



SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 4 January 29, 2023
“...About Our Environment”



OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for the beauty of your creation. You call us to take care of your creation and we don't always do such a good job. Forgive us, O God. Help us, as human beings, to be obedient to your first great commandment. Help us to leave the world better than we found it. Help us, O Lord, to prepare for future generations. Help us to remember the poor will be most affected by climate change. And help us to be committed to doing everything that we can to be a part of the change You desire. We pray this in the matchless and powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Genesis 1:28 (NIV)

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Psalms 8:3-9 (NIV)

³ *When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,
⁴ what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?
⁵ You have made them a little lower than the angels
and crowned them with glory and honor.
⁶ You made them rulers over the works of your hands;
you put everything under their feet:
⁷ all flocks and herds,
and the animals of the wild,
⁸ the birds in the sky,
and the fish in the sea,
all that swim the paths of the seas.
⁹ Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

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Week 4 *January 29, 2023*

“What Would Jesus Say... About Our Environment?”

INTRODUCTION

The number one concern of young adults today is climate change. However, their concern about climate change is not on the top of list of concerns for older Christians today. In fact, only 34% of evangelical Christians believe climate change is a serious problem. So, should Christians be concerned about our environment? What would Jesus say?

The fundamental premise in scripture is that God created everything that exists. And God’s first command to humanity was to take care of his creation. The nation of Israel gives us some insight into environmental stewardship and we see in scripture God’s concern for all creation. The lesson we learn from scripture is that taking care of our environment is an act of Christian discipleship.

QUESTIONS

1. What are your thoughts on climate change? Do you think humans are a major cause of climate change?
2. Why do you think many Christians (only 34% of evangelical Christians) don’t think climate change is a serious problem?
3. If the land is actually God’s, how does that affect the way you think about the land? How about your behavior toward the land?
4. Do you see value in protecting wild creatures in your own community, state or country?
5. Experts say that environmental degradation has the biggest impact on the marginalized? What are your thoughts on this and what can we do?

FINAL APPLICATION

What is one simple step you can take to reduce your carbon footprint?