

## Small Group Material: Creation Care 4

### The New Creation - how then shall we live?

*Leader: work out when to start the Witness section & tell everyone*

#### **Welcome** (15 mins) Quiz time!

This website has several environmentally-based quizzes.

<https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-quizzes/> Choose one (or two) and do them together. Move quickly through the choices so that you have time to read the comments.

They are: Protect our Species, Climate Change, Oceans and Plastic Pollution, Environmental Literacy, Deforestation and Biodiversity, Clean Energy.

If most people in the group have a smartphone, everyone can get the quiz up on their phone. You can make a competition of it! If not, you will need to read out the choices of answers.

**Worship** (15 mins) Get someone to read Colossians 1.15-20 reflectively. Then give everyone some 'pondering time' for about 5 mins. Encourage people to notice any connections with the whole created world rather than just humans. Read the passage again and then ask people to share what God has highlighted to them. Here's a song you could sing or watch together: 'Creation sings the Father's Song' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2q7W-x-Eel>

#### **Word** (20 mins)

##### **Read Romans 12.1-2**

Describe the connections between 'not conforming to the patterns of this world', 'being transformed' and 'the renewing our our minds'? How are our minds 'renewed' and how does this affect our behaviour? In relation to all we have been thinking about with respect to God's creation, how has your mind 'been transformed'?

In the light of our care of God's creation, how can we truly worship God, v1? Read also, Luke 10.25-27

*For discussion* Has this series encouraged you to change your lifestyle? How much? What holds you back from making changes? What could encourage you to take action? How can we encourage one another?

#### **Witness** (40 mins)

**Carbon footprint calculator.** Last time, it was suggested that members complete one. Spend a few minutes finding out the results.

**Video.** Watch no 5 video at <https://atyourservice.arocha.org/en/hope-for-planet-earth-2009-resource-pack/> It lasts 7 minutes and is full of practical ideas.

**Decision time!** There are masses of ideas around at the moment of how to reduce our carbon footprint and to care for planet earth. Living Lightly 24.1 (One of A Roche's practical initiatives <https://arocha.org.uk/our-activities/living-lightly-take-action/>) suggests the following areas that we can act in: **Food, Community, Church, Garden, Home, Money, Shop, Travel, Nature, Work, Action, Waste.** Now is the time to get practical and to make some commitments!! Don't be overwhelmed. Aim to come away with 3 commitments each. How's that for a do-able challenge? Either, you could give people some minutes to make their decisions privately and then share as they choose or else, ask people to talk in pairs to come up with their commitments. Give people post-it notes to record the actions they intend to take.

**Commitment time!** You might like to say this Living Lightly 24.1 Commitment together

*'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it.'*

*Believing that this is God's world, entrusted to our responsible use and care, and that living sustainably is part of Christian worship and mission, I commit myself to:*

- *delighting in and worshipping God for the wonders of creation*
- *rethinking and, where necessary, repenting of beliefs, attitudes and lifestyle in the light of the Bible's teaching*
- *following the Bible's teaching even when it is counter-cultural*

- *living lightly in using resources as a matter of justice and worship*

Pray for one another, scientists, governments, environmental groups...