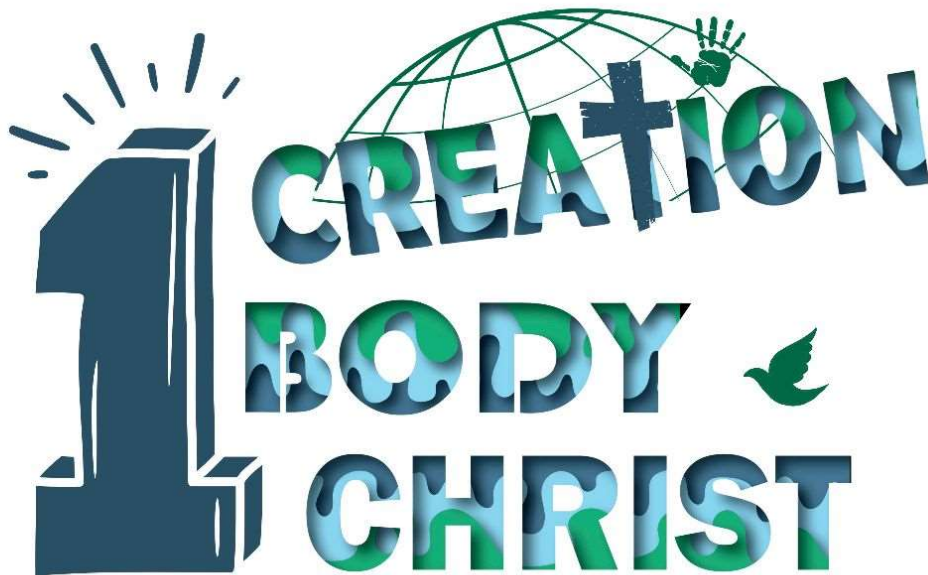


# One Creation, One Body, One Christ: A Day for Creation Devotional

LWF Asia Global Young Reformers



LWF

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## Who are we?

The Global Young Reformers Network (GYRN) is a program of The Lutheran World Federation created by youth and for youth.

These delegates help plan initiatives, convene events, and create resources for young people of faith across the globe. In this we continue to (re)form the church and the world as we love God and all creation!

You can be a part of these initiatives and events too!

## What is this event?

June 5<sup>th</sup> is World Environment Day...and our first Asian region initiative! This is a chance to show how we as a Lutheran community care for creation and look after our environment.

As young people, we believe that caring for our environment is very important and something that we should all take part in.

## How can I get involved?

This year, the Asian region of the Global Young Reformers Network invite you to join us on the weekend of World Environment Day (June 3-5) and the whole month of June!

Caring for creation can come in many forms, for example:

- Planting trees or flowers
- Cleaning up rubbish
- Walking or using public transport
- Gathering in nature to build community
- Implementing a recycling program in your church
- Or even something as simple as praying together

We hope this brief devotional gives you some conversation starters and a nice reflection for your church this World Environment Day!

## Bible verses to read together

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

Romans 1:20

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of God's hands.

Psalm 19:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1

God has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, God has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1:12

## Reflection on creation care and its importance:

3 Questions to get started:  
WHAT, WHY and HOW.

1. What is creation care?
2. Why do we need to care for creation?
3. How should we care for the creation?

### WHAT is creation care?

God created this world. As we read from Genesis 1, God created the heaven and the earth, then went on to create the day/night, land/sea, plants, animals, birds and humans. God placed everything in this world, then looked at everything God made and was pleased with it (Gen 1:31).

Creation Care is nothing but following God's call to be good stewards of everything that God made so wonderfully and thoughtfully.

### WHY should we care for creation?

Gen 2:15 says, "Then the Lord God placed humans in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and guard it."

The Bible tells us that humans are called to guard creation. It's an important responsibility that our God entrusted on us. Every living being on this earth has a purpose. We rely on each other. Imagine a world without trees or birds or water. We won't be able to survive! It is our responsibility to safeguard what God has made. It is one of the most fundamental things we're called to do. If we claim to care for God, we should care for this wonderful creation.

### HOW do we safeguard it?

Every little action matters. Each one of us can help safeguard or care for our creation in little ways. We can start by implementing small changes in our daily lives. Small actions such as replacing the plastic bags with reusable eco-friendly bag when we're going for grocery shopping. We can ditch personal vehicles for public transport more often to minimize CO2 emissions. Planting

trees and cleaning up our surroundings are also little ways that we can remember our call to care for all of creation.

We know that many human actions have caused damage to this world. We see so many changes in our local communities every day: Once lush forest dropped down to concrete structures, sudden storms, rising cases of floods, scorching heats or severe winters. There's ecological imbalance. Climate change is real. As Christians and humans, let's do our little bit to care for God's creation because we have been called to do so. We can make a big difference, there's power in our hands.

All we need to do is to act together. One step at a time.

## Discussion questions

As your small group or church has read the bible verse and reflections above consider:

Where do you see God's creation? Is creation more than just the environment?

Where do you see the effects of pollution in your local environment?

Is it important for us to look after the environment?

How have you been called by God to "cultivate"?

How do you care for your creation? What else could you do?

How do you involve all generations in creation care? How do we empower youth and young people to be leaders and participants?

How can your church or small group be involved in creation care?

## Prayers

### Prayer of thanksgiving

As the word of God says in Genesis 1; 1 “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth”.

Creator of heaven and earth, we thank you for this wonderful creation. We thank you for humans, animals, and all the living things. Lord, we are not keeping this earth as beautiful as you created, and we seek Your forgiveness. This earth might be our temporary home, but it belongs to You. Give us grace to love this earth as You love it, make us wise and guide us to recreate and to take care of all creation for our next generation and until your second coming. May the richness and beauty of nature never go away, and may we constantly be aware of the ways that our actions affect our environment. Lord, we pray that you move us from our lack of concern and give us, mentally and physically, more energy as young leaders to take action to care for our beautiful environment.

### Prayer for unity

God of all the believers on this earth, thank you loving us unconditionally. God You are our hiding place and our refuge in the time of distress, we all put our trust in You and ask for your blessing, guidance, and your forgiveness. We know that all humankind was made in your image, and that you created each one of us. God guide us to love one another as You first loved us. I pray for unity among us, that it will remain and that we will work for betterment of this earth together. Let us be like-minded and let there be no division in the Spirit among us. Make us one body and give us one spirit, one motive, one call to protect the earth in which we will live peacefully.

### Prayer for forgiveness

Dear Lord Jesus, we know that we have sinned and ask for forgiveness. We have not followed your call to care for all creation, and our earth suffers. We want to trust and follow You more each day. God, you promise to provide everything what we need before asking. May you be with us in every aspect of our lives, fill us with your love, and help us to become people who are truly loving. Restore us, Jesus, that we may in turn work to restore the earth. Live in us. Give us the power and strength to serve you each day.

### **Prayer for World Environment Day**

God, I ask you to shower your mercy on us and on our intention to work for the well-being of all creation on this World Environment Day. God guide us and bless each one of us. Give us wisdom to know how you are calling us to go your work in the world.

Lord, as we have taken the theme ONE CREATION, ONE BODY & ONE CHRIST, we believe you created this world to be one. We all are one - we are your children. Though we do not all live in the same place, we are united by your grace. Keep us healthy that we can always stand for what is right, bless us our families, our home churches, our countries, this project, and everyone who is working to build a better world on this day.

Amen

### **Blessing**

The God of Creation who sent His beloved son, Christ the Sustainer help us to care for every creature with the immense Spirit. May the blessings of Triune God enable us to act as One Body for the well-being of Creation now and forever.

Amen