

Date: February 24, 2012

Topic: Creation Care

Aim: To examine the biblical principles undergirding our care the earth.

Know: God created the earth to reflect His glory before and after sin

Feel: Appreciate the value of earth to us and to God

Do: Pledge to care for the earth as a responsible steward.

Introduction

We struggle with how to relate to environmental concerns. At the same time, as stewards of all God's gifts, don't we have an obligation to take care of the earth? After all, didn't God create it and pronounce it "very good"? As a people with a distinct message about God as Creator (*Rev. 14:6, 7*), shouldn't we have something to say about the question of how we treat God's creation? This week we'll explore what the Bible says about some of these concerns (*Adult Teachers Sabbath School Bible Study Guide p.89*).

Statement: God created and will recreate the earth.

Read: 2 Peter 3:10-14; Revelation 21: 1

Meditate: Vertical relationship

Question: Why should we care for the earth since it will be recreated?

Share in twos: Horizontal relationship

Application: How do the above verses protect you from worshipping the earth?

Statement: How we care for the earth can be influenced by our beliefs of its origin

Read: Genesis 1:1, 26; James 5: 1-5; Psalm 24:1

Meditate: Vertical relationship

Question: Why do our beliefs influence how we care for the earth?

Application: Does your attitude towards the earth reflect your beliefs of its origin?

Statement: Our responsibility to care for the earth began before sin

Read: Genesis 2: 15

Meditate: Vertical relationship

Question: What does the text mean by phrases: “dress it and keep it?”

Share in twos: Horizontal relationship

Application: How responsible are you in the care of your environment?

Statement: Sabbath keeping gives the earth rest from human greed and exploitation.

Read: Nehemiah 13: 16-19

Meditate: Vertical relationship

Question: How can Sabbath keeping contribute to the care the earth?

Share openly with your teacher

Application: How has your Sabbath rest been a blessing to your environment?

General application questions

1. What can you do differently to care your environment?
2. How does caring for the earth reflect your understanding of the coming Jesus?
3. How would you explain to a friend that Sabbath rest is a blessing to environment?
4. What changes can you make in diet to indicate your care for the earth?
5. How has the earth been a blessing to you?