

KILL-A-WATT BIBLE STUDY

- by Beckie Simpson

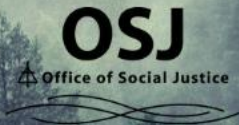


Christian Reformed Church
Worship
Ministries



CLIMATE
WITNESS
PROJECT

CALVIN INSTITUTE OF
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP



— Kill-a-Watt Bible Study 2017 —

Week One - What does the CRC have to say about Sustainability and the Creation Story

Key Ideas: Calvin College is affiliated with the Christian Reformed Church. Here is a brief look at their beliefs on creation care. God values his creation and expects us to do the same.

I. Reading

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it," says Psalm 24:1, and just as God placed human beings "in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it" (Gen. 2:15), so the Lord calls us, the crown of his creation (Ps. 8:5), to be stewards of his natural world. As a church we "affirm a commitment to work vigorously to protect and heal the creation for the glory of the Creator, as we wait for the restoration of the creation to wholeness" (Agenda for Synod 2010, p. 46).

"We lament that our abuse of creation has brought lasting damage to the world we have been given: polluting streams and soil, poisoning the air, altering the climate, and damaging the earth. We commit ourselves to honor all God's creatures and to protect them from abuse and extinction, for our world belongs to God" (Our World Belongs to God, para. 51).

We uphold "biblical principles of responsible dominion, care, and stewardship of creation," recognizing that our continually growing knowledge about God's world should "guide us in our love of God and neighbors, including care for the creation"; "even when scientific uncertainties are taken into account," we are compelled to address "human-induced climate change" as "an ethical, social justice, and religious issue"; we are therefore called to be "voices for justice and public examples in the effort to live sustainably within our God-given resources, to promote stewardship in our own communities and our

nations,” and to “examine energy choices” in our daily life and work “from a perspective of stewardship, challenging ourselves to use less energy and to use it more wisely” while seeking “justice for the poor and vulnerable among us and for future generations” (Acts of Synod 2012, pp. 803-805).

II. Discussion

- What does it mean to be a steward?
- What do you think it means by “human-induced climate change”?
- What are ways the church as an institution could take action surrounding creation care?
- How can we as individuals promote creation care?

III. Read Genesis 1

IV. Discussion

- What does this passage say about the relationship of humankind to the rest of creation?
- What does this passage say about the relationship of God to the rest of creation?
- What associations come to mind when you read the words “subdue” and “dominion” in verse 1:26?

V. Closing Reflection

The statement we read by the CRC demonstrates the church’s stance on the issue of sustainability. Though often over looked, creation care is another issue that we as the church are called to address. In the creation story, we see that God values his creation. There is also the idea of God giving humans dominion over the earth. God is calling his people to take care of creation and to be stewards of it. This is a call that expands to today as well. Reflect on what implications this has on your life and how you are called to be a steward.

VI. Prayer

Week Two - The Earth Cursed

Key Idea: Due to the fall of humankind, creation was also cursed and longs to be redeemed.

I. Read Genesis 3

II. Discussion

- What was the essence of Adam and Eve's temptation? - What areas of life were cursed as a result of Adam and Eve's sin? Were any areas left untouched?
- Adam and Eve's sin also had consequences for the natural world. What were they and what does this say about the connection between the condition of nature and humankind's sin?

III. Read Romans 8:18-25

IV. Discussion

- How does this passage further illuminate the connection between the natural world and our sin or righteousness?
- What promises does this passage hold about the future of the earth? - As we wait for the earth to be renewed what should we do? How should we feel?

V. Closing Reflection

The fall of humankind created conflict for the natural world as well. As we attempt to be Christ's agents of renewal in the world, we also need to redeem the earth through our actions towards it.

VI. Prayer

Week Three - Renewal of the Earth

Key Idea: God will renew the earth, but we must act now.

I. Read Revelation 21:1-8, Revelation 22:1-5

II. Discussion

- Revelation 21:5 says "I am making everything new!" What do you think this means for the earth? How do you think that looks?
- What do you think it means that John takes such pains to describe the beauty and richness of God's city?
- Do you think the Revelation 22 passage is referring directly to the garden of Eden?

III. Closing Reflection

Though on this earth there is destruction and pollution, Jesus will return and the earth will be renewed. We must do our part as Christ's disciples to join him in that mission for the earth at present.

IV. Prayer

Resources:

<https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/position-statements/creation-care>

<http://www.flourishonline.org/2011/03/five-basic-creation-care-bible-studies/>

— Kill-a-Watt Dorm Worship 2017- Directions —

The purpose of this dorm worship will be engaging with how sustainable lifestyles connect to our Christian faith. Below is a rough outline of what the dorm worship will include. Feel free to choose your own songs and use your own ideas, but be in communication with your sustainability coordinators! They will be an essential part to this worship service. One more important note, you will need to count how many people are at dorm worship that night so your dorm can get points for Kill-a-Watt.

I. Lead with your normal activities such as singing, welcoming, etc.

II. Read Psalm 104

Psalm 104 is a Psalm filled with imagery of God's relationship with creation. In this passage we see how God cares for and controls creation. Feel free to expand on the importance of the psalm.

III. Sustainability Coordinators Testimony

Sustainability coordinators have been asked to share why they are interested in sustainability and how they see it connect with their faith.

IV. Commitment to some sustainable lifestyle practice

In this time you can do a breakout discussion about what lifestyle challenges people have signed up for and what they hope to continue after Kill-a-watt. You could also provide notecards and writing utensils so people can make a written commitment.

V. Proceed with normal closing

Find more creation care worship resources at justice.crcna.org/worship