

# Safeguarding Our Planet:

## Faith Supplement



## Conservation and Stewardship

## Memory Verse

*Genesis 2:15*

*The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.*

## Relevant Scripture

*Genesis 1:26-28*

*Matthew 22:37-39*

## Instructional Goals

- **Understanding Biblical Stewardship:** To deepen students' understanding of what it means to be made in God's image (Imago Dei) and to have dominion over the Earth, emphasizing stewardship, care, and responsibility towards all of God's creation.
- **Connecting Faith and Environmentalism:** To help students see the connection between their faith and the call to environmental conservation, illustrating how caring for the planet is a form of worship and obedience to God.
- **Empowering Actionable Care:** To empower students to take actionable steps towards environmental stewardship in their daily lives, reflecting their role as caretakers of the Earth made in the image of God.
- **Fostering Community Engagement:** To encourage students to work together in small groups, fostering a sense of community and shared purpose in the care of the environment.
- **Promoting Reflection and Prayer:** To facilitate reflection on the relationship between faith and stewardship, and to encourage prayer for guidance, forgiveness, and assistance in fulfilling their God-given role as protectors of the Earth.

# Made in God's Image and Called to Conservation

## *Objective*

To understand our responsibility for environmental stewardship grounded in being made in God's image (Imago Dei) and having dominion over the Earth. This lesson explores how our role as caretakers of the planet reflects our relationship with God and His creation.

## *Materials Needed*

- Bible
- Visual aids of nature and wildlife
- Recyclable materials for a small group activity
- "Creation Care Commitment Cards" for each student

## *Introduction*

Begin with a brief discussion on what students know about being made in God's image (Imago Dei) and what it means to have dominion over the Earth. Introduce the concept that these ideas can guide us in caring for God's creation.

## *Scripture Reading and Discussion*

- Read Genesis 1:26-28 together, focusing on being made in God's image and given dominion over the Earth.
- Discuss what "dominion" means in this context — emphasizing stewardship, care, and responsibility, not exploitation.
- Reflect on how being made in God's image empowers us to care for the environment in a way that honors Him.

## *Exploring Stewardship*

- Share examples of environmental issues that harm God's creation (pollution, deforestation, waste).
- Discuss how taking action on these issues reflects our respect for God's creation and our role as caretakers.

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## *Group Activity: Creation Care Projects*

Divide students into small groups and provide recyclable materials. Challenge each group to create a simple project that could help improve the environment (e.g., bird feeders from plastic bottles, planting pots from newspapers). Discuss how these projects can be acts of worship and stewardship.

## *Commitment to Conservation*

- Distribute "Creation Care Commitment Cards." Ask each student to write down one action they will commit to doing to help care for God's creation.
- Share commitments in small groups or with the class, encouraging and supporting one another in these commitments.

## *Closing Prayer*

Gather the class for a closing prayer. Thank God for His beautiful creation, ask for forgiveness where we have failed to care for it properly, and pray for strength and wisdom to fulfill our responsibility as stewards of the Earth. Ask for God's blessing on the students' commitments to care for His creation.

## *Reflection*

Encourage students to reflect on how their relationship with God can grow through their actions to protect and preserve the environment. Remind them that caring for the planet is a way to show love for God and for our neighbors, fulfilling the greatest commandments (Matthew 22:37-39).

## *Follow-Up*

Encourage students to implement their "Creation Care Commitment" and share their experiences and observations in subsequent classes or gatherings. This ongoing discussion can help build a community of faith that actively engages in environmental stewardship as an expression of their faith.