

Week 3: Recognizing our Dependence on Creation

Part 1

Warm Up Activity:

- How much contact do you have with creation on an average day?

- Do you need it?

Small Group Discussion:

- Do you think of yourself as a “dependent creature”?

- What implications might this have for how you live or view your life?

Notes:

This Week

Read:

- Pages 13–16 in the small version of Together With All Creatures.
- Pages 56–73 in the large version of Together With All Creatures.

For Your Devotions

Monday: Genesis 2:7-9, 19

- Reflect on what it means to be made “from the earth” for “life on the earth.”
- What might it mean for your self-image if you saw yourself as “earth creatures” or “creatures made from the dirt,” as well as in the image of God?
- Considering verse 19, what might this mean for our relationship with creation?

Tuesday: Psalm 104:27–30

- How does this passage highlight the idea that our dependence on creation is a dependence on God?
- What is the purpose of renewing “the face of the ground”?
- What does it mean to receive food in “due season”? How have we gotten away from that in our modern culture?

Wednesday: Read Genesis 3:17–19

- What does this text suggest about how the earth originally yielded its life-giving bounty to us?
- How does the earth now resist our efforts to derive life-sustaining food from it?
- What does this text say about our relationship to the earth and the effects of our actions upon it today?

Thursday: Read Genesis 2:8–14; Ezekiel 28:13

- What details or descriptions are given about the garden of Eden in these passages?
- What does it say about the way God created us that he spends so much time describing its beauty?
- Describe the most beautiful place you have ever visited. Why did this make an impact on you?

Friday: Deuteronomy 8:7–10 (see also Isaiah 51:3).

- What characteristics of the land that God would give to Israel jump out at you? Does it remind you of Eden? In what ways?
- What do these characteristics suggest about the kind of life that God wants for all of his creatures, especially his human creatures?
- What is important about our connection to place or home (keep in mind Israel has been wandering in the desert for 40 years)? Why do we need a place to call home? What makes for a home?

Saturday: Revelation 21– 22:7

- How is the picture of the new Jerusalem similar to the garden of Eden?
- How is the picture of the new Jerusalem different from the garden of Eden?
- What do these images evoke in you?