

Small Group Resources

“In the Beginning: The Garden of Eden” COR sermon & Small Group Guide
<https://cor.org/leawood/gps-guide/paradise-lost-the-garden-of-eden>

God’s Renewed Creation: A Call to Hope and Action. A call of the council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church includes a guide for group study and teachers of children.
<http://hopeandaction.org/main/>

The United Methodist Book of Resolutions and Social Principals. Use sections on the environment (“The Natural World”) that can provide models for applying an active faith to daily life in ways that can positively impact the world around us. (Links under UMC Resources)

Blessed Earth Part I: Hope for Humanity by Dr. Matthew Sleeth. Explore how we live out Christ’s love through our actions in this creative and compelling call for Christians to embrace sustainable living out of love for God, neighbor, and all of creation. (Up to 6 sessions: Rest, Work, Give, Share, Teach, and Hope.) Recommended by COR’s Corriculator. Includes book and dvd.

Blessed Earth Part II: Hope for Creation by Dr. Matthew Sleeth. Examine the creation concepts found in Genesis: Light, Water, Soil, Heavens, Animals, and Man. These elements are not only loved by God but are themselves metaphors of Christ’s love for us. Understand our God-given commission to ‘save the planet’ for the sake of Jesus Christ. (Up to six sessions.) Recommended by COR’s Corriculator. Includes book and dvd.

Breathe: Making Room for Sabbath by Priscilla Shirer. Explore planetary and personal sustainability by reconnecting with the true meaning of Sabbath creating space for God to speak in our lives and setting aside the busyness that swallows up our rest and peace and places more demands on the Earth’s finite resources. (Up to five sessions.) Recommended by COR’s Corriculator. Includes book for individual reading and journaling and dvd to watch together.

Earth Gospel: A Guide to Prayer for God’s Creation by Sam Hamilton-Poore. This book offers four weeks of prayer (seven days per week with prayers for morning, midday, and evening), meditation with scripture and prayerful reflection.

The Very Good Gospel by Lisa Sharon Harper. Through a careful exploration of biblical text, particularly the first three chapters of Genesis, in *The Very Good Gospel* Lisa Sharon Harper shows us what “very good” can look like today—in real time.

Climate Justice study: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/mission-u/climate>
Climate Justice: A Call to Hope and Action will deepen your understanding and awareness of climate change and its impact on God’s creation. The study highlights justice, peace, and integrity of creation as important dimensions of partnering in God’s mission today. It offers participants biblical, theological, and ethical insights as the basis of their advocacy on climate justice in churches and in the public sphere.

Courageous Conversations about Climate Change

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/courageous-conversations-about-climate-change>

The Green Bible (NRSV). The first Bible of its kind with creation care scriptures in green text, The Green Bible will equip and encourage us to see God's vision for creation and help us engage in the work of healing and sustaining it. Includes the *Green Bible Trail Guide* that leads readers through a selection of Bible passages touching on six green themes that appear throughout the biblical narrative. Also includes a forward by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, an Introduction: *The Power of a Green God* by J. Matthew Sleeth, and many essays including: *Reading the Bible through a Green Lens* by Calvin B. DeWitt, *Peace with God the Creator, Peace with All of Creation* by Pope John Paul II, and more. Each essay could be the topic of one Grow Night session.

For the Beauty of the Earth: Women, Faith, and Creation Care

by Patty Friesen.

Each of the 12 lessons and the closing worship focuses on creation care. Natural disasters, flooding, and drought have roused our awareness of the effects of climate change, reminding us that a healthy planet is essential for human health, physically and spiritually. Spiritually, the earth is one of the most tangible ways that God communicates love and creativity to us. Lifestyle changes and commitments in the realm of creation care walk hand-in-hand with the lifestyle changes and commitments in our Christian walk. It is an ongoing process of discovery and joy.

Song of a Scientist: The Harmony of a God-Soaked Creation Kindle Edition

by Calvin B DeWitt

World-renowned environmental scientist Cal DeWitt is widely regarded as a pioneer in opening the eyes of the Christian community to the wonders of God's Creation and the dangers of its degradation by human beings. With the rare combination of scientific rigor, poetic imagination, and a deep Christian faith, DeWitt probes the twin books of God's Word and God's world, nudging us toward grateful stewardship and praise, joining the doxology of all creation.

Green Like God: Unlocking the Divine Plan for Our Planet

by Jonathan Merritt

In GREEN LIKE GOD, Jonathan Merritt gently and insightfully observes that the bible has a lot to say about environmental problems like unclean water, material waste, over consumption, air pollution, and global warming. In fact, Jonathan writes that in the book of Genesis, God went green and never looked back. Relying heavily on scripture, Jonathan gives the case for green living, but not because it's trendy and hip. Rather, it's part of living rightly as a believer. It's an act of obedience to our Creator-God.

The Great Warming (faith version) A dramatic film that sweeps around the world to reveal how a changing climate is affecting the lives of people everywhere. Available in a special "Faith Version," which includes interviews with Christian leaders, or a "Church / Sunday School Version," which includes a printable discussion guide.

People of Faith Declare a Climate Emergency Discussion Guide for Facilitators

<https://new.greenfaith.org/ClimateEmergency#>

The purpose of this discussion guide is to enable you to:

- Provide an opportunity for people of diverse faiths and spiritualities to identify the values which they think should guide our collective response to climate change

- Introduce the moral values which GreenFaith views as fundamental in this regard
- Create space for people to imagine the magnitude of the emergency
- Introduce the guiding principles and the basic components of declaring a Climate Emergency

This guide is designed to support a group discussion of 5-20 people for a period of 45-60 minutes.

The facilitator should make adjustments as needed to various elements of the guide as warranted in their local setting.

13 Principles and Steps to Sustainability (these are intersectional, incorporating how all of our values are incorporated together: accessibility, affordability, carbon footprint, healthy beverages, just economic opportunities, local solidarity, multigenerational inclusion, paper use, racial justice, toxic reduction, waste reduction, water use, well-being of participants):

https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/sustainability_webinar at

<https://youtu.be/gF1r9SOBCq0>

More Faith Based Video Resources

United Planet Faith & Science Initiative: <http://www.upfsi.org/resources/>

The Blessed Earth: <http://www.blessedearth.org/recommended-videos/>

Sustainable Traditions: <http://sustainabletraditions.com/category/media/videos/>