



To Serve and Guard the Earth **God's Creation Story and Our Environmental Concern**

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INSTANT DOWNLOAD ,

To Serve and Guard the Earth is a practical parish or small-group resource suitable for High School groups and Adults (its 6 sessions make it also suitable for Lenten use) that connects the growing Christian environmental concern with the theology of creation in Genesis. It not only provides the participants with a greater understanding of the scriptural accounts of creation and the environmental problems facing us today, but also encourages the participants to make practical applications to change their everyday lives and enhance important environmental values.

The resource is divided into six sessions related to the 7 days of creation (session 2 combines Genesis days 2 and 4) and environmental concerns related to the days.

Session 1: Day 1—Light / energy consumption, outdoor light pollution

Session 2: Days 2/4—Sea & Sky / potable water, air pollution, climate change

Session 3: Day 3—Land & Plants / deforestation, industrialization, waste management

Session 4: Day 5—Birds & Fish/ habitat destruction, species extinction

Session 5: Day 6—Land Creatures / consumption & greed, human disparity, overpopulation

Session 6: Day 7—Rest & Reflection / being content with life, the importance of rest

Each of the six sessions in **To Serve and Guard the Earth** includes several components, all of which are available when you download the resource. Reproduce them as you need to for your group. The components are the:

- 1) Leader Guide
- 2) Participant Handout
- 3) Other Reproducible Handouts related to the various activities

1) Leader Guide

The Leader Guide includes everything you need to facilitate the session:

Session Preview: Get organized using this at-a-glance preview of the session. Easily identify the session focus, goals for the participants, supplies needed and relevant teaching tips.

Session Guide: Each session follows a similar format:

- Opening Activities
 - Reading the Scriptures
 - Prayer
 - Check-in
- Exploration Activities
 - For Scripture
 - For the related Environmental Concerns

- Additional Activities (optional)

Expand and deepen the group's experience of scripture and of the related environmental concerns by including one or more of the enrichment activities depending on the time available.

- Closing Activities

 - Review

 - At Home this Week

 - Closing Prayer

2) Participant Handout

Your Leader Guide is only one tool at your disposal. Each week, the reproducible Participant Handout encourages your participants to prepare at home to be ready to discuss more intelligently the scripture readings and related environmental concerns found in each session. You as a leader must also be familiar with this information in the Participant Handout since it will be essential for leading the session activities and helping the participants with their questions and concerns.

The Participant Handout for each session includes:

- Scripture passages (NRSV version)
- Scripture Background
- Environmental Concerns Background
- Suggestions for What to Do This Week both in general and at home to follow up on the session

3) Additional Handouts

For each session you will find other helpful reproducible handouts to copy and share with the participants if you wish. Also included are several handouts that help the leader to understand and facilitate the sessions. These include:

- Author's Introduction (Background to the Resource)
- For the Leader (Brief overview of the Resource)
- Preparing a Session
- Leading a Small Group
- Overview of the Six Sessions
- Teaching Tips