

CHRISTIANS + CLIMATE CHANGE

With Special Guest, Dr. Katharine Hayhoe

Katharine is an atmospheric scientist whose research focuses on understanding what climate change means for people and the places where we live. She is a Toronto native who is currently a professor at Texas Tech University, and hosts the PBS digital series Global Weirding. Katharine has been named one of TIME's 100 Most Influential People and Fortune's 50 World's Greatest Leaders and, just this year, the UN's Champion of the Earth.

APPETIZER: God's Second Greatest Gift

Genesis 1:26-28

DINE IN: Stewarding What God Has Entrusted To Us

1. All humans are told to be _____ and _____
of God's creation.

**The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to serve it and take care of it.
~ Moses (Genesis 2:15)**

**Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.
~ The Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 4:2)**

**From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.
~ Jesus (Luke 12:48)**

2. Climate is changing; humans are responsible; and the impacts are serious. We know this because _____.
3. As Christians, we don't have to respond with _____.
Instead we can respond with _____ and _____.

**Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
~ The Apostle Paul (Ephesians 5:1-2)**

**For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and self-discipline.
~ The Apostle Paul (2 Timothy 1:7)**

TAKE OUT: Now What?

**The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.
~ The Apostle Paul (Galatians 5:6)**

Do you sense God encouraging or convicting you of anything specific? If so, jot it down, take this with you, and pray about practical next steps this week. (The Home Church Questions can help you process this, alone or with others.)

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. What did you think about Sunday's message and Scriptures (review notes)? What thoughts, ideas, or questions do they generate?
2. How does stewarding the planet's resources connect to the command of Christ to love our neighbours as ourselves?
3. So much of the dialogue around climate change reflects fear, despair, and even hate. How can we as Christians insert hope, peace, and love into the dialogue? Brainstorm practical examples.

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

4. Read **Matthew 25:14-30**.
 - a. What verse, idea, or question stands out to you?
 - b. Jesus is talking about "the kingdom of heaven" (compare **verses 1 and 14**). How would you explain what Jesus means by this phrase to someone who is new to Jesus' teaching?
 - c. Jesus is likely making the comparison between stewardship of money and stewardship of the mission God has given to his people. To what extent do you think we can apply this passage to our stewardship of the planet?
 - d. As someone has suggested, we are like the trusted servant with five talents, but who spent all the Master's money on ourselves. What do you think?
 - e. What are some other applications of this passage?
 - f. Which servant do you relate to? Why?
 - g. What do you think **verse 30** is referring to? Hell? Consequences in this life? A general metaphor for God's displeasure with lazy servants? Something else?
5. What are some practical ways we can honour God by honouring his creation as a matter of both stewardship and worship? Brainstorm a list.

HUDDLE [Making it Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

6. Do you sense God has been convicting or encouraging you about anything specific this week? Talk about it. Pray about it.