



This series explores how we, as followers of Jesus, think about and care for creation. The climate crisis is big news, big business and big anxiety but do we have a more hopeful story to share? We will explore key passages of Scripture taking us into the theology of creation care and how we can each live it out day by day. The second in our series considers 'the lost art of gardening' following Steve's talk on Sunday 8th Sep.

- 1) STARTER: Where have you seen God's fingerprints in your life this week?
- 2) Do you like gardening?

Read Genesis 1: 26-31

- 3) What do you think 'being made in God's image' means?
- 4) Genesis talks about humanity 'ruling' over creation. Do you think we have, as a species, done this well?
- 5) We are created in God's image 'so that' we might rule over creation. What elements of God's image do you think connect with how we are called to 'rule' over creation?

Read Genesis 2:8 and 15.

- 6) The Lord God places Adam in the garden of Eden v8. Do you think of yourself as 'placed' where you currently live and work?
- 7) The Lord God puts Adam in Eden to 'work and take care of' the garden. V15.
- 8) In Psalm 8:6; the psalmist lists 6 parts of creation that humanity are called to rule over, work or have responsibility for. Can you list 6 things that you have some responsibility for?
- 9) What difference does it make that God has given you this responsibility? How does that make you feel?
- 10) The Hebrew word for 'Taking Care' of the garden is the same as in Numbers 24:6 for the Lord 'keeping' us. What does God 'keeping' us mean to you? Do you have any experience of that?
- 11) How might these experiences and thoughts translate into our 'taking care' of creation?

Reflect:

- 12) Perhaps in smaller groups: Take our areas of responsibility and share how you are doing with them? Can you pray and encourage one another in this?

Final Prayers

- Is there anything that today's study has thrown up that you need to pray into?
- Are there any other things for which people would like prayer?
- Lift one another up to God for the week ahead.