

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Creation Care

February 5 & 6, 2022

From the beginning God has called us to care for this planet we call home. It's increasingly clear that we have not done the best job in responding to that call. When we care for Creation we honor the Creator.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: GENESIS 1:24-31

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

Conversation about climate change and stewardship of creation has become politicized in the last few years that many of us have lost sight of the biblical roots of God's call to care this creation-in-crisis. And make no mistake, God's amazing creation is in crisis. Did you know that 50,000 species of plants, animals and insects become extinct each year, largely due to deforestation? Did you know that a conservative estimate by the scientific community projects that by 2050 over 570 cities and over 800 million people will be negatively impacted by rising sea levels due to global warming? Did you know that 40% of our lakes and waterways in MN are so polluted that they don't meet basic health standards? And that's just the tip of the rapidly melting iceberg.

This isn't merely an environmental crisis; it's a spiritual crisis. And it isn't just a political issue; it's a faith issue. In the beginning God commanded humanity, *"Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."* An older translation called humanity to have "dominion" over the earth. What's important to note about that command is that when God calls us to "reign" over this planet, God means that we're called to steward it, not dominate it, use and abuse it. We're privileged to use it, enjoy, get to know the Creator through it. But we are also called to steward it well. To care for it and heal it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share about a time when you were profoundly impacted by our environmental surroundings.
- How does this section of Genesis lay the foundation for our responsibility to care for our planet?
- What does it look like to be a steward for God's creation?
- How can we work together to make a positive impact on our planet and surroundings?

APPLICATION: This week, spend some time in prayer, asking God to reveal a next step you can take in caring for God's creation. What will it take for you to implement that step?