

Virtual Lesson Plan for TED Talks: Earth Care 5/24/2020

Rachel Sussman, "The world's oldest living things."

Throughout the month of May, our TED Talk selections for this Sunday School class have dealt with themes of earth care. We're thinking together about God's call to care for creation, and how that call influences the way that we live in the world as Christians. This week, we will look at some of the world's oldest living organisms and reflect on the resiliency of creation. We will wonder about the relationship between God and Creation and what that says about where we fit into that relationship.

-- Matt Logan

1. Find a Bible. Closely read the entire first chapter of Genesis, in the NRSV, if you can.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+1&version=NRSV> What is different about God creating humankind and God creating everything else in the chapter? Read the chapter again. You may notice several differences.

2. Watch:

https://www.ted.com/talks/rachel_sussman_the_world_s_oldest_living_things?referrer=playlist-earth_appreciated#t-6539

3. Questions for discussion or reflection:

a. What about this talk is theological or spiritual?

b. At the 7:20 mark, Rachel starts talking about Yew trees that continue to grow in churchyards throughout the U.K. She attempts to provoke by saying, "Remember most of these Yew trees predate the churches." How would you explain to Rachel that Christianity and Creation-Care are not relationally competitive, but they are linked? Use Genesis 1 if you need help.

c. Before you watched the video you should have thought about the relationship between the creation of humankind and the creation of the heavens and the earth. Both are created by the same creator. What is the gift and who receives the gift? What do you think the proper duties are in regards to the gifts that God gives humankind?

4. Pray: Holy God, you are the author of all creation. You are the author of all creation. You are the author of all creation. You created us. You created the Earth. You created us. You created the Earth. You created us. You created the Earth. Help us to receive your gifts. Help us to tend to your gifts. Help us to remember your gifts.