

ST MATTHEWS SMALL GROUP STUDIES:

EVERYDAY MORALITY STUDY 5:

ENVIRONMENT

---

Author: Greg Allinson

# Everyday Morality: Environment

Study

5

## Survey

### Warm Up

I drive a

- a. V8 supercar
  - b. Subaru Outback (2.5ltr)
  - c. Toyota Corolla (1.5lt)
  - d. My car is a bike
2. The last time I went to Sydney I
    - a. Caught a plane
    - b. Drove the car
    - c. Caught the train
    - d. Sailed in a yacht
  3. I like to eat
    - a. Whale meat
    - b. Steak every night
    - c. Anything take away
    - d. A wide variety of fruit, veggies and meat
  4. The last time I had a party we used
    - a. Plastic plates
    - b. Paper plates
    - c. China plates
    - d. Bread that we ate off
  5. I am passionate about
    - a. Night clubs
    - b. Grand Prix
    - c. Snow Leopards
    - d. The Pinta Island Tortoise<sup>1</sup>
  6. When I think about rubbish I
    - a. Take everything out to the incinerator and burn it
    - b. Dump everything in the green bin (I need 2)
    - c. Divide recyclables and rubbish
    - d. Recycle, mulch, and try and minimize all forms of rubbish
  7. When I wash my clothes I
    - a. Take everything to the dry cleaner
    - b. Tumble dry everything
    - c. Tumble dry when it's raining
    - d. Hang clothes up around the house / on the line
  8. When I am at home there are usually
    - a. 20 lights on
    - b. 10 lights on
    - c. 5 lights on
    - d. 1 light on

Score: 4 for a; 3 for b; 2 for c; 1 for d... so how active are you at protecting the environment?

<sup>1</sup> The rarest animal on earth – there is only one – male – there is a \$10,000 reward out for finding a female.

## Read: Psalm 104

### Bible

1. Why is the writer praising God (1-4)
2. What brings glory to God? (1-4, 31)
3. Who controls creation (5)
  - a. If God controls creation, why does it seem so broken? (read Genesis 3:17-19)
    - i. Which parts of creation seem to be broken directly by us and which parts seem to be broken directly by God?
  - b. What hope does creation have? (read Romans 8:19-25)
    - i. What is the link between our salvation and the hope for creation
    - ii. What makes you 'groan'?
    - iii. Is hope about being unsure?
  - c. If God is going to make a new heaven and earth (Rev 21:1) – why should we bother about this one? (see Rev 21:24)
4. If God cares about the rivers (10) and animals (11) and plants (14) what should we do?
  - a. Who ultimately needs to rely on God? (27-30)
5. Is creation completely broken? (15)
6. Why does such a beautiful psalm finish with such a harsh statement (35)?

## Applications

1. Fill in the following table and discuss.

Key Area	What are key things society / government should do	What are key things our church should do?	What are key things you should do...will do?
Resource depletion (e.g. using oil)			
Loss of biodiversity (e.g. endangered species)			
Population growth			
Waste disposal			
Atmosphere (climate change etc)			
Other			

2. Find any front section of a newspaper – discuss your response to an environment article.

## Prayer

Break into groups of two. Pray for two environmental issues each, and ask for prayer for you to grow in your care for the environment (how specifically?)

## Psalm 104

<sup>1</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul.  
O LORD my God, you are very great.  
You are clothed with honor and majesty,  
<sup>2</sup> wrapped in light as with a garment.  
You stretch out the heavens like a tent,  
<sup>3</sup> you set the beams of your chambers on the waters,  
you make the clouds your chariot,  
you ride on the wings of the wind,  
<sup>4</sup> you make the winds your messengers,  
fire and flame your ministers.  
<sup>5</sup> You set the earth on its foundations,  
so that it shall never be shaken.  
<sup>6</sup> You cover it with the deep as with a garment;  
the waters stood above the mountains.  
<sup>7</sup> At your rebuke they flee;  
at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.  
<sup>8</sup> They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys  
to the place that you appointed for them.  
<sup>9</sup> You set a boundary that they may not pass,  
so that they might not again cover the earth.  
<sup>10</sup> You make springs gush forth in the valleys;  
they flow between the hills,  
<sup>11</sup> giving drink to every wild animal;  
the wild asses quench their thirst.  
<sup>12</sup> By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation;  
they sing among the branches.  
<sup>13</sup> From your lofty abode you water the mountains;  
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.  
<sup>14</sup> You cause the grass to grow for the cattle,  
and plants for people to use,  
to bring forth food from the earth,  
<sup>15</sup> and wine to gladden the human heart,  
oil to make the face shine,  
and bread to strengthen the human heart.  
<sup>16</sup> The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly,  
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.  
<sup>17</sup> In them the birds build their nests;  
the stork has its home in the fir trees.  
<sup>18</sup> The high mountains are for the wild goats;  
the rocks are a refuge for the coney.  
<sup>19</sup> You have made the moon to mark the seasons;  
the sun knows its time for setting.  
<sup>20</sup> You make darkness, and it is night,  
when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.  
<sup>21</sup> The young lions roar for their prey,  
seeking their food from God.  
<sup>22</sup> When the sun rises, they withdraw  
and lie down in their dens.  
<sup>23</sup> People go out to their work  
and to their labor until the evening.  
<sup>24</sup> O LORD, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.  
<sup>25</sup> Yonder is the sea, great and wide,  
creeping things innumerable are there,  
living things both small and great.  
<sup>26</sup> There go the ships,  
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.  
<sup>27</sup> These all look to you to give them their food in due season;  
<sup>28</sup> when you give to them, they gather it up;  
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.  
<sup>29</sup> When you hide your face, they are dismayed;

when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

<sup>30</sup> When you send forth your spirit, they are created;  
and you renew the face of the ground.  
<sup>31</sup> May the glory of the LORD endure forever;  
may the LORD rejoice in his works—  
<sup>32</sup> who looks on the earth and it trembles,  
who touches the mountains and they smoke.  
<sup>33</sup> I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;  
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.  
<sup>34</sup> May my meditation be pleasing to him,  
for I rejoice in the LORD.  
<sup>35</sup> Let sinners be consumed from the earth,  
and let the wicked be no more. Bless the LORD, O my soul.  
Praise the LORD!

## Genesis 3:17-19

<sup>17</sup>And to the man he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;<sup>18</sup> thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.<sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

## Romans 8:19-25

<sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

## Revelation 21

<sup>1</sup>Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ...<sup>24</sup> The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.