

Season Five - Week 2

Loving the Earth

As disciples, we share in Jesus' mission of saving love and are challenged to put our love and service into action.

God created the earth out of love. How well do we love God's creation? Do we see ourselves as having arbitrary power to exploit it, or can we grow in our relationship with our planet, taking only what we need to sustain and nourish us? Now is a unique time for us to renew our values and to challenge insensitive attitudes and destructive actions that harm the earth.



- ♦ *Genesis 1:24-31* From the very beginning, the Scriptures equate the beauty and bounty of the earth with the loving plan of God in creation.
- ♦ *Genesis 3:17-19* But the greed and selfishness of human beings caused disharmony in our relationship with the environment.
- ♦ *Genesis 9: 8-17* Today the earth continues to be devastated by human avarice and polluted by ignorance or indifference to environmental concerns. We need to be reminded that God's love extends beyond humanity to include all life on earth.

The Catechism supports these Scriptures. "The seventh commandment enjoins respect for the integrity of creation. Animals, like plants and inanimate beings, are by nature destined for the common good of past, present, and future humanity. Use of the mineral, vegetable, and animal resources of the universe cannot be divorced from respect for moral imperatives. Man's dominion over inanimate and other living beings granted by the Creator is not absolute; it is limited by concern for the quality of life of his neighbor, including generations to come; it requires a religious respect for the integrity of creation.

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2415)

Reflect

What actions of mine indicate that I am aware of my connectedness to the rest of creation? How do I show reverence for creation?