



## ***faith in action***

### ***"The Natural World"***

"Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." Genesis 1:26

**Lesson:** In Genesis 1:26-28, God gives humans "dominion" over the earth and everything in it. Associated with kingship, the Hebrew word for dominion, "radah" has long been misconstrued to mean "domination," and so used to erroneously defend the harsh ecological destruction and cruel injustices that are byproducts of the consumerism, greed and selfish overconsumption especially inherent in industrialized nations. Like ancient Israel's Kings, however, we are instead called to ethically serve as God's viceroys or stewards, protecting, preserving and restoring God's creation to the harmonious goodness God intended in the beginning, while also using the same compassionate care and fair treatment as the Divine Creator, which includes an eye on the oppressed, for all of God's suffering creation.

***This week, put faith in action by...***

#### ***Knowing ☰ Loving ☰ Caring***

Good stewardship takes a caring heart. The first step begins with knowledge. Through familiarity we learn to love, which in turn sparks our desire to nurture and protect.

So this week, try introducing your family to God's wild kingdom by taking a virtual trip...or two...to the San Diego zoo which offers a host of live web cams free, from apes to polar bears and everyone in between!

Daily "check-ins" can help deepen the relationship and encourage your young steward to dig deeper into the challenges these species face, while also working towards solutions that can help bring hope to God's majestic creatures.

<https://zoo.sandiegozoo.org/live-cams>



#### ***The Green Bible...really***

*Ever wonder what scripture really has to say about going green? Then look no further than The Green Bible, the environmental NRSV where the answers to all of your questions are highlighted in green. The Bible that is said by ecological and wildlife organizations to "take creation, stewardship and sustainability seriously," even includes essays and a "Green Trail Study Guide," making quick reference a breeze. And, while the Pharisees may have been hypocrites, Harper Publishing is not. The Green Bible comes on recycled paper with soy ink or can be purchased as a Kindle eBook. A daily devotional companion is also available for purchase and can better help your family make green not just a color choice, but a lifestyle!*

Did you know that bumblebees LOVE the colors purple, blue and yellow, but HATE red?!? Keep this in mind if you want to attract these gentle giant pollinators to your next garden party. They also can get dehydrated so leave out shallow saucers filled with pebbles as a watering station.

## A Goodall Clip (that's *good* for *all* stewards)

Few things say or live conservation better than anthropologist and stewardship role model, Dame Jane Goodall. While her YouTube clip, *Mother Nature*, is secular in nature, her poignant and moving message about the interconnected and interlocking web of nature and our role as caretakers could be taken from the pages of scripture. Its six minutes has the potential of transforming your family's thinking and choices forever.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=48mxaQtbUDU>

When you're done watching the video, *shoot* on over to Goodall's interactive site, [www.rootsandshoots.org](http://www.rootsandshoots.org) which offers not only a vast array of creation friendly information, but also provides youth activities and "1-Click" challenges to help build a more ecologically friendly world for all of earth's inhabitants. This site changes, so be sure to stop by often!

Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus...  
...means NOT leaving a carbon footprint behind you!

Did you ever wonder how big of a carbon footprint you and your family are leaving behind for future generations to step over? Take this online quiz with each of your family members to find out. Then talk about ways you can start to reduce your imprint!

<https://kids.lovetoknow.com/kids-activities/carbon-footprint-calculator-kids~1?question>



## Saving God's Creatures Great and Small... One Popcorn Kernel at a Time

For over 4 decades, the Popcorn Park Zoo in Lacey Township has been rescuing animals from the cruelty of human hands. From exotic wildlife to domestics, monthly sponsorships, ranging from \$5 - \$10 are available. At less than a quarter/day, why not consider helping to keep the *radah* going by creating a family stewardship jar to drop spare change in and then commit to joining the program? You can even choose your foster. Sharing an in-person bucket of popcorn with your adoptee adds a meaningful touch to your family's care and is a great way for your child to see their stewardship in action!



*It has often been said that, where there is life, there is suffering...as well as the presence of God. This week take a quiet moment with your family to remember and pray for the needs of all those in God's natural world who are in pain or distress by lighting a virtual candle for God's Light to shine in this dark world.*

<https://gratefulness.org/light-a-candle/>

