



Trending: Caring for Creation / Week 1

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

Treat creation like God created it.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 24:1-2 NIV
Genesis 1:31a NIV
Genesis 2:15 NIV

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students recognize that God made everything in the world for them and to encourage them to let that truth change the way they think about and interact with creation going forward.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Keep in mind that the content of this week's message—caring for creation—may hit students in all kinds of different ways. For some, it may be the first time they've

ever thought about it! For others, it may be something they've only heard mention of at school or online. You may have some students who are already actively involved in the work of caring for creation, while you may have others who just don't think it's a big deal. Some students may think it's something that doesn't relate to God or church, and others may discover a new connection between God and creation just this week. Be open to the viewpoints, perspectives, and questions that come from your few as you lead this week. It's important to keep your group a safe place for students to express both excitement and interest, as well as skepticism and apprehension about the subjects you're talking about each week.

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here.

DURING GROUP

ICE BREAKER

Share the coolest, most amazing thing you've seen in nature with us! (*Note: Pass out some Trolli Planet Gummies to eat as they share.*)

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE) 1

Ask each of your students to create a list of things they might find in creation (people, animals, plants, sky, etc.) Go outside as a group and have students check off everything on the list they see in the world around them. (Make this fun by going for a walk, playing in the snow, having a dance party in the rain, etc. as you go!) Ask your few to find one thing in nature (that's not an animal!) to bring back with them or have them underline the thing on their list that they connect with the most. (*Note: If your ministry is in the heart of a city, this activity still works! Remember, the people they see, the sky above them, and even each other are all examples of God's creation they can consider during this XP.*)

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE) 2

As you go through the discussion questions, throw an Earth-shaped foam ball to students when it's their turn to talk. If weather and space permits, consider having this conversation outside in creation this week!

DISCUSS THIS

1. What did you choose to bring back from nature? Or what was the thing on your list you connected with the most from creation? Tell us why!
2. On a scale of 1 to 10, how important do you think it is to take care of creation?
3. Why do you think God wants us to care about creation?
4. When it comes to caring for creation, which one of these things do you want to try this week:
 - a. Notice and enjoy what God has created?
 - b. Respect what God has created?
 - c. Treat creation like God created it?