

# The Environment: For God so loved the world

## opening our eyes

**Reflect** on the previous session on consumer culture and share what you've been thinking about or doing since then.

**Warm-up question:** What is your response to environmental warnings that you see in various media?

## finding our hope

In the beginning  
created the  
and the

**Bible discussion** (20 mins):  
Luke 24:14-30

The Old Testament prophets presented a vision of the world that included the well-being of the whole of the earth. From the beginning, God intended humans to be obedient stewards/managers/caretakers of his good creation (Genesis 1:27–30; 2:15) and it is therefore not surprising that Jesus tells several stories about being good stewards or managers, as in this passage.

### Discuss:

- How helpful is it to think of ourselves as being stewards or managers of God's creation?
- While we are expected to be good stewards of creation, we cannot bring about environmental transformation simply by our own efforts. The prophets pointed to God as the one who would make the future transformation of this world possible, and the resurrection of Jesus confirms powerfully the hope that God will ultimately set all creation free from corruption and death. To what extent do you share this prophetic hope? How might it help you or hinder you from engaging in care for creation today?



### DVD film and discussion: Session four (30 mins)

In this clip, Dave Bookless and Johnny Sertin reflect on caring for creation. You might like to make a mental note (or jot down a reminder) of any words or ideas that you find particularly striking so you can discuss them with the group.

loving God's world 

In what practical ways are you already caring for God's creation? Are there other ways you might like to further respond? There are some suggested activities in the course guide.

**For next week**

Use this space to write down anything your group commits to do to prepare for the next session.

**Prayer**

Creating God,

We thank you for the beauty of creation;

thank you for entrusting us to care for your world.

Forgive us for the times we have failed to be good stewards;

help us commit to act in ways that will heal your creation.

Give us courage to challenge leaders who can effect greater change;

and give us hope that in you, all things are possible.

Amen

