

Climate Leadership Session 1

The Biblical Response

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In the beginning....

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In the image of God



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We represent God's fundamental nature, and that nature is relationships



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We were created to be in relationship:

- With God (Gen. 3:8)
- With other people (creation of Eve)
- With the wider creation (Gen. 2:15 et al)



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But the Fall broke our relationships:

- With God (Gen. 3:23-24)
- With other people (Gen. 3:16)
- With the wider creation (Gen. 3:17-19)

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The OT is the story of those broken relationships:

- With God (eg. Exodus 20)
- With other people (eg. Gen. 4, Judges 21, 1 Sam. 18, 2 Sam. 11, 1 Kings 9:20-21)
- With the wider creation (Deut. 30:15-16, Jer. 5:23-25)



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Standing in the gap: the hopes for the Messiah

Isaiah 32:15-17
Isaiah 9:6-7; 11:1-9

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'There is glory for God in highest heaven, and on earth there is peace among the people whom God has favoured' (Luke 2:14)



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Through Jesus there is peace. His life, death, resurrection and ascension have brought out about reconciliation:

- With God (eg. John 3:16; 2 Cor. 5:8-11)
- With each other (eg. James 3:18; Gal. 5:22; Eph. 2:14-17)
- With the wider creation (Rom. 8:19-21; Col. 1:19-20)
- And then, with ourselves (eg. Rom. 15:13; Phil. 4:7; 2 Thess. 3:16)

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Our future hope

'The consistent biblical hope, from Genesis to Revelation, is that God should do something with the *earth* so that we can once again dwell upon it in 'rest', in sabbath peace, with him. The Bible speaks predominantly of the need for God to come here, not of the wish for us to go somewhere else'.

(Chris Wright: *Old Testament Ethics and the People of God*)

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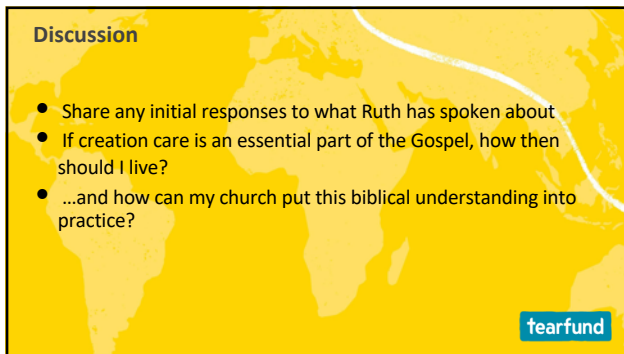
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This is our manifesto for life!



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Discussion

- Share any initial responses to what Ruth has spoken about
- If creation care is an essential part of the Gospel, how then should I live?
- ...and how can my church put this biblical understanding into practice?

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