

WORLD: STEWARDSHIP



Core Vocabulary
care, world, Earth,
sustainable, stewards,
stewardship sustainable,
creation, creator,
created, stewards
stewardship, climate,
preserve, ecology,
integrity harmony

Explore

LEARNING INTENTION: Transforming energy

Activity:

Write down:

1. A person/people on earth you care about.
2. A place on earth you care about.
3. Something on the earth you care about.

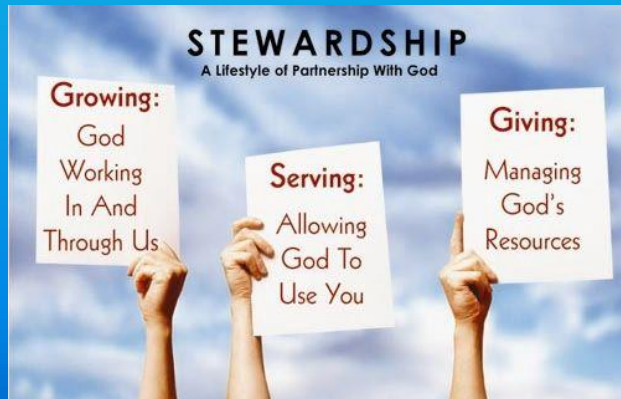


We all care for things in this world.

When we care for something, we have some responsibility for it, and we are stewards of it.

What does the word '**steward**' mean?

There are **stewards** at football matches, concerts or even at church. When we look after something, this is called stewardship. Often, the word stewardship is used to refer to a responsibility to take care of something that is owned by someone else.



Questions to discuss

- How do you treat something you care for?
- How would you feel if someone mistreated what you care for?
- Can you think of any other words that have similar meaning to stewardship? (e.g. respect, love, care, honour, nurture, protect) What do you think **sustainability** means in connection with the earth?



Sustainability means taking into account the impact that our choices will have on other people, future generations and on the earth that nourishes us.



Task: Go outside, be still and take notice of the world around you. Write a poem or draw a picture to represent what you care for on the earth.

REVEAL

The Church is called to Stewardship of Creation



“We must remember we are stewards of what God has provided for us, not owners.”

Joyce Meyers

LEARNING FOCUS 1:
The wonders of God's creation.



The wonders of God's creation



Genesis 1: 1-25. The Story of Creation

In the beginning God created the sky and the land.
Everything was dark.

So God said, "Let there be light." And there was light.
God saw that it was good.

God called the light 'day' and the darkness 'night'.



God said, "Let there be water." And so it was.
God called the dry land 'earth' and the water 'sea'
and God saw that it was good.

God said, "Let the earth be filled with plants and trees."
And so it was. Plants and trees grew on earth full of fruit
and vegetables. God saw that it was good.





God said, "Let there be two great lights in the sky.
A great light to shine in the day,
and a smaller light to shine in the night."
God made the stars too.

God saw that it was good.



God said, "Let the seas be filled with living creatures and the skies be filled with flying creatures." And so it was. Great sea creatures and every kind of winged creature filled the seas and skies. God saw that it was good.

God said, "Let the earth be filled with every kind of living creatures; wild animals and tame, reptiles that crawl on the earth." And so it was. God filled the world with every kind of animal and reptile. God saw that it was good.



Genesis

Different strands of stories are woven together in this one book. They tell us about a world and a special way of life which God offered to chosen people.

They tell of the Holy God the people worship.

They speak of the mystery of God who is greater than anyone can know.

They remind people that each person is made in the image of God.

A long time ago there was a holy and wise priest who loved God very much. He loved the people too, and wanted them to know how much God loved and cared for them. He thought about the world and everything in it, how good it was - the rivers and seas full of fish; the skies full of flying creatures; the land full of animals of every shape and size; the earth full of rocks and stones. All these things God had given to people. He wrote a poem to tell everyone about the goodness of God and the world



The book of *Genesis* is not meant to be a scientific account of how the world began. It is a beautiful poem which tells us the truth about the goodness and creative power of *God*. It also helps us to understand the harmony and interrelatedness of all creation. This is called the integrity of creation.

People of every time, in every place, have been struck by the beauty of the world and wondered about its beginnings.

How did the world begin?

Scientists are always searching to discover more about how the world began. Some spend their whole lives researching and share their results in books, on television and on the internet.

They are always discovering more about our beginnings and the beginnings of the world.



Above: The eastern Mediterranean and lands of the Bible seen from space.

Right: Today we can photograph the sun with a space telescope and know that an astronaut has left a footprint on the moon.

Questions to discuss

- What does the text from *Genesis* tell you about the writer?
- What questions do you think the writer asked about the world?
- What did the writer want people to know about *God*?
- How do you think the many parts of *God's* world are in harmony with each other?
- What do you think is meant by the integrity of creation?
- What are some of the ways people can look at the world today that the author of *Genesis* could not and what do you think this means for us? (e.g. space, knowing the diversity of the world, volcanoes, icebergs, rainforests, deserts.)



St Francis (1181-1226) cared greatly about **God's creation** and **God's people**.

St. Francis is the patron saint of **Ecology**.

Canticle of the Sun

A photograph showing a person in profile on the left, looking towards the right. They are holding a wooden tray with seven lit candles. The candles are yellow and have blue flames. In the background, the back of another person's head is visible. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source being the candles.

Most High, all-powerful, all-good Lord,
All praise is Yours, all glory, honour and blessings.
To you alone, Most High, do they belong;
no mortal lips are worthy to pronounce Your Name.

We praise You, Lord, for all Your creatures,
especially for Brother Sun,
who is the day through whom You give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour,
of You Most High, he bears your likeness.





**We praise You, Lord, for Sister Moon
and the stars,
in the heavens you have made them bright,
precious and fair.**



We praise You, Lord,
for Brothers Wind and
Air, fair and stormy,
all weather's moods,
by which You cherish
all that You have made.



We praise You, Lord, for Sister Water,
so useful, humble, precious and pure.

We praise You, Lord,
for Brother Fire,
through whom You
light the night.
He is beautiful,
playful, robust,
and strong.





We praise You, Lord, for Sister Earth,
who sustains us with her fruits,
coloured flowers, and herbs.



We praise You, Lord, for all those who pardon,
one another for the sake of God's love.
Blessed are those who endure in peace,
by You Most High, they will be crowned.

We praise and bless You,
Lord, and give You
thanks,
and serve You in all
humility.



Your Task:

Write a prayer or poem starting each line with 'We praise you Lord ...' Make links between the Genesis story and belief in God as Creator of all. Illustrate your prayers/poems



LF2: The task of stewardship - caring for God's creation.



Made to be like God (Genesis 1:26-31)

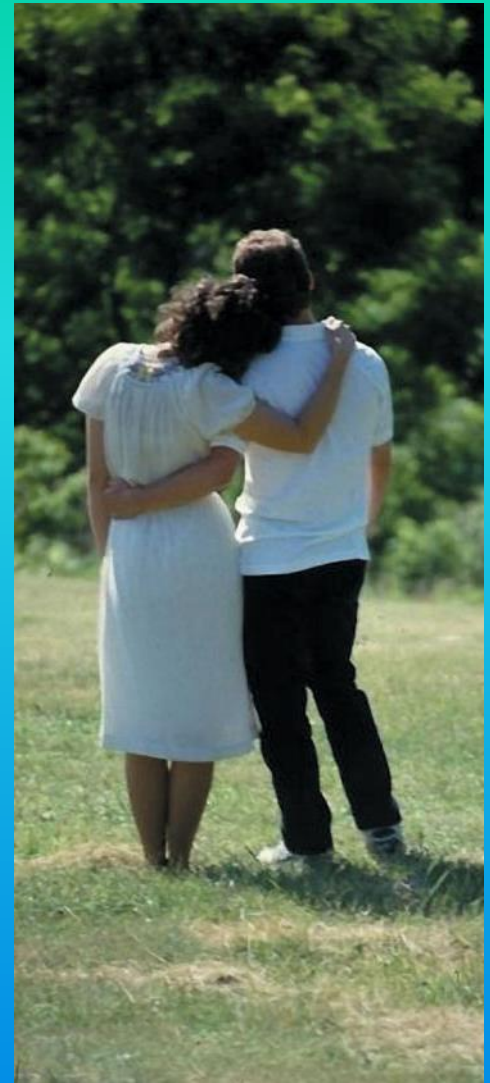
Then God said: "Let us make people to be like ourselves.

Men and women who can know and love me and know and love one another; and I will give them charge of the fish of the seas, the birds of the sky, and all the animals wild and tame and all the reptiles that crawl upon the earth."

So God created men and women who could love and care for the world and everything in it and could love and care for one another; men and women who could know God and love and serve God.

God blessed them and said to them: "Fill the world with people; look after the world; look after one another; take care of the fish and the birds, the animals and the reptiles, the trees and the flowers and the plants." And so it was.

God saw all creation and indeed it was very good.



Questions to discuss:

- Why did *God* make human beings?
- What job have humans been given?
- How well do you think humans do that job? What are your reasons for your answer?
- How does scripture inspire people to be stewards of creation?
- How does Christian belief in stewardship of creation, shape how we take responsibility for caring for the earth
- Preventing damage to *God's* creation
- In our world people don't always take care of *God's* creation.




Look at the following slides on the 4 main areas of damage to environment.

- ❖ Pollution and damage to the world's eco-systems
- ❖ Using up the world's natural resources
- ❖ The impact on the world's poor
- ❖ The loss of beauty and diversity.

The task of stewardship: preventing damage to God's creation



A close-up photograph of two hands, one holding a small green seedling with soil, set against a dark background. The hands are positioned as if carefully examining or nurturing the plant. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the skin and the vibrant green of the seedling.

But people do not always take good
care of God's creation

**God created men and women
who could love and care for the
world and everything in it**

Genesis

Not acting as stewards of the environment and of God's creation can lead to:

- pollution and damage to the world's ecosystems
- using up the world's natural resources
 - the loss of beauty and diversity




Often it is the poorest that are affected the most

Pollution and damage to ecosystems



In **Peru**, polluted water drains into the **Condoraque River**.

It is known as the '**water that burns**' because it is **highly acidic**.



The **Condorague River** has been **polluted** by a **local mine** that has turned the **water blood red**.



The **feet** of an **alpaca** have been damaged by **pollution**.



People of **Hualpén in Chile**
live near **heavy industry**.



They often **suffer**
from **pollution**.

In the **Guaqai region of Bolivia**, **wells** are **drying up** as the **climate** is becoming **hotter**.

Members of a **community** are **working together** to bring **water** for **livestock** and **irrigation** down from the mountains.



Using up the world's natural resources



Deforestation in the
Amazon rainforest.



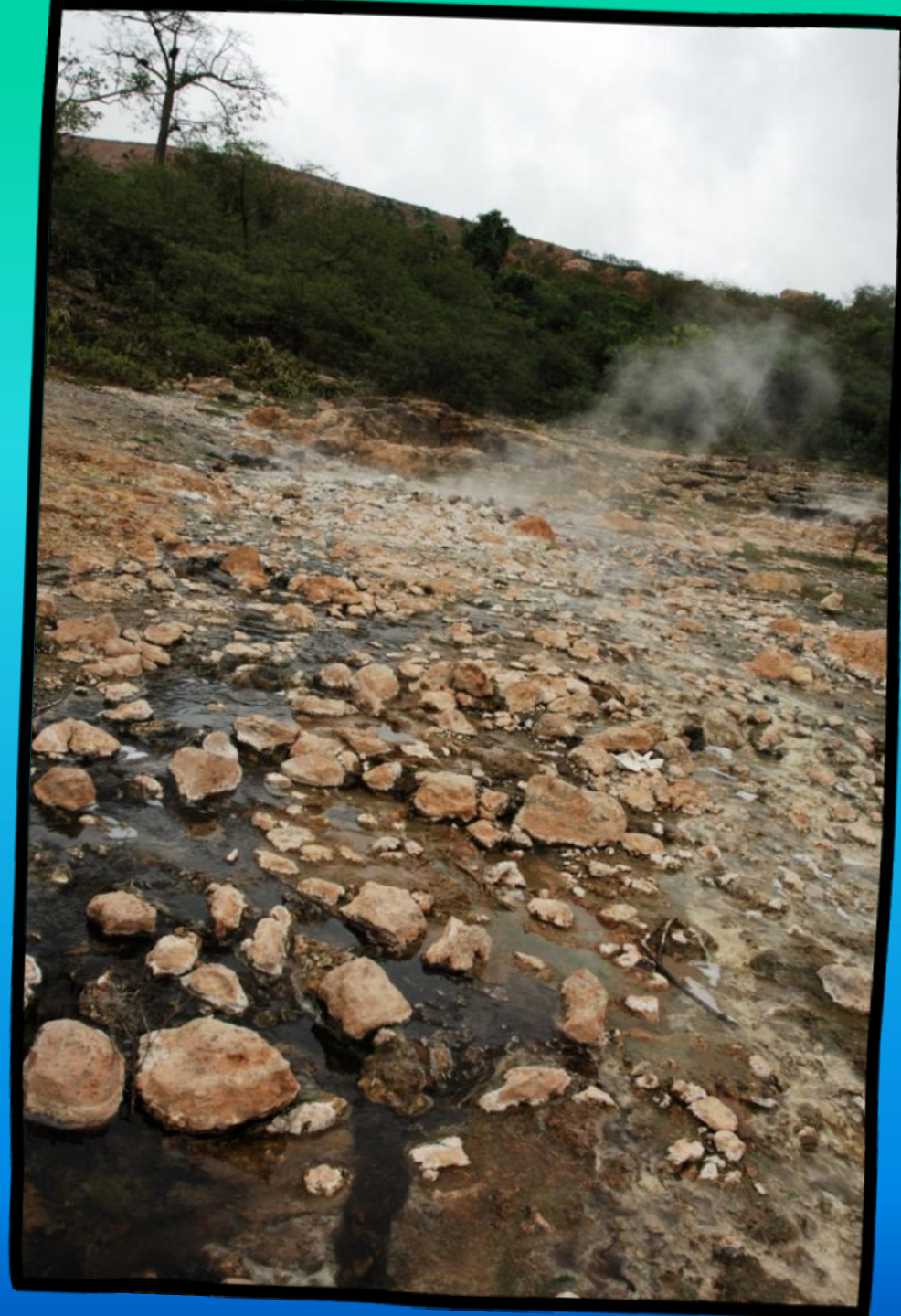
Mining in **Honduras**
is affecting local
communities...



The **mine** uses **220 gallons of water** per minute.

Water sources are **drying up**. This means people have to travel and **pay** for **water** for **themselves** and their **animals**.

The natural **hot springs** have also been **affected** by the **mine**.





The **hot springs** can no longer be used:

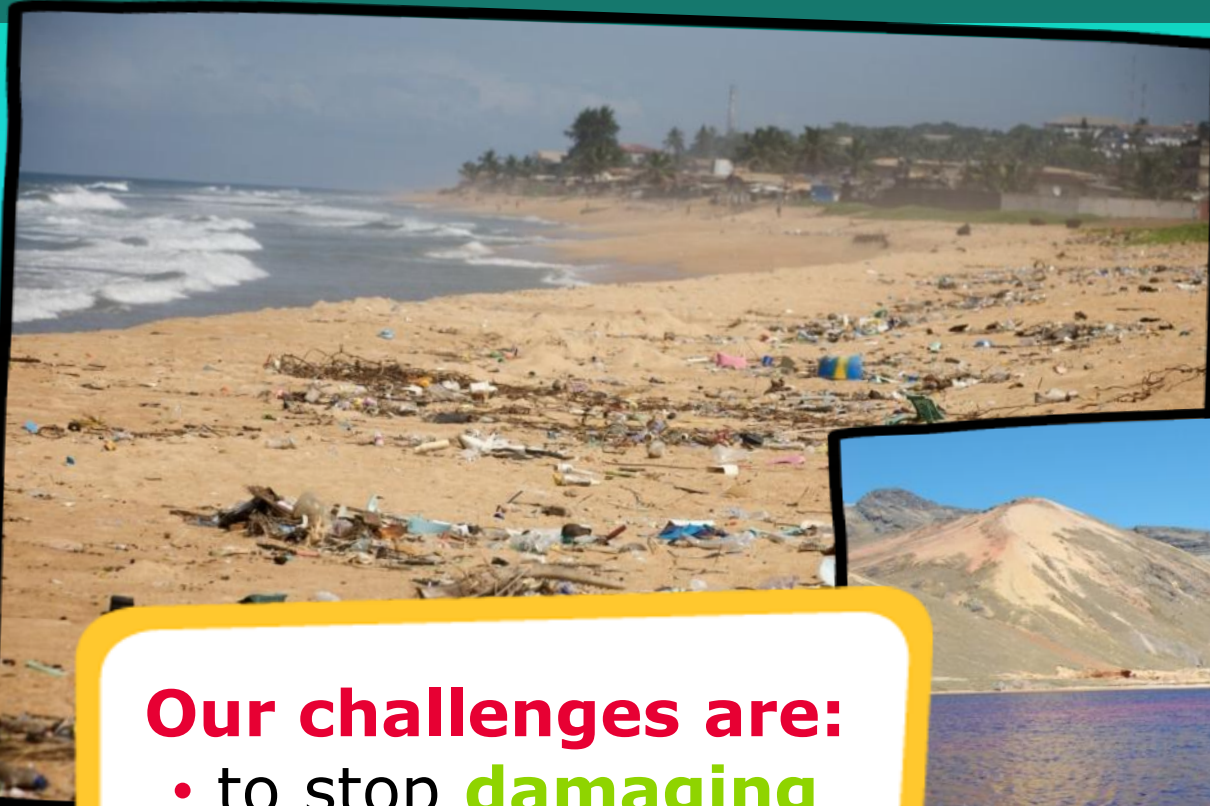
- for **cooking**
- as a **tourist attraction**

The loss of beauty and diversity from pollution

How can **YOU**
take on the task
of stewardship?

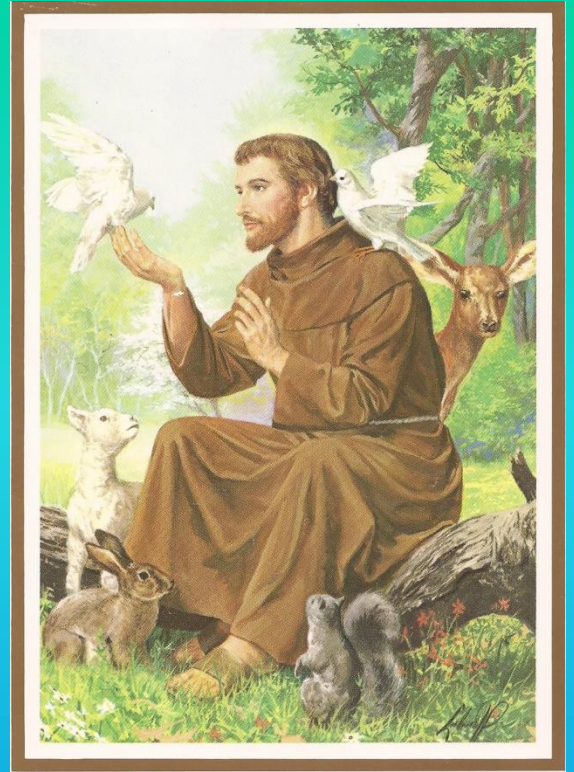
Our challenges are:

- to stop **damaging
God's creation**
- to heal the **damage
already done**



The challenge we face is to halt this destruction and heal, wherever possible, the damage already done to the planet. Sometimes our actions encourage other people to act too. They see what can be done and join in. This is called leading by example or by witness.

Fortunately there are many people who are concerned about the harmony and integrity of Creation and want to live a more ecological or green life style. St. Francis is the patron saint of Ecology. Ecology, which comes from the Greek word meaning house or home, is about being at home on earth and ensuring the good relationship between created things. The desire for a more ecological or green life style brings together people, of different religions, races and cultures.



Your Task:

Design a poster to encourage people to look after and care for our planet. Think about:

How can you encourage people to show greater respect for and stewardship of the environment and God's creation?

What actions would you like people to take in order to care for the environment and creation?

