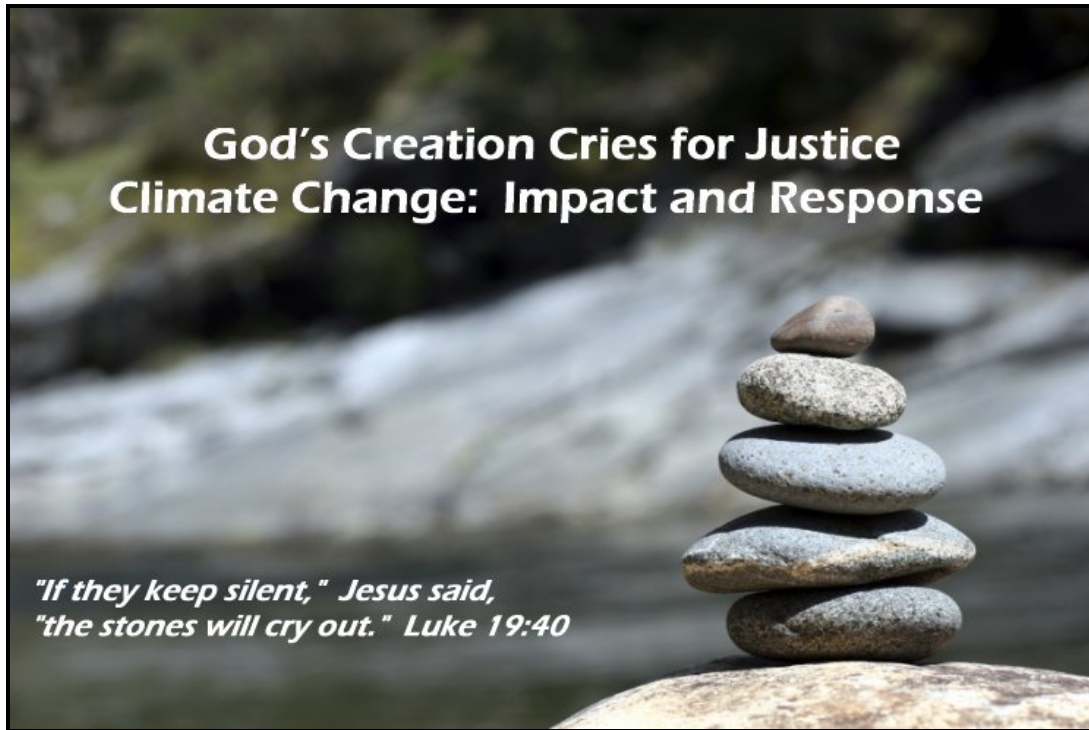


Just **MATTERS** *Just*-FAITH



Sample Material

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Catholic Climate Covenant
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

**Catholic Coalition on
Climate Change**

**United States Conference
of Catholic Bishops:**

**Department of Justice
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Catholic Charities USA

**The Catholic Health
Association of the United
States**

Catholic Relief Services

**The Conference of Major
Superiors of Men**

**The Franciscan Action
Network**

**The Leadership
Conference of Women
Religious**

**The National Catholic
Rural Life Conference**

Dear Participant:

Thank you for your interest in the moral questions and faith commitments related to our changing climate. In this module, *God's Creation Cries for Justice*, we hope you find thought-provoking material, challenging discussions and inspiration to do your part to protect God's gift of this planet for future generations and ensure that our brothers and sisters who live in poverty may be able to adapt to what may come as a result of global warming.

Since 2006, the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change has helped Catholic organizations—including the premier social ministry formation organization, JustFaith Ministries—to connect Catholic social teaching on the environment with the issue of climate change. We value our partnership with JustFaith and are pleased to offer our assistance in developing this module. We believe our partnership has produced a top-tier resource for JustFaith graduates and others interested in a Catholic response to this issue.

The primary goal of the CCCC is to assist the U.S. Church to more fully implement the bishops' 2001 statement Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good (this statement will be an important part of your initial introduction into this issue). We have done this by developing educational materials (and promoting the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' resources), convening scientists, theologians and other stakeholders in the climate change debate, assisting in the formulation of public policy, and collaborating with other national Catholic organizations such as JustFaith Ministries.

Finally, the Coalition launched a key organizing tool to help Catholic individuals, families, parishes, schools and other organizations more fully integrate understanding and action on climate change. The *Catholic Climate Covenant: St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor* has been embraced by thousands of Catholics and may help you in your efforts to stimulate action on this issue.

We hope you come to see the CCCC as a reliable source of information on the religious response to this emerging moral issue.

Sincerely,

Dan Misleh
Executive Director

Kolya Braun-Greiner
Program Assistant
Lead Author for *God's Creation
Cries for Justice*

God's Creation Cries for Justice, Climate Change: Impact and Response

Author Kolya Braun-Greiner

Born and raised in Michigan, Kolya earned her B.S. in anthropology and art from Central Michigan University ('79). She later attended Union Theological Seminary in New York City ('92), M.Div., where she focused her studies on liturgy expressed through lay leadership, as well as the theology of ecology. Kolya served on the staff of United Methodist Women ('92-'00) where she addressed social justice issues of poverty, health, education, and violence among women and children. An experienced facilitator, Kolya has led groups on peace, the environment, and Native American land rights, advocacy for farm workers, and non-violence in the tradition of Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. She has published faith-based curricula and numerous devotional resources for youth and adults communicating the spiritual roots for social engagement in justice-making. Kolya currently lives with her family in Takoma Park, MD and works for the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change.

General Comments

Welcome to the JustMatters module on climate change!

You have chosen to facilitate a discussion on one of the most pressing issues of our time, global climate change. This is an issue that will have great impact on the quality of life for future generations. You need not be an expert to lead this group; rather, you are a facilitator-learner. You will be learning along with the group, and, in so doing, you will experience the process of deepening your awareness to this issue together with the other participants.

We are very grateful to be working with you. The JustFaith Ministries office attempts to make the role of facilitation as easy as possible and our staff are always available for your questions and concerns. Working together, we are determined that you and your group will have a great experience.

JustFaith Ministries has worked very closely with the module's developer, the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change. This module is based on the important ongoing work of their office and reflects their most current efforts in education and advocacy.

As with other JustFaith programs, this module is not intended to be an exhaustive factual analysis of the issue, but more of an immersion into the issue from the perspective of Catholic social teaching. Therefore, the syllabus materials focus on poverty and highlight the themes of Catholic social teachings related to the environment. The primary focus of this program is on the theme, "Care of God's Creation."

Facilitators will find everything you need to coordinate the module program in this guide. Resource ordering information is at the end of this document. The Facilitator Timetables (pages 9 and 10 in this document) includes responsibilities and suggested timing for each item. These timetables should be printed as soon as they are received and kept handy for ready reference. In addition, the material for each session includes a list of the items needed to prepare for each session.

Every session begins with a *Note to Facilitators* that will provide information pertinent to the focus of the session and other useful information. We have also incorporated a *Note to Participants* for every session. These will be part of the assigned reading for each session and will help participants understand and integrate the resource material.

An Action/Reflection Model

A method of education shown to be effective in generating creativity, awareness and understanding uses *participatory learning* and is known as “popular education.” We will be using this educational method in this module. Participants will have an experience – e.g., viewing a video, engaging in a role play, sharing in dyads (two people sharing a conversation) – and then *reflect on their experience*. This reflection then becomes a new base of knowledge to inform the next experience/action. This educational method is like a spiral where the participant starts at one place on the spiral as s/he learns through doing, and then in reflecting on the experience comes to a new place on the spiral. Paulo Freire used this method for teaching literacy with the poor in Brazil.

As you and the other participants learn together, experience together and reflect together on the spiritual, scientific and moral implications of global climate change, you will be engaging in a transformation of consciousness. This new consciousness can be an impetus for taking the actions needed for the healing of God's creation.

Dealing with Grief and Despair

Exploring the issue of global climate change will not be merely an intellectual exercise. As you prepare for this study, you may find the information sobering at best and possibly even overwhelming. Facing the magnitude of the impact of global warming may create feelings of grief and loss as participants examine the suffering of human and non-human beings on the planet. Expressions of grief and loss can be a *healthy response*. Joanna Macy, in her work on despair and empowerment, points out that tremendous energy is utilized in our attempts to push aside, bury or deny information about potentially catastrophic events such as global warming and climate change. When we acknowledge the pain and grief we feel about the possibility of such catastrophic events, we release a tremendous amount of energy for taking healing action for the planet and its inhabitants.

As facilitator, it is important that you give careful and sensitive attention to creating a *safe environment for group sharing of both ideas and feelings*. Assure participants that they may *share at whatever level they are comfortable*. Some suggested ground rules *for discussion and sharing* are provided in the module to enhance the comfort level for group participation.

Framing the Issue of Climate Change to Motivate Action

For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control.
(2 Timothy 1:7)

This module attempts to frame the issue of climate change within the context of our faith. Spiritual resources and reflections are woven throughout the module and are provided to inform and inspire participants' responses to climate change. The approach taken in the module is that participant action will be based upon the teachings of scripture and the Christian faith, teachings that value stewardship for God's creation and justice for the poor.

Experts in the communication and marketing fields pay careful attention to how they “frame” their message, i.e., they carefully calculate how a message is received and what effect it will produce. In the case of global warming, if we “frame” it as a scary scenario, it tends to evoke feelings of being overwhelmed and powerlessness to make a difference and causes people to distance themselves from the threat. On the other hand, studies by the Frameworks Institute, Inc. show that a cause is best served when an issue is “framed” in the context of values such as stewardship, responsibility and vision. They proposed that when actions are viewed as consistent with prudence, compassion and forward thinking, people are motivated and empowered to act. These are key concepts embedded in the module you are about to experience.

Session Content

The following is a brief snapshot of the sessions and their content:

Session 1: Awe and Gratitude for Creation

Reflections on our place and responsibility in God's creation. Why study this? Some introductory projections for future generations. Group soundings/sharings about the subject and our commitment.

Session 2: Awakening to Awareness

An introduction to the climate change crisis. Theology of ecology and virtues of stewardship, prudence and the common good inform our faith and action.

Session 3: Voices from the Scientific Community

Sharing our responses and reflections. In the face of the facts presented, how do we deal with fear, dread and feelings of powerlessness?

Session 4: Voices of the Vulnerable

Looks at the poor and marginalized especially the Pacific Islanders, and how they are directly impacted. Social justice connections are discussed.

Session 5: Voices of the Vulnerable (continued)

Environmental racism discussed. Impact on poor communities of color and poor communities in Appalachia. Offers ideas from Catholic social teaching to inform our actions.

Session 6: Signs of Hope

What are people doing to address climate change now? Where do we find resources to do these things ourselves? Conduct "Energy Literacy" research. Where and what are your sources of energy? Participants find their "Carbon Footprint."

Session 7: Immersion Experience or Guest Speaker

An action, engagement, field trip, guest speaker or immersion experience that sheds light on the implication of climate change and activities we can take to ameliorate it.

Session 8: Where Do We Go From Here?

What actions are we committed to taking? Faith commitment to reduce our carbon footprint. Living toward a sustainable future, strengthened by faith community. “Living simply so that others simply live.” (Dorothy Day) Commitment Ceremony and planting our hopes for the future.

Planning

In terms of planning, your most immediate task will be to determine and set up the Immersion event or guest speaker(s). Please take a moment to read the Session Seven Note to Facilitator and **Immersion Experience or Guest Speaker Ideas in Session Seven for some ideas. This may be a group decision since participants may have their own ideas and contacts. This experience can be inserted into the program whenever scheduling permits, adjusting other sessions accordingly.**

Depending on logistics and/or availability of speakers, this may take the most lead time. Session 8 also needs some advance planning for the tree planting ceremony scheduled during the closing commitment ceremony. *It is important that facilitators look at Sessions 7 and 8 and at the “Notes to Facilitators” well in advance of the sessions to prepare for both of these sessions, to consider the timing of these sessions and to evaluate the options.*

A Word of Encouragement

You are about to begin a process that will, hopefully, have a life-changing impact. Your willingness to accept the responsibility of facilitating indicates your deep care and concern for God's creation and your hopes for generating action. Please give *yourself* time for prayer and reflection as you proceed through the module. Search for God's guidance and inspiration throughout your journey. Take time to listen for the cries of God's creation, cries for justice and compassion, and also create time to “smell the flowers” and “Notice how the flowers grow. They do not toil or spin.” (Luke 12:27) It is important that you, the facilitator, take this kind of time, for herein you can find the joy to sustain you for the prophetic work ahead!

Logistics

Some parishes will run one group for this program and others will run several groups concurrently. The ideal group size for this program is twelve to sixteen people because the program uses group discussion as a major element.

Facilitators are to work with parish staff to identify dates, times and locations for this program. This program can be done in the homes of parishioners. Use the usual parish channels for promotion (bulletin, newsletters, announcements, bulletin board, etc.)

Participant Packet

The various readings, notes to participants and prayers that accompany each session are included in a separate document that will need to be photocopied and placed into a ½ inch three-ring binder for each participant before the first session. Often parish staffs have binders available and can offer a volunteer to help you photocopy and prepare these packets.

When a particular prayer or other session document is included with the Participant packet, it is also reproduced in its proper place within the session in the facilitator’s manual with the note **“Ask participants to refer to their packet for Session --: Attachment --”** No copying is necessary and participants follow along with their packet.

Purchasing Materials

Pay particular attention to the Resources pages toward the end of this document, which list and describe the materials needed for the module and how to order them. A concerted effort has been made to keep all JustFaith materials within a reasonable price range.

Also, an effort has been made to have all program materials available through a single distributor (Sowers Books and Videos), making the ordering process significantly easier while maintaining the lowest possible prices. See the Resources pages for ordering information near the end of this document. These materials should be ordered well in advance of the first session.

Reading

Almost every session includes some kind of reading assignment. It is critical that participants be deliberate and committed to the reading. The printed materials used in the module hold great learning potential for participants. Of course, some participants will find the reading assignments easy and very manageable; others may struggle, for a variety of reasons.

Registration with the JustFaith Ministries Office

It is requested that every participant and facilitator register with the JustFaith Ministries office. This assists in ongoing communications with participants and in tracking the breadth, scope and needs of the program. The materials for Session One contain a registration table that is to be completed by all participants and facilitators and *returned to our office within the first two sessions of the program*. Please copy and have all participants and facilitators complete this form during the first session. Please mail these forms by the end of the second session to:

JustFaith Ministries Office
P.O. Box 221348
Louisville, KY 40252

Alternately, a Word version of the table is included in the initial mailing. It can be filled in and returned to david@justfaith.org.

Thank you for your help and follow through on this very important element of the program.



Session One

Note to Facilitators – Awe and Gratitude for Creation

As we begin to face the difficult reality of climate change through study, prayer and action together, we begin with gratitude in the **Opening Prayer**. Having an attitude of gratitude or thanksgiving bolsters us for the work ahead. It gives joy and meaning to our calling to care for and be good stewards of God's creation.

Session One provides opportunities for community building as participants connect with and learn about one another's motivations for participation in the group. As Session One proceeds, we begin an initial foray into the spiritual and scientific implications of climate change.

The **Welcome** segment aims to provide an important antidote for those who may be feeling some anxiety about tackling such a big subject. This Welcome segment is intended to affirm these feelings and to draw strength from them rather than be immobilized by them. As facilitator, you may want to add your own comments to those provided for this introduction and welcome.

As the group shares responses during the **Introductions**, monitor the time carefully so that no one takes up too much time. Ahead of time, calculate the number of people in your group and divide it into the amount of time allotted (30 minutes and 35 minutes) to give you a rough idea of about how much time each person would have to speak. Being sensitive to others is addressed in the **Group Guidelines**. You may want to review these Guidelines with everyone after the Opening Prayer and before the Introductions, or you may want to simply encourage everyone to speak within the timeframe allotted.

During the sharing times, be sensitive to those who may be quieter than others, noting whether they seem overwhelmed, upset or at a loss for words. This kind of observation on your part will be called upon throughout the sessions. If you sense such responses, be respectful of their feelings and check in with them when the session ends.

The introductory film, “Stewards of the Earth,” will provide an entry into the issue of global climate change from a theological and scientific standpoint. When the film ends, ask for brief responses to the film. Ask participants to share only one or two words or a short phrase and to not engage dialog or cross-talk at this time. The goal of this activity is to get a “quick read” and review of how everyone experienced the information they just received. These quick responses will be referred to as “popcorn responses” in the session. For some, this may be totally new and daunting information. For others, it may be “old hat,” especially if they have kept abreast of the topic in recent months and years. While it may be challenging to have several different levels of understanding in the group, hopefully you can capitalize on this by suggesting that those have been grappling with this issue for some time offer their ideas for coping and responding to those who are newer to the issue.

Session One Components

Participants Will Have:

- Read “Note to Participants” for Session One
- Brought a “sacred item” from nature

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Preparation for Session One

- Review Session One information.
- Copy participant registration roster (Session One: Attachment A)
- Copy evaluation instrument for facilitators and participants (Session One: Attachments B and C)
- Finalize your own list of participants and copy if desired. You may want to provide it to others especially if people might want to organize car-pooling.
- Locate copies of the booklet Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good for distribution.
- Gather participant resource Packets for distribution.
- Locate the “Stewards of the Earth” DVD and assure DVD player and TV will be available.
- Send the welcome letter as described in the Facilitator Timetable.
- Ask participants to bring a special and meaningful object from nature. (This is mentioned in the Notes to Participants for Session One.) This can also be communicated in a welcome letter, email or phone.
- Gather prayer items: a small table, cloth, a pillar candle, Bible and matches. Prepare the newsprint blessing as directed in the Closing Prayer. Option: Inquire whether you have any in your group who would be familiar with the Marty Haugan’s “Canticle of the Sun.” Ask them if they would be willing to lead the group in singing it during the opening prayer and blessing. Have the words printed for the group to sing or read.
- Bring a bell for signaling beginnings and endings of discussion or activities.
- Locate an easel and newsprint, masking tape, and markers.
- Prepare an overview of this program for segment below.
- Prepare three sheets of newsprint for “Popcorn Responses” with one of these words or phrases at the top of each page (Feelings, Discovery or New Idea, Spiritual or Theological Concept).
- Arrange for someone to bring snacks, if desired.
- Create a snack sign-up sheet if desired.

Timing of this Session

Activity	Minutes
Welcome	5
Opening prayer	15
Introductions Part I	30
Break	10
Business and announcements	15
Overview	15
Introductions Part II	30
View and discuss DVD	20
Closing prayer and blessing	10
Total	150

Welcome (5 minutes)

Warmly welcome everyone, letting them know how glad and excited you are to be going on this journey with them and offering other opening comments of your choice.

Share these words:

As we begin our time together, we are embarking on a journey. As the farmer-poet Wendell Berry has said: “. . . the world cannot be discovered by a journey of miles, no matter how long, but only by a spiritual journey, a journey of one inch, very arduous and humbling and joyful, by which we arrive at the ground of our feet, and learn to be at home.”

Like any spiritual journey, our exploration of the impacts of climate change will take us to some very difficult and painful places. We will hear some dire predictions for our future and for future generations. We will also learn about solutions and exciting possibilities for living life in greater harmony with the earth.

There will be grief and sorrow expressed for the losses already occurring and those yet to occur on this planet, God's creation. Our pain for the planet is in fact a sign of our love for it. Our grief for God's creation is evidence of our deep interdependence upon it.

We can move through the sorrow because it stems from our deepest wishes to love and care for God's handiwork. In so doing we call upon the ultimate source of love – God – to strengthen us and uphold us for the work that God is calling us to. We will have time and space to share these feelings and uphold one another with compassion.

But our beginning shall be in gratitude and blessing. As we embrace God's creation with gratitude, awe, and wonder we under gird ourselves for the task ahead. When we center ourselves on thankfulness for the blessings of this wondrous earth, we acknowledge that we didn't make this garden, it is a gift. Thankfulness is a daily prayer practice that will carry us through for the long haul. Gratitude is a powerful antidote for hopelessness.

Let us begin this journey together with prayer.

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Opening Prayer (15 minutes)

Setting

You will need: a candle (unlit), a Bible, prayer cloth.

Symbols: participants will add the symbols to be used for each session

Ask participants to refer to their packet for Session One: Attachment A. Light the candle as the prayer begins, saying the words on Attachment A. (After each session, make sure you collect and save the “sacred nature items” for use during prayer in later sessions.)

Participant Packet **Opening Prayer**

Facilitator: May the Light that came into the world dwell within us all.

Reading: Based on Psalm 148

All: **Praise God! Praise the Creator from the heavens; praise God in the heights!**

Reader 1 Praise the Creator, all God's angels; praise the Creator, all God's host!

Reader 2 Praise the Creator, sun and moon; praise God, all you shining stars!

Reader 3 Praise the Creator, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

All: **Let them praise the name of the Creator, for God commanded and they were created.**

Reader 4 God established them forever and ever; God fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Reader 5: Praise the Creator from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling God's command!

Reader 6: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

Reader 7: Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Reader 8: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and women alike, old and young together!

All: **Let them praise the name of the Creator, for God's name alone is exalted;
God's glory is above earth and heaven. Praise the Lord!**

Participants now bring their nature objects and place them on the worship center. As each person comes forward, he or she says:

Praise God for this _____.
It brings me joy because (a few brief words). God said "It is good."

After the whole group has finished presenting their objects:

in light of the topic.)

7. Distribute a meeting schedule. Ask if there are questions about meeting dates or location.

Review Group Guidelines (5 minutes)

Ask participants to refer to their packet for Session One: Attachment B. Take turns reading the “Group Guidelines” document. Then ask the participants if they can all agree to use these guidelines for discussion and dialogue throughout the program.

Overview of the Program (15 minutes)

Present a general overview of the program. Review and prepare comments from introductory materials in the front of this document. Ask if there are questions.

2nd Reflection

The following reflection is to be read aloud by the facilitator or a participant.

Hildegard was a Benedictine mystic of the 12th century, an abbess, musician, artist, healer, theologian, prophet, and scientist, who wrote about the divine interconnectedness of the whole cosmos. In Nature, God established humankind in power.

We are dressed in the scaffold of creation:
in seeing – to recognize all the world,
in hearing – to understand,
in smelling – to discern,
in touching – to govern.

In this way humankind comes to know God,
for God is the author of all creation.

From: Gabriele Uhlein. Meditations with Hildegard of Bingen (Rochester, VT: Bear and Co, 1983) page 104.

Introductions Part II (35 minutes)

As Hildegard says, we have been blessed with power to recognize all the world, to understand, to discern and to govern. Let us take time now to share with one another what we know from our experiences of God's creation in light of climate change.

- What motivated you to come to this small faith group discussion on care for God’s creation.
- In their June 2001 statement, *Global Climate Change: A Pleas for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good*, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops state, “As Catholic bishops, we make no independent judgment on the plausibility of “global warming.” Rather, we accept the consensus findings of so many scientists and the conclusions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climage Change as a basis for continued research and prudent action.” Have you witnessed evidence of climate change? If so, what?
- In the same statement, the Bishops state, “As people of faith, we are convined that ‘the earth is the Lord’s and all it holds’ (Ps 24:1) . . .We believe our response to global climate change should be a sign

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of our respect for God's creation." What action do you currently take in an effort to be a good steward of creation?

View and Discuss DVD (20 minutes)

View the first segment of the DVD "Stewards of the Earth" (9-10 minutes). Stop at "Enacting Change: What We Can Do." While viewing the video, ask participants to notice the graph at the bottom of the depiction of a warming spinning globe – the rising levels of carbon in the atmosphere over time. Ask them to observe their responses in these three categories and jot them down:

1. Feelings as they watch the video
2. Discoveries or new ideas
3. Spiritual concepts

After the viewing the video (10 minutes)

1. In quick phrases ("Popcorn Responses are just a few words, no dialog or cross talk), go around the group and have each person name the feelings they wrote down.
2. As a second round, do the same with discoveries or new ideas.
3. For round three, go around the group and name spiritual concepts.

Encourage the participants to journal about their responses further during the coming week.

Closing Remarks

Our readings for the next session will delve deeper into the theological resources of our faith, Catholic teachings on the environment and a challenge from the Catholic Bishops addressing climate change. Please take note of those ideas which you find challenging and those you find hopeful. You are also invited to journal about your feelings and responses to the readings.

Closing Prayer (10 minutes)

Ask participants to refer to their packet for Session One: Attachment C. Have the words for the blessing on newsprint for all to see.



Session Two

Note to Facilitators – Awakening to Awareness

During this session we begin to wake up to and to delve into the facts of climate change and the theological basis for an environmental ethic. The prayers and reflections are aimed to support our being “awakened into consciousness,” as Sr. Miriam McGillis puts it. Being awake and alive opens us up to the pain of the world, and it is a much more receptive, open place to be, rather than shut down, numb and in denial of what is happening to our planet-home. As we awaken into consciousness, the emotional impact of climate change may begin to emerge. Be sensitive to the emotional temperature of participants as their awareness opens to the magnitude of this issue, and assure them that this is a normal, *healthy* response to this threat to life as we know it.

Hopefully, the group has awakened to some voice they heard in nature that spoke to them this week. Sharing this voice in the first person may be a little uncomfortable for some. Encourage them as they venture a bit outside of their comfort zone, for it is here that much learning takes place. The upshot is that by being awake to these voices of distress or suffering, we also are more open to the joy, blessing and gift of life. Being awake to these voices will help everyone go out in joy at the end of this session. Sharing this voice will also provide another opportunity for participants to build trust with one another as they listen to each other talk about the impact this global crisis has on them.

Your role as a facilitator throughout this module is vital to creating an environment in which the feelings expressed are *allowed and welcomed*. Resist the urge to fix, provide solutions or help them feel better; rather, encourage everyone through affirmation and support. Also, emphasize the role of the listener during the sharing times. It is very important that each person engage in *active listening*, as if their whole body were an ear.

The video is poignant and moving. For some, considering climate change a justice issue may be a new idea. Be prepared for some emotional responses to the first discussion question, especially when the images of the poor and children are considered. Consider your own responses as you prepare for the group this week.

During this session we begin to unpack the impact of climate change on the most vulnerable in society, which is a central concern in the teachings of the Church. These discussions can be fruitful conversations about the meaning of our faith in light of the climate change challenge. The time spent exploring Catholic social doctrine and virtues will give participants a foundation for the discernment and movement toward action they will do in later sessions.

It is important to note that the virtues of Prudence, Common Good and Stewardship are generally not part of our everyday language, let alone public policy discussions. These are, however, virtues we can use to guide many of our daily decisions, such as the purchases we make, the sources of energy we use, the way we spend our time and public policies we support. There will be more discussion about making these daily decisions in Sessions 6, 7 and 8.

Session Two Components

Participants Will Have:

- Read Global Climate Change (USCCB), except last section on “The Science . . .”
- Read “Faithful Citizenship and Climate Change” by Daniel Misleh. *Journal of Religion and Society*, 2008 Supplement Series 4. pp. 150-63. <http://moses.creighton.edu/JRS/2008/2008-36.html>
- Read “For Benedict, environmental movement promises recovery of natural law tradition” (John Allen)
- Read “Note to Participants for Session Two”
- Completed journal reflections for the week

Preparation for Session Two

- Review Session Two information.
- Locate the video “God's Creation and Global Warming” and assure availability of video player and TV.
- Post the response to the closing blessing: **All: For you shall go out in joy . . .**
- Prepare three sheets of newsprint with the words/definitions as described in the discussion of Social Doctrine on Environment below.
- Locate masking tape, extra newsprint sheets, and water-based markers.
- Locate bell for signaling beginnings and endings of discussion or activities.
- Gather prayer items: candle, cloth, “sacred” nature objects from last session.

Timing of this Session

Activity	Minutes
Opening prayer	20
View and discuss video	40
1 st Reflection	15
Break	10
Business	5
2 nd Reflection	5
Reading and discussion of social doctrine on environment	45
Closing prayer and blessing	10
Total	150

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Opening Prayer (20 minutes)

Set up prayer space using the cloth, candle and “sacred nature items.” **Ask participants to refer to their packet for Session Two: Attachment A.**

View and Discuss Video (40 minutes)

Watch the video “God's Creation and Global Warming.” (15 minutes)

Then direct the group discussion using some of the following questions. (25 minutes)

- What are my emotional responses to the images in the video?
Why do I feel what I feel?
- How might God be able to use these emotions?
- What messages did you hear echoed from those found in the readings? (Look for common threads or themes)
- We heard “Climate change offends God's justice.” How is this true?
- Father Ojibway stated that “Global Warming has its greatest impact on those least likely to do anything about it: the poor, the marginal, the indigenous, the tribal, the underdeveloped.”
What does our faith say in response to this challenge?

1st Reflection (15 minutes)

Read or have a participant read the following reflections

The breeze at dawn
Has secrets to tell you
Don't go back to sleep
You must ask
For what you really want
Don't go back to sleep
People are going back and forth
Across the doorsill
Where the two worlds touch
The door is round and open
Do not go back to sleep
~~Rumi

Pause

The human being in whom the earth has become spiritually aware, has awakened into consciousness, has become self-aware and self-reflecting. In the human, the earth begins to reflect on itself. In our deepest definition and deepest subjectivity, we humans are the earth. Conscious.

~~Sr. Miriam Therese McGillis, founder of Genesis Farm

Pause

We are being called to consciousness, to be awake and alive in this moment of human history.

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Exercise:

In groups of two the first person will answer the following question:

In this time of global crisis, I find the most difficult thing is . . .

Ring the bell after two minutes. And then ask the following question.

In this time of global crisis, what I most appreciate about being alive at this moment in time is . . .

Ring the bell after two minutes and then invite the next person to start. Repeat the questions and the bell ringing. Allow two minutes per question per person (total of 8 minutes). Participants should listen attentively to the person answering the question.

Break (10 minutes)

Business and Preparation for Session Three (5 minutes)

- Assign reading for next week: Pew's Climate Change 101, the section from Global Climate Change on “The Science of Global Climate Change” and Note to Participants for Session Three
- Ask participants to look for news items covering issues on climate change and bring them to the next session. We will “share the news” together. At the next session we will have time for two or three news items and thereafter one person will offer a news item for discussion for each session.
- Remind the person who is responsible for bringing a snack to the next session.
- Assign this journal reflection for this week: Reflect on the Bishops' statement: “A renewed sense of sacrifice and restraint could make an essential contribution to addressing global climate change.” The Bishops also point out that “changes in lifestyle based on traditional moral virtues can ease the way to a sustainable and equitable world economy in which sacrifice will no longer be an unpopular concept.” Journal about this statement in the coming week—Why is sacrifice unpopular? What kind of sacrifice and restraint is called for? How would that manifest in your life? (This question is repeated in the Note to Participant for Session Two)

2nd Reflection (3 minutes)

Read or have a participant read the following reflection.

As we begin to examine church teachings let us pray for understanding, that God's wisdom may be known to us. Let us recite this Prayer for Illumination taken from the words of Hildegard of Bingen:

Without the WORD of God no creature has being.

God's WORD is in all creation, visible and invisible.

The WORD is living, being, spirit, all verdant greening, all creativity.

All creation is awakened, called, by the resounding invocation of the WORD.

(Pause)

Spirit of God, Holy WORD, awaken us to listen now for your WORD speaking to us. Amen.

Let us now listen for the ways that we have become separate from the WORD of God's creation.

Reading and Discussion of

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Social Doctrine on Environment (45 minutes)

Ask participants to refer to their packet for Session Two: Attachment B

Go around the group, taking turns reading one sentence at a time.

Small group discussion on virtues: Post three sheets of newsprint with the following words and definitions at the top of each.

- Prudence: intelligence applied to our actions
- Common Good: universal, the planetary commons shared by all people and creatures
- Stewardship: moral responsibility to care for the earth

Organize the group into small groups of three to four. Ask someone to volunteer to be a note taker for each group and to share responses at the end of the small group discussion period.

Direct the small groups to answer the following questions:

We heard the virtue of *prudence* repeated in both the Catholic Bishops' statement and the article by Misleh. Misleh refers to Pope Benedict's quote: "Prudence does not mean failing to accept responsibilities and postponing decision; it means being committed to making joint decisions after pondering responsibly the road to be taken."

What does prudence mean to you? What is a way it shows up in your life?

After five minutes, ring the bell and ask the questions below.

According to the Bishops' statement, the *common good* is "universal" — it "encompasses all people, creatures, and habitats" and "our responses to climate change should reflect our interdependence..."

Misleh says "The whole universe lies in the palm of our hands." How does an awareness of the whole of creation help you discern your role in it? Is this a value that is promoted in our society-at-large? If not, why?

After five minutes, ring the bell and ask the next question below.

Stewardship is defined as "the moral responsibility to care for the earth." Consider this quote from the Misleh article: "Real threats to basic earth resources (common property) shared by all and necessary for life — especially the atmosphere but also water, land and food — could become a true "teachable moment" highlighting how our individual actions impact people and places around the globe." How might this be a teachable moment for you?

Before the group reporting, read the following quote from the Misleh article:

Humankind has to decide whether it will alter its present consumptive model — one that relies heavily on energy derived from fossil fuels to drive economic progress — to one that is in keeping with the limits of a finite planet and in this way honor the Creator who gave us life and asked us to tend this garden. Less quickly embraced but just as necessary will be a sober examination of our consumptive habits.

Group Reporting: Direct group attention to the three newsprint sheets. Starting with *Prudence*, invite notetakers one at a time to come forward and share (briefly) their group's responses. Next move to *Common Good* and have the note takers do the same, and afterwards move to *Stewardship*.

Closing Prayer and Blessing (10 Minutes)

Divide the large group into four small groups.

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In the film, we heard Paul Gorman of the National Partnership on Religion and the Environment admonishing us that “God is calling us to clean up our act.” In the bishops statement, we read of our call to be stewards of God' creation. The bishops tell us:

True stewardship requires changes in human actions . . . Our religious tradition has always used restraint and moderation in the use of material goods, so we must not allow our desire to possess more material things to overtake our concern for the basic needs of people and the environment.

Each small group should compile a confession to be read them aloud together during our Closing Prayer. Some examples could be: We confess that we have not turned off our lights when they were not in use. We have not written our legislators about taking action on climate change. We have been blind to the effects that our energy choices have on the planet and the poor. (5 minutes)

Then each small group should help create a fourfold song for the large group as described in the video. While remaining in the four groups, each group composes one sentence/ prayer for two of the following parts: one group writes for the person/self and for our nation and the other group writes for all of humanity and all of creation. (5 minutes)

Suggested openings for sentence prayers:

- 1. I sing for myself! God bless and grant that I may . . .**
- 2. I sing for our nation! God bless and grant that we may . . .**
- 3. I sing for the whole human family! God bless and grant that all humanity may . . .**
- 4. I sing for the whole creation. God bless and grant that all of creation may . . .**

Gather the group back together. After a short pause and settling, ask each group to share their sentence confessions. Pause for one or two minutes.

Then ask each group to share the song/prayer they created in the order of I/self, our people, all of humanity, and all of creation.

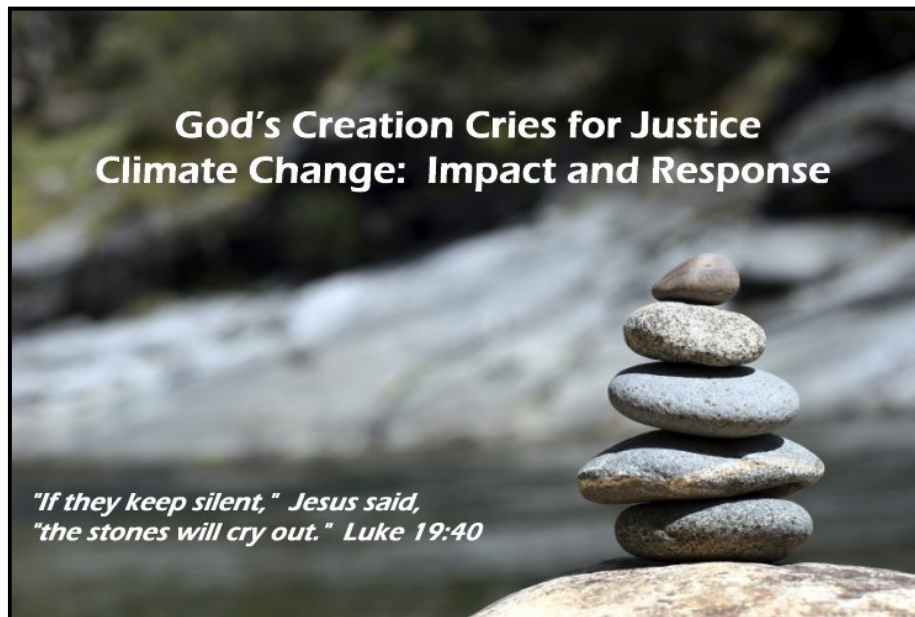
In closing, ask the group to repeat after you:

God fill our hearts with your song. Amen.

Blessing

Say together the following blessing from Isaiah 55:12.

All: For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace, the mountains and hills before you shall burst into song and all the trees of the fields shall clap their hands. Amen.



JustFaith Ministries announces the availability of an important education and faith formation study. In conjunction with the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change, we are offering this group study module for use by faith communities.

The approach to global climate change by the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change and Catholic Bishops' Environmental Justice Program has been to focus on the themes of prudence, poverty and the common good, as well as Catholic Social Teaching. This module will expand and explore these principles and will have a strong emphasis on how climate change will impact the poor at home and abroad.

The eight week program will draw out arguments for and against action and demonstrate—through both faith and science—the hazards to poor people of doing nothing.

This module will include action items for stopping further global warming (mitigation) and what will be needed to help the poor at home and abroad who will be most impacted by climate change (adaptation).

The 2 ½ hour sessions will cover

- Catholic Theology on the Environment. Reflections on our place in and responsibility for God's creation. Voices on the theology of ecology and the implications for future generations.
- The Science of Climate Change. In the face of the consensus of the scientific community about climate change, how do we deal with fear, dread, and feelings of powerlessness?
- Climate change and the poor. Voices and experiences of the poor and marginalized focus on social justice connections, environmental racism and the impact on the poor.
- Border-crossing experience. An action, engagement, field trip or immersion that sheds light on the implication of climate change and what we can do to address it. An opportunity to learn about our sources of energy and what is our local "carbon footprint".
- Where do we go from here? What actions are we committed to taking so that everyone can live in a sustainable future, strengthened by our faith community?