

BE STEWARDS OF GOD'S EARTH

Environmentalism isn't reserved for Earth Day anymore. Now we're deluged year-round with information about saving the earth and combating climate change. Teenagers are taking charge with go-green efforts, raising awareness and leading many local initiatives to reduce their footprint.

God, who created our world and then sent Jesus to be its Savior, charged humans with caring for the planet. By conserving and preserving resources, we act as wise stewards of the land and blessings that God has given us.

The term "green Christianity" refers to the call to action that many believers are now undertaking—not as owners but as caretakers of the earth. There's even a *Green Bible*, which aims to help readers "in the work of healing and sustaining... God's vision for creation."

No matter your political stance on hot topics such as global warming, it's important to respect our earthly home and to model good environmental stewardship to teenagers. It's also important to remind them of the proper reasons and motives for maintaining the earth. By conserving our resources and giving credit to the God who created them in the first place, young people will "shine like stars in the universe" (Philippians 2:15, NIV)—a universe lovingly and masterfully created by the God we worship.

THE VIEW

In a national poll conducted by the Nature Conservancy:

- 73% of teenagers agreed that "previous generations have damaged our environment and left it to our generation to fix it."
- 66% of teens agreed with this statement: "Protection of the environment should be given priority, even at the risk of slowing economic growth."
- 36% of teens expressed interest in "joining an organization made up of and controlled by teens that was taking action to fight climate change."

TIPS >>>

In *Green Like God* (FaithWords), Jonathan Merritt rejects "pop environmentalism" and debunks the following three myths:

- **"Environmentalism is for tree-hugging secularist liberals."** Caring for creation isn't a "right-left issue," Merritt says, but a "moral-immoral issue" that God's people are called to address.
- **"The world is going to end anyway."** When Jesus returns, Merritt wants to be "caught in the act of loving people, worshipping Christ, and obeying all God's commands, including the command to care for his creation."
- **"Creation care distracts us from more important tasks."** Merritt says Christians can do evangelism and creation care simultaneously. A key part of Jesus' Great Commission, he says, is to teach converts to obey all God's commands—including being good stewards of the planet.

Because God wants to commune with us at all times, Merritt says, "he has made the whole world his sanctuary." So when we care for creation, we can encounter God more easily. After all, our Creator even became part of creation when Jesus came to earth as a human being.

Merritt encourages Christians to reject consumerism, avoid "affluenza," and embrace God's "divine plan": "valuing God above all else, loving others, and bestowing on creation the honor and respect that God has given it."

PONDER THIS

- Do you consider yourself an environmentalist? Why or why not? Why do that movement and Christianity often seem to clash?
- How would you rate yourself at being a steward of God's creation? What areas do you and your family need to work on?
- In what ways have your teenagers inspired you to go green or change your habits?





Hope for a Broken World

Expert Insights for Parents of Teenagers

By Josh Griffin

When I prepared a sermon series about the environment, I was surprised to discover how much God talks about this topic. He has created an amazing playground we call earth, and all of creation is proclaiming God's glory.

By looking at creation, we can know several things about God: He watches over and cares for us. He is a rock in times of difficulty, whether that's temptation, failures, or disappointment. Finally, when God speaks, we can trust him.

Teenagers and their families have many opportunities to be faithful stewards of God's creation. You

can be less of a consumer, lower your gas consumption, change your light bulbs, and reuse, recycle, and repurpose. To gain a new perspective, you can also visit a country of "have nots."

Ultimately, the reason we need to save the planet and go green is because it's broken. When Adam and Eve sinned, God's perfect earth became a lost paradise. The Garden of Eden was shattered by sin and disorder and chaos. The kicker is that it's not just the planet that's broken; it's the people, too.

God the Creator sent a Savior, a rescuer for humanity. The "fix" is Jesus, who came to earth as God in

the flesh. He frees us from sin, which we can't do by ourselves. By giving us new life, Jesus makes each of us a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). God realizes our world is broken but gives us a new creation inside of us.

Although this world and its desires will pass away (1 John 2:17), anyone who believes in Jesus, the rescuer of humanity, will live forever with him.

We should all do our part to care for the earth, recognizing the Creator who made it in the first place. But when you hear people talking about saving the planet, remember that God has already taken care of that. He loves you and promises you a new, perfect home in heaven.

—*Save the Planet*

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION



Confirmation Rehearsal & Pictures
Wednesday, May 1
6:00 p.m.
in the Sanctuary

Please remember to bring your picture and CD order forms! No jeans, tennis shoes, or flip flops that evening. Guys may want to wear a collared shirt. Tops of t-shirts will show at the neck of the robes.



Rite of Confirmation
Worship Service
Saturday, May 4
3 p.m.
in the sanctuary

Meet in the Youth Center at
2:30 p.m. to put on robes and
boutineers/corsages.

Spring Retreat Grades 8-12

"Me and the I AM"
A look at our identity

When: April 12-13

Where: Riverside Camp, Story City

Music, lessons, outdoor
adventures, Bible studies and
lots of fun!

Cost is \$30

Registration form included with this mailing and
also available at the youth bulletin board.
Registration and payment deadline is
Wednesday, April 3.



30 Hour Famine April 5-6

Begin your fast at noon on Friday, April 5.
Meet Friday evening at 6 p.m. for check-in
in the Gathering Place just outside the
Youth Center. Please be sure to bring your
pledge packets. The fast ends
Saturday, April 6. We will attend the
5:30 p.m. worship that evening and then
share a buffet style meal afterwards.

Any questions contact Kim Phillips
at tnk4jc1@msn.com

Heart Fest Saturday, June 8 Worlds of Fun, Kansas City, MO

Festival featuring: Casting Crowns, Newsboys, Matthew
West, Building 429, Citizen Way, and KJ-52.

Cost \$40

Your \$40 buys you a ticket into Heart Fest and
admission into Worlds of Fun and Oceans of Fun.
Extra money will be needed that day for
food and souvenirs.

Sign up and payment deadline is Sunday, April 28.

Meet at Gloria Dei at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 8.
We will return to Gloria Dei around 1 a.m. the
morning of Sunday, June 9.



Ticket prices:

\$10 Adults

**\$8 under 10 &
Over 55**



**Gloria Dei Youth Ministry
presents**

All's Fair



Family Fun for Everyone!

Show dates and times:

Friday, April 19 show at 6:30 p.m.

(doors open at 6 p.m.)

Saturday, April 20 show at 6:30 p.m.

(doors open at 6 p.m.)

Sunday, April 21 show at 4 p.m.

(doors open at 3:30 p.m.)

Dinner Choices:

Pork Chop Or Beef Brisket

Children under 10: Corn Dog

Dessert Auction!



DINNER THEATRE

Dinner Theatre servers needed:

Friday, April 19

Saturday, April 20

Sunday, April 21

This is an opportunity for Junior High and
Senior High students to earn \$\$ for
their spiritual account.

Sign-up sheet is on the youth bulletin board.

APRIL 2013

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|-----|---|-------|--|--|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | | | 6:45-8 p.m. Worship/Opening and Small Groups for Jr. and Sr. High Youth in the Family Life Center 8-9 p.m. Dinner Theatre Rehearsal | | | |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 9:30 a.m. Senior High Bible Study 9:50 a.m. Castaway 11:20 a.m. Castaway 12:15-2 p.m. Dinner Theatre Rehearsal | | | 6:45-8 p.m. Worship/Opening and Small Groups for Jr. and Sr. High Youth in the Family Life Center 8-9 p.m. Dinner Theatre Rehearsal | | | |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 9:30 a.m. Senior High Bible Study 9:50 a.m. Castaway 11:20 a.m. Castaway 12:15-2 p.m. Dinner Theatre Rehearsal | 6-8:30 p.m. Tech rehearsal for Dinner Theatre | | 6:45-8 p.m. Worship/Opening and Small Groups for Jr. and Sr. High Youth in the Family Life Center 8-10 p.m. Dinner Theatre dress rehearsal | | 6:30 p.m. Dinner Theatre performance (doors open at 6 p.m.) | 6:30 p.m. Dinner Theatre performance (doors open at 6 p.m.) |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 9:30 a.m. Senior High Bible Study 9:50 a.m. Castaway 11:20 a.m. Castaway 4:00 p.m. Dinner Theatre performance (doors open at 3:30 p.m.) | | | End of the year party! 5-6 p.m. Free dinner at Gloria Dei 6-7:30 Bowling at Merle Hay Lanes. Cost is \$5 for shoes and as many games as you can bowling up to 7:30 p.m. | | 6-9 p.m. Café 923 | |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | May 1 | | | May 4 |
| 9:30 a.m. Senior High Bible Study 9:50 a.m. Castaway 11:20 a.m. Castaway | | | 6 p.m. Confirmation rehearsal and pictures in the sanctuary. | | | 3 p.m. Rite of Confirmation worship service |

**Deadline to sign up and
pay for Heart Fest .**