

# Leaders Guide

Faith, Love, and the Climate Crisis, part 1.

Dr. Ruth Valerio

FROM DUST

## Introduction

- Watch the video

## Key Concepts

- **The scriptures point to God who created the world and loves the world.**
- **Caring for creation is part of discipleship as a Christian**
- **One issue we sometimes encounter in certain framings of Christianity is that this world is bad**, and we are waiting to escape from it to go up into heaven, which is something and somewhere else.
- **God created the world good**, and he was pleased with what he made.
- **Looking after creation is part of what it means to be made in the image of God**
- **Creation has gone wrong because of the way humanity has treated it.**
- **In the scriptures, the land mourns** when the people don't follow God and don't practice social justice.
- We need to **understand our place as humans** who are part of the natural world.
- We need to understand just how much **God loves creation**

# Discussion Questions

- **How do you relate to the natural world?** Do you spend much time in it? Do you feel familiar or unfamiliar with creation?
- **How you think your faith currently informs the way you see the natural world?** Would you like your faith to speak more into this?
- **Do you think the earth is good?** Why or why not?
- **How do you think church has shaped your view of creation?** Has it shaped it in a positive or negative way?
- We're told that the earth is valuable because God loves it. **Do you love nature, and do you value it?**
- **Do you sometimes feel overwhelmed by the scale of the ecological problems we face today?**
- **Are you concerned about the changes occurring in the natural world?** If not, why?
- **Can you be a Christian if you don't care for the earth?**
- **What do you think it might look like for heaven and earth to come together as Ruth describes in the video?**
- **What does Ruth's analogy of the tapestry make you think about creation?**
- **What do you think are the biggest threats to God's creation?**
- **What ways we can better integrate value creation into our faith?**

## Helpful Pointers

- It's important to remember that the aim of the session is to create a safe space for authentic discussion. People may have different reactions to Chine's message, and they may need time to think and grow in confidence before sharing. It's helpful to validate and show support for everyone who does share.
- Sharing in a larger group may be harder for some people. Breaking into smaller groups for a portion of the discussion may encourage more nervous participants to share.

## Extras

### Books

Just Living – *Ruth Valerio*  
L is for Lifestyle – *Ruth Valerio*  
Saying yes to life – *Ruth Valerio*