

Grade 12 Catechism Lesson Plan

Chapter 8: CHRISTIAN LIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Duration: 45–60 minutes

1. Learning Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

1. Understand the Christian concept of creation and stewardship.
2. Identify major environmental problems, their causes and consequences.
3. Relate Scripture and Church teaching to environmental responsibility.
4. Recognise practical ways in which they can contribute to protecting creation.

2. Introduction

“Who Owns the Earth?”

Write on the board:

“THE EARTH BELONGS TO ME.”

Ask: “Do you agree or disagree? Why?”

After a few responses, write:

“The earth is the LORD’s and all that is in it.” – Psalm 24:1

Ask:

“If the Earth belongs to God, what is our role?”

Introduce the concept of STEWARDSHIP.

Explain:

We are not absolute owners of creation. God has entrusted it to us, and we are called to use it responsibly, protect it and preserve it for future generations.

3. Presentation of the Lesson

Environment refers to our surroundings, including living and non-living elements. All creation is interconnected and depends on a delicate ecological balance.

Human activities such as deforestation, excessive use of fossil fuels, consumerism, overuse of natural resources and improper waste disposal disturb this balance.

Major environmental concerns include global warming, climate change, air and water pollution, soil and noise pollution, loss of biodiversity and depletion of natural resources. These affect both nature and human life, particularly the poor and future generations.

The Bible teaches that creation belongs to God:

“Indeed, it was very good.” – Genesis 1:31

God entrusted humanity with the responsibility “to till it and keep it” (Genesis 2:15).

Therefore, we are called to be stewards rather than exploiters of creation.

Jesus often used nature—the birds, lilies, seeds and fields—to reveal God's goodness and care. Creation therefore invites us to recognise and praise the Creator.

The Church continues this teaching through the writings of the Popes. Pope Benedict XVI emphasised protecting God's creation for humanity and future generations. Pope Francis, through *Laudato Si'*, called the Earth our common home and urged everyone to care for it. In *Laudate Deum*, he further stressed the urgency of responding to climate change.

Thus, environmental protection is not merely a scientific or social concern. For Christians, it is also a moral responsibility.

4. Activity

Activity I – “The Environmental Court?”

Case:

A factory provides employment to hundreds of people but pollutes a nearby river and harms the health of local residents.

Divide students into groups representing: factory owners, workers, residents, environmentalists and government authorities.

Ask:

What should be done?

Can profit justify environmental damage?

What would Christian stewardship demand?

Conclude:

“The Christian approach seeks the common good—respecting both human dignity and God's creation.”

Activity 2 – My Ecological Footprint

Ask students to reflect on their daily habits:

Plastic | Water | Electricity | Food waste | Transport | Shopping | E-waste

Each student identifies:

One habit I need to change: _____

One action I will take: _____

Why is this a Christian responsibility? _____

5. Bible verse

“The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.”

Genesis 2:15

Reflection: **God has entrusted creation to us. We must care for it, protect it and sustain it .**

6. Practical Application

This week I will:

Reduce unnecessary plastic and waste.

Save water and electricity.

Avoid unnecessary consumption.

Dispose of waste responsibly.

Encourage others to care for creation.

Key Message

“Creation is God's gift; stewardship is our responsibility.”

My Resolution

“I will respect God's creation, use its resources responsibly and do my part to protect the Earth for present and future generations..”