

# Earth belongs to our children and grandchildren



## PRAY

Good Father in heaven, thank you for your Creation. It is so colorful, so rich, so full of magic. I am terribly suffering from the traces of its destruction on the ground, in the water and in the air. Help me when I engage to protect Creation with my own means and together with others. Give us also many politicians who fight against the reckless plundering of the earth and protect the planet. Amen.



## CONTEMPLATE

One person reads the Bible passage aloud.  
Short silence.

**Exchange:** *What particularly appealed to you?*



## STUDY

1. Read DOCAT text sentence-for-sentence. Then one person reads the text aloud in full.
2. Three minutes of silence.
3. Each person reads a word or phrase aloud (without comment) that he or she has noticed.
4. Explain briefly in the next round why you have chosen the sentence (e.g. memories, questions, etc.).



## DISCUSS

**Also discuss your own questions on this topic!**

**Treasure Book:** *Take five minutes to write down what you don't want to forget.*



## CHALLENGE

Our **CHALLENGES** are just suggestions you can make in addition to your study guide meetings. You can also replace them with stronger, more fitting, more original or better ones. Just let us know at [feedback@youcat.org](mailto:feedback@youcat.org).

**#DOCATChallenge:** *Share your experience on Facebook or Instagram.*



## Deut 6:10-12

When the LORD, your God, brings you into the land which he swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, that he would give you, a land with fine, large cities that you did not build, with houses full of goods of all sorts that you did not garner, with cisterns that you did not dig, with vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant; and when, therefore, you eat your fill, take care not to forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery.

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## What contribution can Christians make toward a humane environment?

Christians are not environmentalists if their commitment is limited to moral appeals made to others. It is just as unhelpful to talk constantly about global problems instead of paying close attention to one's own environment and the possibilities present in it. Christian environmental ethics, therefore, is not built on smug appeals. Instead, it tries to provide orientation concerning individual and societal conflicts that need to be resolved. For this purpose, there must be first of all a precise analysis of cause-and-effect connections, risks, and prospects. Only then can guiding principles be effective. Christians make a valuable contribution to the preservation of the ecosystem when they care for Creation instead of venting frustration about the environment. The courage to hope must be combined with the search for knowledge and the readiness to act.

1. St Francis mentions „Brother Sun“ and „Sister Water“ in his Sun Song. Why does he do that?
2. Pope Francis says: „Earth, our house, seems to transform more and more into an immeasurable landfill“. Do you know any strategy to stop this horror?
3. There is this saying: „We have not inherited the earth from our parents, we have only borrowed it from our children“. What does this mean to you?
4. „One who wants to change the world can start to change oneself and one's daily life: Excessive meat consumption makes us not only fat and sick, but is responsible also for livestock farming, the greenhouse effect and the destruction of the environment“ (T. Osterkorn). What would you be able to do without if you knew it could really help?

Try to produce as little waste as possible for one week. For instance, do not use any disposable plastic cup for your coffee, but rather bring your cup along.

Do you take on this challenge?

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