

Explore It FOR LEADERS

SEPTEMBER
SESSION 01

STEWARDSHIP - WHAT IT IS AND WHY IT MATTERS

Genesis 1:31; 2:15

Over the next few weeks we're going to think about our world and why, as followers of Jesus, we should care for creation.

Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils and paper

Start It

Invite the children to draw a picture of creation. Don't prompt them, just see what they come up with. When they show their drawings to each other, ask them to share why they included what they did.

Ask: Do you ever think of yourself as being part of creation?

 **Say:** Sometimes we can think of people and nature as being separate, but everything was created by God and is loved by him. God wants us to love all of creation too, and to take care of it. Over the next few weeks we're going to think about what that means for our everyday lives.

Sing It

This song is a great reminder of all the wonderful (and weird) things in our world, and that God made them all.

'God of science' by Rend Co Kids (3mins 28secs) <https://vimeo.com/417337557>

Tell It

Video

Screen share: *Creation (Genesis 1-2)* by Saddleback Kids (3mins 47secs)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=teu7BCZTgDs>

 **Say:** Did you notice in the video that God looked at the whole of creation and said that it was good? Not just the humans, but all the living things that he made.

Ask: Can you think of a time when you have made something and were really pleased with it?

 **Say:** In the video it said that humans were created to 'rule over' creation; but this doesn't mean we should harm nature or be greedy with the earth's resources. Genesis 2:15 (ICB) says, 'The Lord God put the man in the garden of Eden to care for it and work it.'

Discuss

- What does taking care of something look like?
- Why do you think it is important to care about creation?
- Can you think of a time when you were responsible for looking after something for someone else? How did it go? How did having that responsibility make you feel?

Say: God has given humans the job of looking after creation - animals, plants and other humans - and making sure they are treated well. This is what is meant by the word 'stewardship' - it is our special responsibility, as part of creation, to care for it, protect it and use it wisely.

Action If

Discuss

- How do you think God feels when humans don't look after the earth well?
- What are some of the consequences to humans if they/we don't look after the earth properly?

Video

Screen share: *Climate change* by Environment and Change Canada (1min 50 secs)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QIQ-MEZgRGY>

Say: Sadly, we are living in a time of crisis for the natural world. Climate change is having a massive impact on all living things and human actions are part of the problem. Lots of terrible things are happening as a result of climate change. Some are very noticeable such as extreme weather events (like hurricanes, floods, droughts and bushfires). Some are gradual, such as health problems and loss of biodiversity (the different types of species and biological communities that exist) and the extinction of ecosystems like coral reefs. But there is still time to make a difference, to save our planet and its inhabitants from the worst impacts of climate change.

Ask: What simple things can we do to look after the whole of creation? (Some ideas could include eating no/less meat, walking or using public transport instead of travelling in the car, not throwing things away needlessly and recycling whenever possible, buying less single-use plastic, planting trees or bee-friendly flowers and not squishing bugs!)

Say: There are lots of things we can do as individuals, as families and as a church. We are going to think about some of the practical things we can do to care for creation in a few weeks, but let's start right now by praying.

Pray If

Pray aloud to the group:

Lord God, you created the skies and the land, the birds in the air, the animals on the ground and the creatures of the ocean.

You entrusted us with your creation.

You gave us the responsibility over all that you have made – not to consume and destroy but to nurture and protect.

We are sorry for the ways we have fallen short in our role as stewards.

Help us to see and love the world, and all of its inhabitants, as you do.

Show us how to care for creation in a way that truly honours you.

Amen.

Explore It IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to share with your group, for them to do at home.

FOR ME



Listen

'So will I (10 Billion X)' by Hillsong United <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C2U7ffUM5Ec>

As you listen to the words and look at the images, reflect on the wonder of God's creation and all of the things he has made. Take in just how much God loves all of it - including you.

TOGETHER



Create

Plant some seeds and commit to nurturing them over the coming weeks and months. Pray together, as you plant the seeds and get your fingers dirty with the soil, for a deeper connection to God through nature, and for help in playing your part in caring for creation.

Visit <https://www.thompson-morgan.com/what-to-sow-and-grow-in-september> for suggestions of what plants can be sown in September.