

Love God, Love God's World

Creation Care Curriculum for Small Groups



Love God, Love God's World is a nine-session, film-based curriculum, ideal for Episcopalians anywhere on the journey with creation care and environmental ministry—from newcomers looking to take their first step to seasoned leaders seeking a transformative small-group experience.

Sessions have a similar structure to the popular Sacred Ground curriculum and include compelling films and readings, faith-based reflections, and discussion questions—each written by different contributors who draw from their own contexts and experiences.

Participants will also discover ways to learn, pray, advocate, and conserve.

TSSF Creation Justice Peace offered an opportunity for interested Franciscans to engage with this material. We found that a schedule of meeting every two weeks worked well, and the required homework was not burdensome. The response to the experience was so positive, that we will be offering it again.

Join our next cohort! Email dianegaidon@gmail.com if interested.

episcopalchurch.org/ministries/creation-care/love-god-love-gods-world-curriculum

Love God, Love God's World

See what tertiaries are saying:

Participating in this course provided meaningful discussion about the wide range of global and local problems related to the climate crisis, and motivated me to help organize a Season of Creation program for my parish.

Terrence Doyle, Maryland

Participating in this program alongside fellow members of TSSF was a gift. Each session offered not only inspiration and challenge, but also a sense of hope and call to meaningful action.

Sharing the journey with a heart-centered community committed to creation care became one of the highlights of my schedule. If you're looking for a way to deepen your faith while engaging with the urgent call to care for creation, join the next offering!

Karen Allan-Thomas, Alabama

I loved the course in so many ways. The videos/readings were challenging and inspiring. The bonding that happened with the participants was amazing – because realizing the challenges that we saw people faced and overcame was both daunting and simultaneously hopeful. Most importantly the course made me feel that I was not alone in feeling that our faith has a pivotal role, in helping us face and then heal the destruction of God's world that we have unleashed.

Gordon Kubanek, Ontario

The course began with a hard look at the ways climate change threatens the well-being and health of people and ecosystems throughout the world, but through a series of films, articles and questions guided us away from a sense of despair to a place of activism and hope.

Sharing and reflecting our cares and concerns with others in a small group format became a source of mutual encouragement and an antidote to hopelessness.

Finn Pond, Washington

Participating in this was an enlightening and humbling experience. Very good information, also some very sad information. But how good to be able to share this course in community with fellow Franciscans who all share the same concerns. It was a blessing to be able to support one another in trying to figure out how we can respond. I'm grateful for the opportunity to participate.

Carol Tookey, New Mexico

This was a great experience for me. Discussion was lively, with full participation from all members of the group. It was a good way to get to know other TSSF members. The support materials were exceptional, and doing homework was no burden. The course increased my awareness of creation care issues and helped me dig deeper in a variety of topics. We are making use of the course, now, in my parish, and the response is overwhelmingly positive.

Ellen Rutherford, New Jersey

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I found this to be beneficial for its ability to spark conversation, build commitment and offer practical ways to live out faith in relation to the environment. I found it to be engaging, thought-provoking, and helpful in deepening my understanding of ways to integrate faith and environmental concerns. It gave me more confidence in speaking about the interrelated aspects of faith, creation care and climate change.

Ken Norian, New York

This course helped me move from a mindset on the care of creation to a sense of being part of creation, no longer separate from. All of the Earth, all her elements, her plant life and her creatures, including humanity, are sacred. What affects one of us, affects all of us. Being stewards of the earth does not mean we were given divine rights to use, exploit and destroy the earth. It means we were entrusted by God to maintain the sacred balance that was instilled at creation. This course teaches about real stewardship of land, water, minerals, plant life and animals. It teaches us to respect the ways of the indigenous peoples who were in tune with nature. This is so fundamentally what our dear St. Francis taught us. To live simply, only taking what is needed for the day. To love all of God's sacred creation. To worship God by caring for one another. To follow the way of Jesus in sharing all we have and graciously accepting care from others when we are in need.

I encourage every Franciscan to take the opportunity to enter into this course and find your unity with God's creation.

Elizabeth Gregory, Alabama

It was wonderful to spend 9 weeks looking at creation with love and justice in the forefront in the company of TSSF siblings from all over the country. We learned about innovative approaches which inspired us to action and further learning. All of us asked ourselves, "What more can we do?"

Verleah Kosloske, Virginia

This was a crazy emotional roller coaster of thoughts and feelings. This course very lovingly opened my eyes to the many problems we face as global warming continues to go unchecked. The material sometimes left me feeling overwhelmed and discouraged. That's when the discussions we had as a group really helped. I was not alone in feeling confused. We all felt a gamut of emotions which led to us wanting to make a difference in our world. This course is educational and inspiring and led me to discover how I can make a difference in my world.

I am better for taking this class.

Shawn Cady, Wisconsin

This course took my love for creation and positioned me for action by sensitizing me to the horrors of fracking, the frustrations of dealing with corporations and colonization, and the challenges of facing injustice. One assignment emphasized the importance of grieving to make room for optimism, which later was fed by examples of creative ministries.

Rick Bellows, Massachusetts

The course made me be more aware of all forms of injustices and how we the people participate in those injustices. I will continue to advocate in my state against institutional and private enterprises that oppress people in favor of monetary gain. I was especially struck by the positive initiatives and habits of the indigenous peoples.

Anita Miner, Utah