

SESSION ONE

HOME IS WHERE OUR ECO-EFFORT BEGINS

Pause for Thought

'Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little.'
Edmund Burke (1729-97)

'So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them: male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth"... God saw everything he had made, and indeed, it was very good.'

Genesis 1:27, 28, 31

A Case in Point (Optional – Listen to the Lowthrops on CD Session One/Part II – 9.53 minutes)

Nigel and Karen Lowthrop have recently built a new house on ecological principles in Holl Holt Wood near Lincoln. The house, built mainly of wood, gives a feeling of well-being. Light is important and takes advantage of solar orientation; shaded in summer and penetrating the house in winter. It is self-sufficient for heat, light and water, but it's a normal house with modern appliances. The water collects in a large tank and is treated to make it drinkable. What do the Lowthrop's advise for those of us who move in to ready-made houses but who want to be more environmentally friendly?

- harvesting rainwater for a variety of uses and not just for the garden
- reducing energy and water use (eg showers instead of baths, installing a dry closet with sawdust for a toilet, never leaving electrical appliances on 'stand-by', only using the washing machine for a full load, replacing ordinary light bulbs with energy efficient versions)
- spending locally

Questions/activities to consider

1. In what way do we think we are made in God's image and how should this motivate us to care for the Earth.
2. Create a collage showing what group members already do in the way of environmental living?
3. How can we do more to live in harmony with the environment?
4. Is it necessary to go without things in order to be more environmentally friendly?

Action point

From what you have heard about what others in the group are doing can you commit to one change in your way of living? Make a chart of those commitments. [This chart can be referred to each week and added to as the course progresses]

Pray

Praise God the Creator and offer thanks for our wonderful world.

For next time

Make a log of all your journeys this week, including walking. Consider whether each of those journeys was really necessary or whether they could have been more environmentally friendly?

Want to Know More?

See Al Gore's award-winning documentary film about environmental issues, 'An Inconvenient Truth'.