

# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE  
OF PEACE**  
Called to Connect



## One Gift, One Call, One Voice ... Loving Sacred Earth

April 22 & 23, 2023

Make no mistake: caring for creation is not just part of some political agenda. It is the very first agenda of our scripture detailed in Genesis 1. We, as Children of God, are given the capacity and calling to care for our Sacred Earth through loving relationships.

### SCRIPTURE TEXT: GENESIS 1:26-31

Read the scripture text together as a group.

### BACKGROUND INFO

There are two central themes in this passage: Our Capacity to care for creation and our Calling to care for creation.

Because we are made in the image of God, reflecting the very nature of God, we have both the capacity and the calling to care for all of creation in the way of our Creator. Our capacity and our calling exists because of the loving relationship God extends to us.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- In her sermon, Jody shared a story that illustrated what caring for creation looked like in her family. Share a family story with your group that does the same.
- What needs to change in your heart to better reflect the character of God in and for our world? What needs to change in your behavior?
- What lessons can we learn from our ancestors about how to care for the earth? What can we be doing now as an example/legacy to future generations?
- From the book "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Native American writer Robin Wall Kimmerer: *Whatever our gift, we are called to give it as a dance for the renewal of the world.* What is your gift and how can you give it for the renewal of the world?
- Read Psalm 8 and Matthew 25:31-45. How do these scripture passages add to your understanding of our capacity and calling to care for creation? What other bible stories/scripture passages come to mind that speak to this topic?
- While every individual has been gifted and called to care for creation, how could working together as the body of Christ amplify our impact? What are your hopes and dreams for Prince of Peace's engagement with creation care moving forward?

**CHALLENGE:** In June 2022, Prince of Peace members voted to adopt the "Care for Creation Covenant" as a response to our responsibility to live in balanced relationship with all of God's creation, valuing and preserving our environment for the health and prosperity of future generations. Read the covenant ([popmn.org/ministries/justice/](http://popmn.org/ministries/justice/)) and prayerfully consider how you can answer the call to care for creation.

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