

Sermon – Discipleship Challenges for Kingdom Builders #4
God and the Earth– Luke Ch10 v 25 - 37

This is the fourth in a six part series, which focuses on the different discipleship challenges that Christians face in their lives. This bible study draws from Nick Hudson's sermon on 10/2/2008 and is a series of readings and questions. The questions have some suggested discussion prompts (listed by a series of bullet points) to help the conversation to flow.

If you are using these questions for a weekly session please use all of the questions. For a fortnightly session please only use the questions in highlighted in italics.

Read Genesis Ch 1 v 1 – 31

Think about how God has made everything, what verses stand out for you in the passage?

In v 28 God gives authority to rule over the earth to Man, what do you think this authority means?

Suggested answers:

- *To work the land*
- *To use the resources from the world*
- *To be caretakers for the world, God is the 'landlord'.*

Read Romans Ch 8 v 18 – 22

How will creation be renewed?

What those verses suggest is that God has a purpose for the creation that will last into eternity. Yes, Revelation talks about a new heaven and a new earth. But the new earth will not be a straight replacement of this one. Rather it'll be this earth renewed, redeemed and restored.

*A document drawn up in 1994 called the Evangelical Declaration on the Care of Creation expresses God's future plans for the Earth as follows: **'God's purpose in Christ is to heal and bring to wholeness not only persons but the entire created order....We believe that in Christ there is hope, not only for men, women and children, but also for the rest of creation... Therefore we call upon all Christians to reaffirm that all creation is God's; that God created it good; and that God is renewing it in Christ.'***

Read Psalm Ch 24

This psalm is a declaration of who God is and reminds us of the fact that God made this world.

Read Psalm Ch 115 v 12 – 18

Who has been given ownership of the world?

What kind of responsibility does that place on our shoulders?

Think of ways in which you could improve your stewardship of the World.

Could be switching off lights, driving you car less, going aboard on a plane less often. Discuss this in groups and draw up an action plan.