

Reflection Questions

General

In each presentation...

What struck you?

What moved you?

What was new?

What did you already know but perhaps are seeing differently?



Presentation 1

Are you familiar with the new Creation Story that is being told by the scientists?

What is your response to this?

How does this story and the story of Genesis inform each other?

Elizabeth Johnson says that treating the earth in a destructive way is an ethical, religious and theological issue of critical importance.

What do you think are the ethical, religious and theological issues involved in the way we treat the Earth?

What do you understand as spirituality - and how may this be helpful for us?



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Presentation 2

How do you think we have come to be so out of touch with our mother, the Earth and all her abundant life systems ?

What was your response to how a patriarchal world view influences our relationships with the earth, each other and God?

Elizabeth Johnson says that the way forward as Christians is to construct a new way of seeing reality that is built on appreciation of differences in an all inclusive community.

What do you think? How might this be done?

Is seeing the Kingdom of God as a circle of relationships in which everything exists and flourishes a new image for you?

How may it be a helpful image for you?



Presentation 3

What were your thoughts as you moved through the three types of relationship (kingship, stewardship and kinship) we have with the Earth?

What was your response to the section on our kinship with trees?

How much has this sort of thinking been part of your life?

How have you understood or imagined God's Spirit?

Has this presentation added to this in any way?

If so, how?

Of the images of the Spirit presented here, which resonates the most with you?

What is it that touches you in this image?



Presentation 4

In this presentation we focus on our need for conversion and its social and political implications. What do you think would help us to move from seeing ourselves as centre stage to seeing the Earth as centre stage?

What practical implications of conversion do you envisage in the areas of constraint of consumption, restraint of population growth, development of pollution controls, and the evolution of industry and trade?

The call to contemplation and the call to prophecy are seen as indispensable and mutually nourishing and supporting on our journey towards bringing about the Kingdom of God in our midst.

How have you understood these calls as a part of your Christian life?

How might they be incorporated into our lives individually and as a community?

How might we as a group (parish/school/interest group etc.) join with others to work towards real change in the way we human beings relate to the Earth and the whole of life?



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REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Further Questions

We have inherited a culture that encourages us to view ourselves as over and above creation.

What implications do you see this having on own identity, on the poor, on the Earth and on our relationship with God?

Can you think of a time when you have lived out of a sense of self that was more connected to God and the world as sacred?

What factors contributed to each?

What is one shift in the way you see the world that may nurture your sense of being truly connected to the Earth?

Society actively encourages us to see ourselves as 'consumers' rather than as kin with creation.

How might you bring about change in this cultural attitude in your own life and beyond?

