

Small Group Bible Study / Discussion

Sermon Title: Take Care of God's Earth
Passage: Genesis 1:1:26-31; 9:1-7; Psalm 8

Date: April 19, 2009

Think about it

- From the eternal perspective, does it really matter whether or not we pollute the earth? Why or why not?
- What comes to mind when you hear the phrase "tree hugger"?
- Do you think God cares how we treat plants and animals? What makes you think that?

Examine it

Genesis 1:26-31

- What is going on in this passage?
- What is special about mankind's creation?
- What does God tell man and woman to do?

Genesis 9:1-7

- What is going on in this passage?
- What does God tell Noah and his family to do?
- What are similarities and differences between this and Genesis 1?

Psalm 8

- What does David say about God and His creation in this psalm?
- What does David say God has given to man to do?

Discuss it

- Who does the earth belong to? (Psalm 24:1; Deut. 10:14; Psalm 50:12; 89:11; 1 Cor. 10:26)
- We (as humans) are stewards of the earth. Agree or disagree?
- What is our responsibility to God with how we treat the earth and all that is in it?
Prov. 12:10; 1 John 3:17; Luke 12:48; 1 Cor. 4:2
- How should we carry that responsibility out?
- What are some extremes to avoid when considering how we should treat this planet and everything on it?

Live it out

- How do you tend to think of environmentalism? Why do you think that way?
- What does God say about our approach to the environment?
- How might you practice good stewardship of the environment in the weeks ahead?
- How can you use the idea of protecting the environment to share the gospel with others?

Pray about it

What does this study prompt you to pray about?

...something to praise God for? ...thank God for? ...confess? ...ask for?

Additional passage for meditation or memory: Genesis 2:15; Romans 1:25; 1 Corinthians 4:2

Next week's passage: Philippians 1:1-8