



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Discover the Design Series, Lesson 4

Lesson Title: Taking Care of God's Creation

Take Home Point: Take care of the Creator's stuff.

Warm-Up:

"The success of a long expedition through an unpopulated country depends mainly on the care taken of the animals..." So begins Chapter 2 of "The Prairie Traveler," an 1859 bestselling handbook for settlers crossing the frontier. The pioneers learned that their success, and even survival, hinged on the well-being of the draft animals in their care. Today in our country, how we care for our property is usually less likely to be a life-or-death choice (and that's a good thing). But we still have a responsibility to make the best use of God's gifts in the specific sense of what he has given us, and in the general sense of being good stewards, or caretakers, of the earth's resources.

Read: Genesis 1:28-29; Psalm 145:16

Observation (What happened?):

In Genesis 1:28, what did God tell the first human beings to do?

In Psalm 145:16, who actually makes the provisions to satisfy every living thing?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What of God's creation was not included in his blessing?

Why do you think many people do not consider it a blessing that humans fill the earth? What does God say?

Insight:

We usually think of caretaking, or stewardship, only in terms of property we own or resources we use. And as God's gifts, those things are certainly worth good care. But have you ever considered stewardship in relation to your life? We often recognize that our talents, abilities, and skills are to be nurtured and used well. But what of your self? Your mind is a most wonderful gift and deserves the care of good "feeding" and use. Your body will serve you well for many years with proper rest, exercise, and good nutrition. Your soul and spirit are worthy of the best treatment you can give; they become a deep well of good things – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, and self-control – that you can draw on your whole life long. Take care of you, too!

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What kind of choices can you make to be a good caretaker of what God has given you in a culture based on consumption?

How well are you taking care of yourself – mentally, physically, spiritually – as God's greatest gift to you? Think of one way to improve your own care and begin to do it this week.

Kingdom Quest Year 1, Lesson 4