

A CHRISTIAN LOOK AT THE ENVIRONMENT

Study 5. Do not merely listen to the word,.....Do what it says. (James 1,v22)

Lead in:

Prepare an exhibition of brochures etc, illustrating the work of Environmental groups, both Christian and non-Christian. Among the Christian ones, include "A Rocha Christians in Conservation", the John Ray Initiative, and "Christian Ecology link." There are others as well. Give the group a chance to look at them.

Non-specifically Christian groups such as "Greenpeace" and "Friends of the Earth" may also be included.

Bible passage Matthew 5,vv1-10; 1 Timothy 6,vv6-10.

Questions for discussion

1. According to the Matthew passage, who does Jesus say are the really happy and fulfilled people?

In the passage from the letter to Timothy, what is Paul's attitude to material possessions? How do you think these teachings should affect our life styles?

2. How might caring for and preserving the earth affect our personal life styles?

How might we decide on what we eat, and where we buy it? What importance should we give to how it is produced e.g. farming methods?

How could we economise in use of energy?

How could we save water?

What importance should we give to recycling materials?

How will our attitudes to transport and holidays be affected?

Will it affect our membership of the local community, and if so, how?

How should we react to the local countryside and "wild" areas?

3. Make lists of ways we could respond personally, as members of the local community, and as a church community. Remember the place of worship and prayer in all this.

Prayer

1. Look back over the course and quietly reflect on things we have learnt from it. Consider whether we should make any practical decisions, as individuals or as a group. Ask God to guide and give us the resolve for anything he wishes us to do.

2. Read Psalm 104 through together. Write a psalm on the theme of some of the topics we have studied in this course.

Background notes See information attached.