



2025 Lent Creation Care Challenge



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<p>For this season of Lent, challenge yourself to go beyond acting in "stewardship" of the earth--rather, to live in <i>fellowship</i> with God's creation. After all, whether you believe in our existence via Eden or evolution, flora and fauna were here first! Take each day to prayerfully examine how you can better live in harmony with nature.</p>			<p>March 5 Ash Wednesday Did you know Target recycles glass? If you have empty & clean bottles or jars, find the dropoff bins at the front near Starbucks.</p>	<p>6 Need a low cost way for anyone to fix their pet? Check out the North AL Spay & Neuter Clinic in Huntsville. They charge as low as \$55 for cats and \$70 for dogs!</p>	<p>7 Each trip to the grocery store during Lent, grab a canned good or a pet supply item. By Easter, you'll have a small "Easter basket" to donate to a food pantry or rescue!</p>	<p>8 The main cause behind Amazonian deforestation is the global demand for beef. Give Impossible Burgers a try and see if you can taste any difference!</p>
<p>9 Genesis 2:15 "Then Yahweh Elohim took the human and put him in the garden of Eden to tend it (le'obdah) and protect it (lesomrah)." (as cited by Richter, 2020)</p>	<p>10 Print out the "Dirty Dozen," a list of produce grown with heavy pesticide use. Aim to buy organic versions of those foods.</p>	<p>11 The Ocean Cleanup Project has removed 45 million lbs of trash from oceans & rivers around the world. Consider following their projects on social media.</p>	<p>12 Traveling soon? Keep animal ethics in mind. Even seemingly innocent attractions involving animals may actually be harmful for them (like Tiger King).</p>	<p>13 Keep an eye out for dumped "Easter pets" this time of year. Domestic rabbits cannot survive outside on their own. Contact Huntsville House Rabbits if you spot one!</p>	<p>14 Many beekeeping operations harvest all honey from the hive, providing the bees only sugar water in winter. Check if your honey source leaves any honey for the bees!</p>	<p>15 Taking leftovers home from a restaurant? An easy way to reduce waste is to bring reusable to-go containers. Pro tip: get dishwasher & microwave safe ones!</p>
<p>16 Job 12:7-10 "Ask the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you...Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this?"</p>	<p>17 Do you or your kids enjoy feeding park ducks? A diet of too much bread can cause deformities like angel wing. Instead, offer waterfowl lettuce, peas, or cracked corn.</p>	<p>18 Food doesn't break down in landfills. If you haven't already, give composting a try! Don't have a backyard? Vermicompost bins can easily go in garages or mud rooms.</p>	<p>19 Educate yourself on the difference between service, ESA, and therapy dogs. Service dogs are the only classification protected by the ADA in public spaces.</p>	<p>20 Happy first day of Spring! Wildlife baby season is here. Recall that rabbits & deer often leave their babies all day, so don't panic if the babies are alone.</p>	<p>21 Haven't made the switch yet to plant-based milks? Try using them in baking where taste isn't affected (oat milk is great), or mix 50% dairy/50% plant in your cereal or coffee.</p>	<p>22 Can you guess the 3rd most common animal in shelters after dogs & cats? It's rabbits! They make excellent pets, but need ample space and spay/neuter surgeries too.</p>
<p>23 Psalm 24:1 "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."</p>	<p>24 Butterflies need our help! Spring is a great time of year to order inexpensive milkweed seeds. Refrigerate for a few weeks, then plant! Check out Live Monarch Foundation.</p>	<p>25 Sadly, the US still uses countless rabbits, beagles, & pigs to test cosmetics & cleaning products. Buy "Cruelty Free," and check out the Cruelty Cutter app.</p>	<p>26 Bats are vital for the ecosystem (& they eat mosquitoes!), but over 50% of species are at risk of extinction. You can safely provide bats a home. Search "DIY bat house plans."</p>	<p>27 Say you find a wayward pet. Now what? Most vets can scan for a microchip, and social media is an effective tool for reuniting pets with their families.</p>	<p>28 Challenge yourself to limit plastic grocery bags entering your home. Reusable bags are stronger & more colorful anyway! Collapsible ones are very handy for cars or purses.</p>	<p>29 Domestic ducks are often purchased in spring for fun or photoshoots, & then dumped. Contact WEBS (Waterfowl Enthusiasts of Big Spring) if you see ducks in need.</p>
<p>30 Psalm 50:10 "For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills."</p>	<p>31 Do you or someone you know feed wild cats? Keep these kitties safe and help with cat overpopulation by looking up local TNR (trap-neuter-return) programs.</p>	<p>April 1 Got pests in your veggie or flower garden? Try inter-planting herbs to naturally deter them. Lemon balm, mint, rosemary, & thyme are useful (and tasty!) options.</p>	<p>2 Palm oil is used in 60%+ of packaged grocery products. This industry levels forests home to orangutans & tigers. Look for items using RSPO certified sustainable palm oil.</p>	<p>3 Buying new home décor this spring? Check items like throw pillows & duvets to ensure they're free of down. Down feathers are painfully removed from live birds.</p>	<p>4 On Facebook, Buy Nothing groups are where people can give, request, or borrow items for free, all to foster community & reduce waste. See if your area has one!</p>	<p>5 Spring is peak tornado season in the south. Do you have a disaster kit for your family, including your pets? Check out the CDC's website for a pet kit checklist.</p>
<p>6 Leviticus 25:23-24 "The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine...You shall allow a redemption of the land."</p>	<p>7 Clean, clear windows are a danger to birds. Prevent bird strikes by decorating windows with sun catchers or even semi-transparent decals (check out WindowAlert).</p>	<p>8 Instead of buying and throwing away air return filters, try a reusable one! They come in all sizes and last for years. When you'd normally replace it, just spray it with a hose.</p>	<p>9 Storebought berries are pricey. If you have space to grow any, blackberries love AL! The Kiowa variety produces huge, juicy berries, & Natchez are thornless.</p>	<p>10 God included creation care in much of his Levitical law. If you are curious about Israelites' daily interactions with nature, check out Dr. Sandra Richter's book <i>Stewards of Eden</i>.</p>	<p>11 Newsflash: "Save the bees" refers to native bees, not honeybees! Honeybees are easily bred, but native, non honey-producing bees rely on native plants & woodlands.</p>	<p>12 Have you ever fostered a rescue animal? Arguably the easiest fosters are mama cats & their newborn kittens. The rescues often pay for vetting & supplies!</p>
<p>13 1 Peter 4:10 "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."</p>	<p>14 Gratefully, Alabama is not water-scarce, but treating tap water still uses energy. Try 5 min. showers, or the duration of "Saturday Night's Alright (For Fighting)" by Elton John.</p>	<p>15 Say no to glue traps! There are more humane solutions to rodent problems. Glue traps also kill birds, salamanders, chipmunks, and lizards.</p>	<p>16 "Cage free" and "free range" eggs are nebulous terms & don't indicate a significant increase in hen welfare. When purchasing eggs, look for "Pasture raised."</p>	<p>17 Did you know the TVA offers homeowners free home energy audits? Check out energyright.com to see how you can save energy & reduce your power bill!</p>	<p>18 Good Friday Have you donated once to a large organization and now get a ton of junk mail from them? Contact them to remove yourself from their mailing list.</p>	<p>19 Speak with others about serving God's creation. "What you do makes a difference, & you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." -Dr. Jane Goodall</p>