



Caring for Creation

Monthly Focus Beyond Going Green

Week 1 Knowledge

Meeting Needs: A list for each student of the scripture references listed below. Paper and pen to write down what stood out in the scripture.

Encourage the teens to read through the scripture references listed and write down what stands out to them and why. Spend a few moments going over their observances.

Scripture References:

Genesis 1
Deuteronomy 10:14
Psalm 24:1 – 2
Deuteronomy 8:7 – 10
Psalm 69:34
Psalm 103:22

Lesson:

Take some time to write down the order in which God created everything. Make a list by days and ask your students to help you. Perhaps they could even draw what it looked like on each day. Take some time and really help them imagine it as it was.

Ask them to use their imaginations and describe what the Garden of Eden might have looked like. God declared it good so it must have been truly amazing. What was in it? What types of trees, flowers, animals lived there? Do you think that the Garden of Eden had anything that we can't even imagine – different colors or animals? (Deuteronomy 8:7 – 10 which you read before beginning the lesson might give the students a jumping off point).

Direct your students' attention to Genesis 1:28. What do you think God meant when he told Adam and Eve to "rule" over every creature?

When God placed Adam and Eve on the earth he asked them to share, as his servants, in his kingly rule. They were his representatives in the created world and as such, they were stewards of it.

What does it mean to be a steward of something? The definition for steward says "one to whose care or honor

anything has been instructed." The care of the earth had been instructed to man. It was an honor for him to be given such a task.

God did not give man ownership but he did give him authority to rule and subdue. It was his job to care for the earth. In your mind's eye, what would a day have looked like for Adam and Eve if they were to care for the earth? What would have been their first tasks and their last?

Read Psalm 69:34 and Psalm 103:21 – 22. In light of these verses what do you think it looks like when, "all his works praise him?"

The point is the earth and all that is in it belongs to God. He created it and us. He also placed Adam and Eve in charge of it which means that we, as their descendents, are also responsible for creation.

What does it look like for us to care for creation?

Are there areas in the world where we can see creation praising its creator?

Refine: Are there some actions you do which cause harm to creation instead of good? Perhaps you litter. Perhaps you leave lights or small electronic appliances on that use unnecessary electricity. When you choose not to do these things, remember that you are caring for God's creation as you do so.

Pursue: Perhaps this week your teens might like to join creation in praising God. Help them brainstorm ways in which they can do so.

- They could take a nature walk, thanking God for the beauty he has given us
- Take a camera around and capture things that are inspiring. Marvel at God's handy work.
- Bird watch
- Visit a zoo or aquarium
- Write down words of praise in a journal that make you think of God's creation and how that invites you to praise him.

Unification – talk to each other about what you might do this coming week and commit it to each other.

End in prayer.