



B REVEALING WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

Biodiversity



Why use this Bible study?

This Bible study can help us explore some of what the Bible teaches about the diversity of plants and animals on earth, and our dependence on them.



Be fruitful and multiply . . .

‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the skies and seas.’ With this blessing in Genesis 1:22, God filled the sky, land, and sea with abundant and diverse life! ‘How many are your works Oh Lord! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures’ (Psalm 104:24). And responding, all creatures pour out their praises to God (Psalm 148).



Key points

- God has blessed the earth and wants everything within it to be fruitful.
- God warns us to care for the earth or we will face destruction.
- God wants us to preserve creation’s fruitfulness through sustainable consumption.



Questions for discussion

Read **John 3:16** and **Psalm 104**.

- How much does God care about the world he has created?

Read **Genesis 6-9**.

- What did God do when creation was threatened?

Later he promises eternal life to those who truly follow Jesus (John 3:16), but he warns of destruction to those who destroy the earth (Revelation 11:18). God wants us to conserve Creation’s fruitfulness.

Read **Ezekiel 34:17-19**.

- What does this passage show us about the way we should treat God’s creation?
- How should we consider the needs of other people and other creatures?

Because God made all things and holds all things together through Jesus (Colossians 1:15-20), everything belongs to him. While God leads us to green pastures and pure water (Psalm 23), the earth belongs to God alone (Psalm 24:1). His are gifts we do not own. His are gifts that must never be taken from us or the other creatures!

Awareness-raising

Children & youth

Climate & environment

Conflict & peace-building

Corruption & governance

Disaster risk management

Discrimination & inclusion

Food & livelihoods

Gender & sexual violence

Health & HIV

Influencing decision-makers

Migration & trafficking

Water, sanitation & hygiene

- What are we doing to care for creation and God's creatures? Do we resist the desire to be greedy? (Matthew 6:33).
- Do we provide places for flowers and birds on our land or in our communities?
- Do we preserve the diversity of our food and medicinal plants?

Keeping our places fruitful for all God's creatures brings praise to God, the creator and owner of all things!



Notes

This Bible study was written by Calvin B DeWitt and was first published in Tearfund (2001) Footsteps 47 – *Biodiversity*

Related tools

- A1 – Revealing climate change: information for facilitators [A1: *Environment-1*]
- A1 – Revealing environmental degradation: information for facilitators [A1: *Environment-2*]
- A2 – Raising awareness of environmental change [A2: *Environment-2*]
- A2 – Linking climate change, environmental degradation, food, water and disasters [A2: *Environment-4*]
- A2 – Mapping our past, present and future environments [A2: *Environment-6*]
- A2 – Slides and ladders – helping or harming the environment? [A2: *Environment-3*]
- B – Caring for God's world (Bible study) [B: *Environment-2*]
- B – Caring for our environment (Bible study) [B: *Environment-3*]
- B – Stewardship of the land (Bible study) [B: *Environment-4*]

Awareness-raising	Children & youth	Climate & environment	Conflict & peace-building	Corruption & governance	Disaster risk management	Discrimination & inclusion	Food & livelihoods	Gender & sexual violence	Health & HIV	Influencing decision-makers	Migration & trafficking	Water, sanitation & hygiene
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