



WEEK 5 - DECAY OVERVIEW

With so many other issues swirling around us in this broken world, it can be very easy to think that caring for the planet falls pretty low on our priority list. Why worry about climate change or species extinction when there seem to be so many more pressing matters? The answer is simple: because God cares about his Creation and we should too. In this message we will explore how God's love and sustaining Spirit extend even to the physical world, including the plants and creatures who live here, and how our role from the very beginning was as caretakers of the Creation he sustains.

We will also consider how the poor and marginalized of humanity (whom God also dearly loves) are threatened when our physical world is neglected and how the broken place of decay influences all the other broken places. By meditating on this thread from Scripture we will begin to see how our best possible life includes living in harmony and peace with the Earth and joining God in his sustaining work over Creation.

*You send rain on the mountains from your heavenly home,
and you fill the earth with the fruit of your labor.*
Psalm 104:13

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is your relationship with plants, animals, and nature in general?
2. Describe the broken place of *decay* and how it impacts you. (see [Romans 8:21-22](#))
3. Read [Psalm 104:10-18](#), [104:24-30](#), and [Matthew 10:29](#).
 - a. Where do you see God's provision in these passages?
 - b. What is God's relationship with creation (in addition to creating it)?
4. What did God create humans to do? ([Genesis 1:27-28](#), [2:15](#), [Psalm 8:4-8](#))
5. How do you think humans are doing as stewards of God's creation? ([Genesis 3:17-18](#), [9:2](#))
6. Why should we care about creation? (see also [Leviticus 26:3-5](#))
7. How is God calling you to care for your own little slice of Eden?
8. Describe how caring for creation is part of the gospel.

RESOURCES

See the Grace Church app for videos from Barry about Psalm 104 and sabbath rest for the land, as well as additional scripture references on caring for creation.