

## Summer Traditions Get Outside

# TALK IT OVER

### Key Scripture

*In the beginning God created heaven and earth...* Genesis 1:1 GW

*Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, in our likeness. Let them **rule** the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the domestic animals all over the earth, and all the animals that crawl on the earth."...* Genesis 1:26 GW

*And God saw everything that he had made and that it was very good.* Genesis 1:31 GW

*The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky displays what his hands have made.* Psalm 19:1 GW

*From the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly observed in what he made. As a result, people have no excuse.* Romans 1:20 GW

*All creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal who his children are. Creation was subjected to frustration but not by its own choice. The one who subjected it to frustration did so in the hope that it would also be set free from slavery to decay in order to share the glorious freedom that the children of God will have. We know that all creation has been groaning with the pains of childbirth up to the present time.* Romans 8:21-22 GW

*When that day comes, heaven will be on fire and will be destroyed. Everything that makes up the universe will burn and melt. But we look forward to what God has promised—a new heaven and a new earth—a place where everything that has God's approval lives.* 2 Peter 3:12-13

Search for the "Renewal Church Denver" app in your app store.

More of God's truth all week long at [renewaldenver.tv](http://renewaldenver.tv)

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Share your favorite outdoor memory from childhood.
- What's the most striking part of God's creation that you have experienced?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read Genesis 1:26. Why does God give Adam and Eve work to do in paradise? What does God mean by 'rule' – and how does that compare to our definition of dominion?
- Read Romans 1:20. In what ways might nature teach us about our God?
- Who should lead the way when it comes to caring for creation? Should it be a political issue?
- John Piper says that "theology is a vision of God's sovereignty over the planet that he made. He has an eternal purpose for it and he is not going to throw it away on the trash heap of the universe." How do we then understand 2 Peter 3:12-13?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- This summer, what's something you don't get to do the rest of the year that you can do in order to enjoy God's gift of creation?
- How is 'care for creation' both an issue of faithfulness as well as Christian witness to non-believers?
- What's a scriptural response to why natural disasters happen?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

*Father, thank you for your gift of creation! Help me and all Christians to model and lead the way in stewardship of this amazing gift. May our enjoyment of it bring us closer to you, and may our care for it lead others to your son, Jesus! We long for the day when you will restore creation in it's full glory. Amen.*

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Spend time this week prayerfully considering one way you can do a better job of ruling over creation.
- Find a beautiful place in nature this week and read Psalm 19.
- Watch a documentary, such as Ken Burns' "The National Parks"

Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three for 15 minutes:

- What has God's Word been teaching you this week? Is there anything you need to repent of?
- What's something you'd like someone else to check in with you about this week?
- How's your 3-2-1 challenge going this week?