much do issues about the environment bother you? Why?

6. What are some of the ways you care for creation in your everyday life?

7. Are there some changes you could make to improve the impact you have on the planet? How can you hold each other accountable in that?

8. Why do you think the church historically hasn't talked much about creation care?

9. Where do you see a connection between brokenness in the environment and brokenness in humanity?

PRAY

Spend some time praying together for governments and agencies who are working to protect the environment.

ACT

Choose one action you can take over the next few weeks to take better care of God's creation. Ask your group to hold you accountable.

