

Creation care: the environment crisis



John discussed environmental issues from a biblical perspective. After outlining the present situation, he asked three questions:

A. Why care? Because:

1. It's a 'God issue' - he cares for the world he made and gave humans responsibility for it.
2. It's a 'justice issue' – wealthy nations cause most environmental damage but poorer nations suffer most effects.
3. It's an 'inheritance issue' – what world will we pass on to our children?

B. Why now? Despite all the other current challenges, discussing environmental issues is timely because of:

1. 'Covid lessons' – previous values have been challenged, there is more openness to think and change, we have faced a global threat
2. 'Covid opportunity' – the worldwide need to rebuild economically gives us the possibility to make the kind of changes needed.

C. Why hope? Though the situation seems bleak:

1. God's new creation – he will ultimately renew all things at the return of Jesus; we act in anticipation of this.
2. God at work now – we cannot limit what he will do when his people are faithful.

In conclusion, John encouraged three groups of people

1. Those already active in environmental concerns – to continue, knowing this is a 'God issue'.
2. Those who have not yet engaged with this – to take first steps.
3. All of us – to start a conversation about how respond as a church.

Questions

1. In what ways have your group members already started to help the environment? What has worked well for you?
2. How can we as a church together be faithful to God's concerns for the environment?
3. How can we be a voice in the public concerns about the environment?

Resources

- A Rocha is a Christian environmental charity with many resources <https://arocha.org.uk/>
- *L is for Lifestyle: Christian living that doesn't cost the earth* is a book by Ruth Valerio, with many practical ideas for earth-friendly living.
- Gateway prayer meeting for the environment, 8pm Thu 30th July: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87411223288?pwd=Q1YrUmRBejdwRGs1aTlQUkt5TzBQUt09>