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Introduction

The Lausanne Global Classroom is designed to connect emerging evangelical leaders to key issues and ideas in global mission today. As these leaders grow into national, regional, and global influence, our hope is that they will be equipped and knowledgeable for the work of mission in their generation through this resource.

This Classroom episode is on Creation Care and is done in partnership with the Lausanne/WEA Creation Care network. Stewardship of God’s creation (creation care) is a clear biblical command and an integral part of what it means to follow Jesus as Lord. ‘If Jesus is Lord of all the earth, we cannot separate our relationship to Christ from how we act in relation to the earth. For to proclaim the gospel that says ‘Jesus is Lord’ is to proclaim the gospel that includes the earth, since Christ’s Lordship is over all creation. Creation care is thus a gospel issue within the Lordship of Christ.’ (The Cape Town Commitment I-7-A). But that’s not all: God’s creation is in the midst of a crisis that is ‘pressing, urgent, and that must be resolved in our generation’ (Jamaica Call to Action). This crisis, of which climate change and massive biodiversity loss are just a part, represents an existential threat to the future of human society.

This Global Classroom helps fulfill the goal of engaging the church in various aspects of creation care and seeks to inspire young leaders, established leaders, churches, organizations, and movements to understand the importance of creation care in all their ventures.

Global Classroom episodes are short videos in documentary format totaling about 35-45 minutes, designed to give a broad introduction to the subject of the episode. The short video sections may be viewed all at once, or section-by-section at the discretion of the group leader or instructor. The Video Introduction page in the User Guide may help you to determine which section is most appropriate for your use and/or where to stop the video to facilitate reflection and discussion.

Additionally, each episode has a User Guide, which builds on the topics introduced in the video. The User Guide contains curriculum for four tracks: 1) small group settings, such as a ministry staff meeting or a mission-minded discussion group; 2) an academic unit as part of a course; 3) a semester-long academic course; and 4) an individual setting for those personally seeking missiological content that is current and globally representative. Sections of this User Guide are relevant to one of these four contexts indicated by the following icons:

- Small group
- Academic unit
- Academic course
- Individual

We hope you feel the freedom to use this resource in a way that makes sense for you and your group, class, or organization. We welcome any feedback you may have about this or future Classroom courses. Please send your feedback to the email address below.

Thank you for participating in Global Classroom: Creation Care.

Brent Burdick,
Director, Lausanne Global Classroom
bburdick@lausanne.org
https://www.lausanne.org/lausanne-global-classroom/global-classroom
Episode Introduction and Outline

This video is designed to give participants a broad introduction to the topic of Creation Care. The sections videos in the episode progress through the outline below:

Outline of Episode

1. Introduction
2. Caring for Creation is a Gospel issue
3. Biblical Foundations of Creation Care
4. Eschatology and Creation Care
5. Today’s Crisis in Creation
6. Climate Change
7. Science, Faith, and Progress
8. Is there hope?
9. The Church and Creation Care
10. Examples of the Church Doing Creation Care
11. Challenge to Leaders
12. Conclusion

Total time: 55 minutes, 49 seconds.
Small Group Facilitation Guide

Materials

Lausanne Global Classroom: Creation Care video episode

YouTube Playlist
HD file downloads

The episode can be watched in its entirety or by section. Each section is titled with a graphic. Feel free to pause for discussion (potential questions provided below). Also, in some contexts, you may only desire to use 1 or 2 sections of the video and cover the remaining information another way. Feel free to make these resources work for you and your context.

Leader Responsibilities Include:

- Tailor the use of these resources to the knowledge of your group. Is your group already familiar with creation care or will these concepts be new to the group?
- Determine the time frame and format to discuss creation care for your group.
- Determine which questions best fit the reflection and discussion process for your group.
- Decide on the activities listed below for the group to do. Decide on a timeline for presentation to the group for discussion of the results, if desired.

Discussion Questions for Small Groups—based on the video episode:

Video Episode Discussion Questions:

1. What is creation care?
2. Discuss what it means that creation care is a gospel issue.
3. What opportunities for sharing the gospel through creation care might be found in your community?
4. What does the Bible say about creation care? Why is it important to God?
5. How does eschatology inform creation care? How should we live in creation in light of a biblical view of eschatology?
6. What crises have you experienced or seen in creation? How can the church help address these issues? How can the church help people affected by these crises?
7. Discuss how climate change is a ‘threat multiplier’. What people are most affected by climate change?
8. What evidence in creation points you to God? How does research and science point us to God?
9. If creation is in such bad shape today, what hope do we have? What hope was discussed in the segment on hope?
10. What role does the church have in creation care? Discuss ideas your church or small group might participate in to help with creation care and gospel proclamation.
11. What roadblocks are there that might keep your church or group from engaging in creation care as a gospel issue?

**Suggested Activities to Do in Your Community**

1. Survey your community and identify areas impacted by a lack of creation care. Plan an activity to address this need. Ideas: garbage pick-up along streets; riverbank clean-up; a recycling drive; tree-planting, etc. Use the activity to make new contacts in the community for future gospel proclamation.
2. Form a group that meets regularly to pray for the environment and engages in activities as listed above.
3. Identify an unreached people group impacted by environmental degradation. Pray for this people group and identify ways that your group might be able to help address their needs caused by pollution, poor water quality, etc.
4. Show the Lausanne Global Classroom episode on creation care to people in your community. Have a discussion afterward using the video discussion questions above.
5. You may also review the assignments from the academic and individual sections below to choose from books to read and find additional activities to do.
Syllabus for an Academic Unit

Global Classroom: Creation Care

This syllabus can be used as a unit in a class on science, ministry, missions, global issues, etc. See the Syllabus for an Academic Course below for a full semester directed-study course.

Purpose

To introduce the concept of creation care as a gospel issue, laying a biblical and theological foundation for creation care, and helping students taking the course to understand how creation care impacts the global church and its witness to the world.

Outcomes

After viewing the Lausanne Global Classroom episode on creation care and completing the accompanying readings, discussion, and assignments, students will be able to:

- Understand what constitutes creation care and how it is an issue that impacts gospel sharing.
- Develop a biblical and theological understanding of creation care.
- Outline an eschatological understanding of creation care.
- Identify needs opportunities for creation care in the local community.
- Understand the importance of creation care and Its important for the local church in global mission.

Faculty Responsibilities Include:

- Determine what part or parts of the video best fit your course purposes.
- Determine the time frame to be used for implementing sections of the video or the whole video resource.
- Customize the use of these materials and assignments to best fit your purposes and course outcomes.
- Determine what other resources might be helpful for your students to learn about Creation Care in their ministry context.
- Determine how you will grade or score the assignments and activities you choose.
Unit Materials

Lausanne Global Classroom: Creation Care video episode:

- [YouTube Playlist](https://www.lausanne.org/content/statement/creation-care-call-to-action)

The episode can be watched in its entirety or by section. Each video segment is titled with a graphic. Feel free to pause for discussion (questions provided below). Make these resources work for your context.

Articles:

1. Creation Care and the Gospel: Jamaica Call to Action. [https://www.lausanne.org/content/statement/creation-care-call-to-action](https://www.lausanne.org/content/statement/creation-care-call-to-action)
   (Note: The discussion questions below are based on the first article in the document above, pages 196-206.)

Suggested readings from the Bibliography (Appendix):


In-Class Discussion Questions (based on the video episode and articles):

Note: Some of the discussion questions below may be used as essay questions for a test.

A. Video Episode Discussion Questions:

1. What is creation care?
2. Discuss what it means that creation care is a gospel issue.
3. What opportunities for sharing the gospel through creation care might be found in your community?
4. What does the Bible say about creation care? Why is it important to God?
5. How does eschatology inform creation care? How should we live in creation in light of a biblical view of eschatology?
6. What crises have you experienced or seen in creation? How can the church help address these issues? How can the church help people affected by these crises?
7. Discuss how climate change is a ‘threat multiplier’. What people are most affected by climate change?
8. What evidence in creation points you to God? How does research and science point us to God?
9. If creation is in such bad shape today, what hope do we have? What hope was discussed in the segment on hope?
10. What role does the church have in creation care? Discuss ideas your church or small group might participate in to help with creation care and gospel proclamation.
11. What roadblocks are there that might keep your church or group from engaging in creation care as a gospel issue?

B. Discussion Questions on Article 1, ‘Jamaica Call to Action’:

1. In the ‘Call to Action’, respondents are challenged to ‘commit to a simple lifestyle’. Discuss what this might look like for members of your group? How will it be acted upon?
2. What conversations need to happen in your local church so that it can be mobilized to get involved in creation care as a gospel issue?
3. Discuss the connection between creation care and unreached people groups. What should be the church’s response?
4. Discuss the other action points in this document. How might your group participate in these?
5. What prayer points arise as you discuss the call to action in light of your local community?

C. Discussion Questions on Article 2, ‘The Whole World’: (Note: The discussion questions below are based on the first section in the document above, pages 196-206.)

1. What are some biblical aspects of the world and creation that the article notes? How do these help you understand creation care better? How do these points help you understand creation care as a gospel issue?
2. Discuss the challenges of living in an affluent, consumer-driven society and the need for creation care; OR; Discuss the challenges of living in an environment affected by environmental degradation and living according to a biblical view of creation care.
3. How is creation impacted by sin? How can it be redeemed? What is the church’s role in this?
4. Discuss the five commitments at the end of the article. Which would you find most difficult to implement? Which would be easiest? What is the reason for your answers to these questions?
Assignments

Choose from the assignments below.

1. Write an essay or essays answering selected discussion questions from above based on the video.
2. Write an essay or essays answering selected discussion questions from above based on the articles.
3. Show the Lausanne Global Classroom episode on creation care to people in your church, school, or the community. The student should lead a discussion afterward using the video discussion questions above.
4. Write a 5-page response paper on each of the books suggested in the materials section above. In your paper(s), discuss how is each book significant for you and for a biblical and theological understanding of creation care. Outline how the book changes the way you think about creation care. What will change in your life and ministry after reading this book?
5. Interview a Christian person involved in creation care as a vocation. Ask how they got into creation care; how long they have been involved in it; best practices they have learned; impact they have seen on creation through their word, etc. Write a 3-page descriptive reflection report.
6. Plan and carry out a one-day creation care activity in your community for your church, class, or small group. Write a 5-page descriptive report on the experience. Include the reactions of the group members to their participation in such an activity.
Syllabus for an Academic Course

Global Classroom: Creation Care

This syllabus can be used for a semester-long directed study course on creation care. The student(s) should meet with the instructor for three to four 1-hour sessions during the course to discuss the readings, assignments, and projects. See the Syllabus for an Academic Unit for a shorter unit-length version.

Purpose

To introduce the concept of creation care as a gospel issue, laying a biblical and theological foundation for creation care, and helping students taking the course to understand how creation care impacts the global church and its witness to the world.

Outcomes

After viewing the Lausanne Global Classroom episode on creation care and completing the accompanying readings, discussion, and assignments, students will be able to:

- Understand what constitutes creation care and how it is an issue that impacts gospel sharing.
- Develop a biblical and theological understanding of creation care.
- Outline an eschatological understanding of creation care.
- Identify needs opportunities for creation care in the local community.
• Understand the importance of creation care and it's important for the local church in global mission.

**Faculty Responsibilities Include:**

- Determine what part or parts of the video best fit your course purposes.
- Determine the time frame to be used for implementing sections of the video or the whole video resource.
- Customize the use of these materials and assignments to best fit your purposes and course outcomes.
- Determine what other resources might be helpful for your students to learn about Creation Care in their ministry context.
- Determine how you will grade or score the assignments and activities you choose.

**Course Materials**

Lausanne Global Classroom: Creation Care episode

[YouTube Playlist]
[HD file downloads]

**Articles**

1. Creation Care and the Gospel: Jamaica Call to Action. [https://www.lausanne.org/content/statement/creation-care-call-to-action](https://www.lausanne.org/content/statement/creation-care-call-to-action)
   (Note: The discussion questions below are based on the first article in the document above, pages 196-206.)

**Required Reading from the Bibliography (Appendix):**

Assignments:

Choose from the assignments below.

I. Discuss the questions below with your course leader or professor:

A. Video Episode Discussion Questions:

1. What is creation care?
2. Discuss what it means that creation care is a gospel issue.
3. What opportunities for sharing the gospel through creation care might be found in your community?
4. What does the Bible say about creation care? Why is it important to God?
5. How does eschatology inform creation care? How should we live in creation in light of a biblical view of eschatology?
6. What crises have you experienced or seen in creation? How can the church help address these issues? How can the church help people affected by these crises?
7. Discuss how climate change is a ‘threat multiplier’. What people are most affected by climate change?
8. What evidence in creation points you to God? How does research and science point us to God?
9. If creation is in such bad shape today, what hope do we have? What hope was discussed in the segment on hope?
10. What role does the church have in creation care? Discuss ideas your church or small group might participate in to help with creation care and gospel proclamation.
11. What roadblocks are there that might keep your church or group from engaging in creation care as a gospel issue?

B. Discussion Questions on Article 1, ‘Jamaica Call to Action’:

1. In the ‘Call to Action’, respondents are challenged to ‘commit to a simple lifestyle’. Discuss what this might look like for members of your group? How will it be acted upon?
2. What conversations need to happen in your local church so that it can be mobilized to get involved in creation care as a gospel issue?
3. Discuss the connection between creation care and unreached people groups. What should be the church’s response?
4. Discuss the other action points in this document. How might your group participate in these?

5. What prayer points arise as you discuss the call to action in light of your local community?

C. Discussion Questions on Article 2, ‘The Whole World ’: (Note: The discussion questions below are based on the first section in the document above, pages 196-206.)

1. What are some biblical aspects of the world and creation that the article notes? How do these help you understand creation care better? How do these points help you understand creation care as a gospel issue?

2. Discuss the challenges of living in an affluent, consumer-driven society and the need for creation care; OR; Discuss the challenges of living in an environment affected by environmental degradation and living according to a biblical view of creation care.

3. How is creation impacted by sin? How can it be redeemed? What is the church’s role in this?

4. Discuss the five commitments at the end of the article. Which would you find most difficult to implement? Which would be easiest? What is the reason for your answers to these questions?

II. Write a 5-page integrative response paper on the books listed above. Do not summarize the contents, but reflect on how the book touches, inspires, challenges, or convicts you regarding creation care. What do you agree with; not agree with, and why? How is your understanding of creation care challenged or changed? What biblical and theological reflections are noteworthy? Why is the book important, or not, to your understanding of creation care? Explain.

III. Show the Lausanne Global Classroom video episode on creation care to a group in your church or school. Use the discussion questions in the small group guide above to engage the viewers in conversation about creation care. Write a 3-page report describing your experience. Outline the responses of the group and share plans or goals set by the participant viewers.

IV. Interview a Christian leader involved in creation care as a vocation. Ask how they got into creation care; how long they have been involved in it; best practices they have learned; impact they have seen on creation through their word, etc. Write a 3-page descriptive reflection report.

V. Write a 12-page research paper outlining a biblical and theological basis for creation care. Suggest ways you can lead your church to engage in creation care. Summarize, integrate, and apply your research to your present or future ministry or life of faith.

VI. Plan and carry out a one-day creation care activity in your community for your church, class, or small group. Write a 5-page descriptive report on the experience. Include the reactions of the group members to their participation in such an activity.
Suggestions for Individual Study

Materials

Lausanne Global Classroom: Creation Care video episode.

   YouTube Playlist
   HD file downloads

Articles:

1. Creation Care and the Gospel: Jamaica Call to Action.
   [https://www.lausanne.org/content/statement/creation-care-call-to-action](https://www.lausanne.org/content/statement/creation-care-call-to-action)
   (Note: The discussion questions below are based on the first article in the document above, pages 196-206.)

Suggested readings from the Bibliography (Appendix):


Reflection Questions for Journaling (based on the video episode and articles):

A. Video Episode Questions to reflect on in your journal:

1. What is creation care?
2. What does it mean that creation care is a gospel issue?
3. What opportunities for sharing the gospel through creation care might be found in your community?
4. What does the Bible say about creation care? Why is it important to God?
5. How does eschatology inform creation care? How should we live in creation in light of a biblical view of eschatology?
6. What crises have you experienced or seen in creation? How can the church help address these issues? How can the church help people affected by these crises?
7. Journal on how climate change is a ‘threat multiplier’. What people are most affected by climate change?
8. What evidence in creation points you to God? How does research and science point us to God?
9. If creation is in such bad shape today, what hope do we have? What hope was discussed in the segment on hope?
10. What role does the church have in creation care? What ideas might your church or small group participate in to help with creation care and gospel proclamation?
11. What roadblocks are there that might keep you or your church or group from engaging in creation care as a gospel issue?

B. Journal Questions on Article 1, ‘Jamaica Call to Action’:

1. In the ‘Call to Action’, respondents are challenged to ‘commit to a simple lifestyle’. What might this look like for you? How will you act upon it?
2. What conversations need to happen in your local church so that it can be mobilized to get involved in creation care as a gospel issue?
3. What is the connection between creation care and unreached people groups? What should be the church’s response?
4. What other action points in this document are inspiring to you? How might you participate in these?
5. What prayer points arise as you think about the call to action in light of your local community?

C. Journal Questions on Article 2, ‘The Whole World’; (Note: The journal points below are based on the first section in the document above, pages 196-206.)

1. What are some biblical aspects of the world and creation that the article notes? How do these help you understand creation care better? How do these points help you understand creation care as a gospel issue?
2. Reflect on the challenges of living in an affluent, consumer-driven society and the need for creation care; OR; Reflect on the challenges of living in an environment affected by environmental degradation and living according to a biblical view of creation care.
3. How is creation impacted by sin? How can it be redeemed? What is the church’s role in this?
4. Reflect on the five commitments at the end of the article. Which would you find most difficult to implement? Which would be easiest? What is the reason for your answers to these questions?

Suggested Activities to Do in Your Community

1. Survey your community and identify areas impacted by a lack of creation care. Plan an activity to address this need. Ideas: garbage pick-up along streets; riverbank clean-up; recycling drive; tree-planting, etc. Use the activity to make new contacts in the community for future gospel proclamation.
2. Form a group that meets regularly to pray for the environment and engages in activities as listed above.
3. Identify an unreached people group impacted by environmental degradation. Pray for this people group and identify ways that your church or group might be able to help address their needs caused by pollution, poor water quality, etc.
4. Show the Lausanne Global Classroom episode on creation care to people in your church or community. Have a discussion afterward using the video discussion questions above.
5. You may also review the assignments from the academic and individual sections below to choose from books to read and find additional activities to do.
Appendix

Suggested Bibliography of Resources on Creation Care

Books:


Doran, Chris. *Hope in the Age of Climate Change: Creation Care This Side of the Resurrection*. Wipf and Stock, 2017.


Articles and Booklets:

*Creation Care and the Gospel: Jamaica Call to Action.*
[https://www.lausanne.org/content/statement/creation-care-call-to-action](https://www.lausanne.org/content/statement/creation-care-call-to-action)


Internet Sources:


Care of Creation. [http://www.careofcreation.net/](http://www.careofcreation.net/)

Lausanne/WEA Creation Care Network. [http://lwccn.com/](http://lwccn.com/)