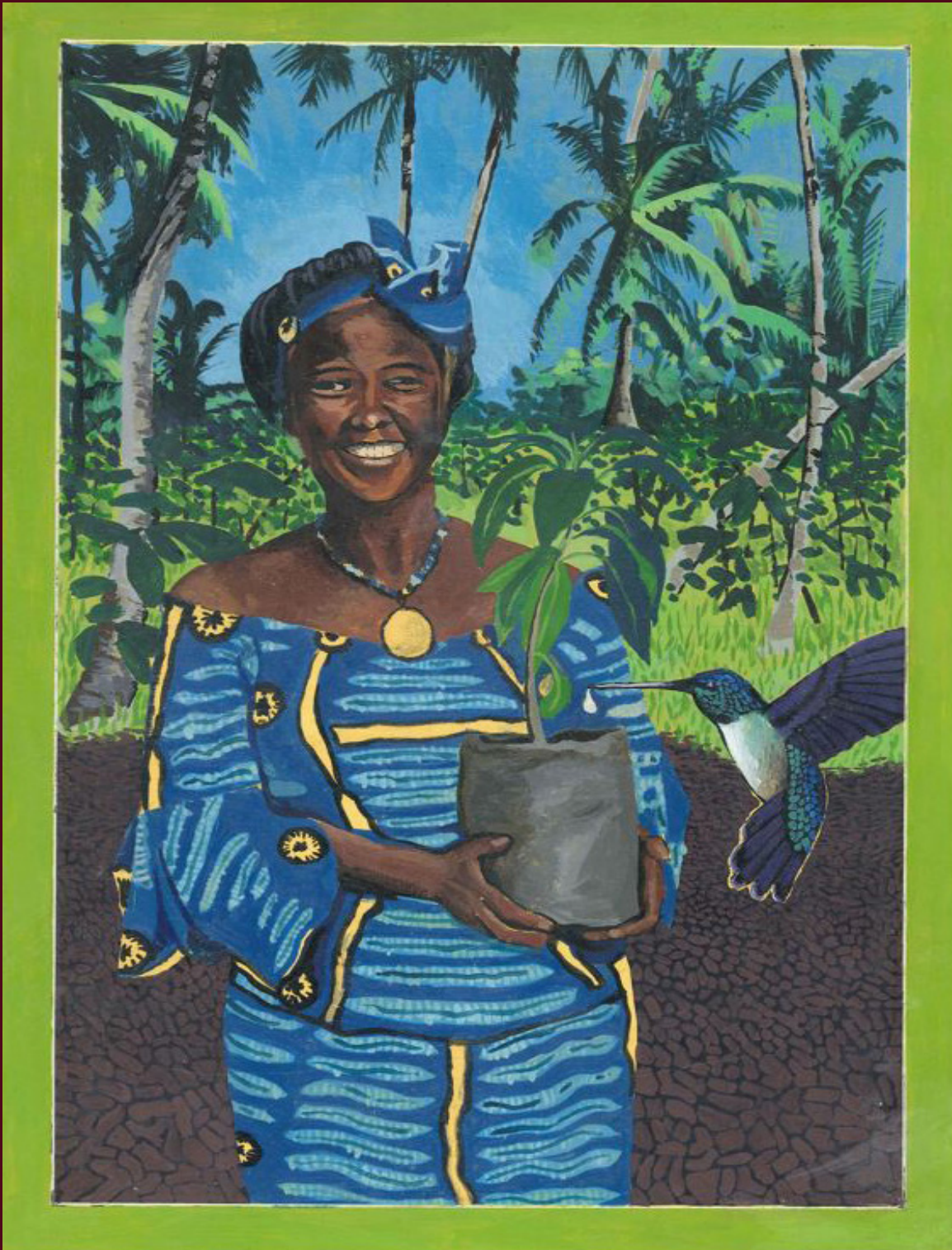


# SEASON OF CREATION 2025



## Children and Youth Bible Study

## The Theme for Season of Creation 2025 is “Peace with Creation”

This is a companion resource for the Season of Creation materials, with Bible Study materials and suggestions for Sunday School, Bible Class or youth groups.

Peace is more than just the absence of war. In the Hebrew Bible, shalom represents a far deeper concept—one that extends beyond the absence of conflict to the full restoration of broken relationships. This restoration encompasses our relationship with God, ourselves, the human family, and the rest of Creation.

Throughout history, many human activities have contributed to the destruction of Creation. Yet today, more than ever, some human activities take the form of a war against Creation. Our impact has expanded from local to global, manifesting in unsustainable lifestyles, excessive consumption, lasting pollution, and a throwaway culture.

This year we are focussing on the Jeremiah readings for our themes. The book of Jeremiah offers powerful environmental themes through vivid imagery and prophetic warnings. In **Jeremiah 18:1–11**, the potter shaping and reshaping the clay reflects God’s relationship with creation—both its fragility and the hope of renewal if people turn from destructive ways. **Jeremiah 4:11–12, 22–28** paints a bleak picture of environmental devastation as a consequence of human foolishness: the earth is desolate, the heavens darkened, and cities in ruins. This ecological collapse is not arbitrary—it’s a direct result of moral and spiritual decay. In **Jeremiah 8:18–9:1**, the prophet weeps over the suffering land and its people, mourning a creation groaning under injustice and neglect. Finally, in **Jeremiah 32:1–3a, 6–15**, amidst crisis and destruction, Jeremiah buys a field as a sign of hope—trusting in the promise of restoration. Together, these passages highlight the deep link between spiritual health, justice, and the wellbeing of the land.



# WEEK ONE: THE POTTER'S EARTH

**BIBLE STUDY:** Read Jeremiah 18:1–11

## SUMMARY

God sends Jeremiah to the potter's house, where he sees a pot being reshaped after it is spoiled. God says, "Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?" He warns that if a nation does evil, He may bring disaster—but if they repent, He will relent. This image speaks to God's power to create, reshape, and redeem, as well as our responsibility to respond.

**God as Creator:** Just as a potter lovingly shapes clay, God has formed the earth and entrusted it to our care.

**Human Impact:** It's because humans are imperfect that we destroy our environment, by pollution, overconsumption and deforestation etc.

**Repentance and Hope:** If we change our ways, God can help us restore the Earth and reshape our future.



## QUESTIONS

### 1. OBSERVATION

1. What happens in the potter's house?
2. How does the potter respond to the spoiled clay?
3. What is God's message to the people?

### 2. INTERPRETATION

1. Why do you think God chose the image of a potter and clay?
2. How does this image of potter and clay apply to creation and environmental care?
3. What does this passage tell us about the possibility of change and renewal?

### 3. APPLICATION – ENVIRONMENTAL FOCUS

1. In what ways have we as "spoiled clay" (individually or as a community) destroyed God's creation?
2. What is the impact of our modern lifestyle on creation?



## PRAYER

Merciful God,  
You are the Potter who shapes the earth and us with care,  
but we confess our imperfection that spoils Your handiwork.  
We have exploited the soil, polluted the waters, and harmed the creatures You formed.

Like stubborn clay, we resist Your call to change and repentance.  
Forgive our selfishness, greed and apathy  
Mould us anew to be faithful keepers of Your creation,  
that we may honour Your work and restore the earth's beauty.  
In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

## ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH OR SUNDAY SCHOOL

Choose one or two of the following exercises that best suits your group

### 1. Clay Creation Workshop – “Shaping God’s World”

#### Playdough recipe

2 cups water 2 cups flour ½ cup salt 2 tbs cooking oil Food coloring (optional) Combine water, salt and food coloring. Boil until dissolved. Mix in cooking oil, and flour while water mixture is still very hot. Knead until smooth. Store in an airtight container.

**ACTIVITY:** Provide clay or playdough and invite children to shape a creation (animal, tree, earth, or vessel). Then allow them to reshape it, reflecting on how God reshapes us—and how we can help reshape the Earth.

**MESSAGE:** God is the Potter—we are the clay. Like the Earth, we are shaped with purpose. What kind of world do we want to help shape?

### 2. Broken to Beautiful – Recycled Art Project

**ACTIVITY:** Use discarded items (plastic, cardboard, bottle caps) to create beautiful eco-art or mosaics.

**MESSAGE:** Just as God can remake a broken vessel, we can help “remake” a polluted world. Nothing is beyond redemption—including the Earth.

### 3. Planting for Peace

**ACTIVITY:** Plant a tree or start a small garden together. Have youth decorate pots with Jeremiah 18:6.

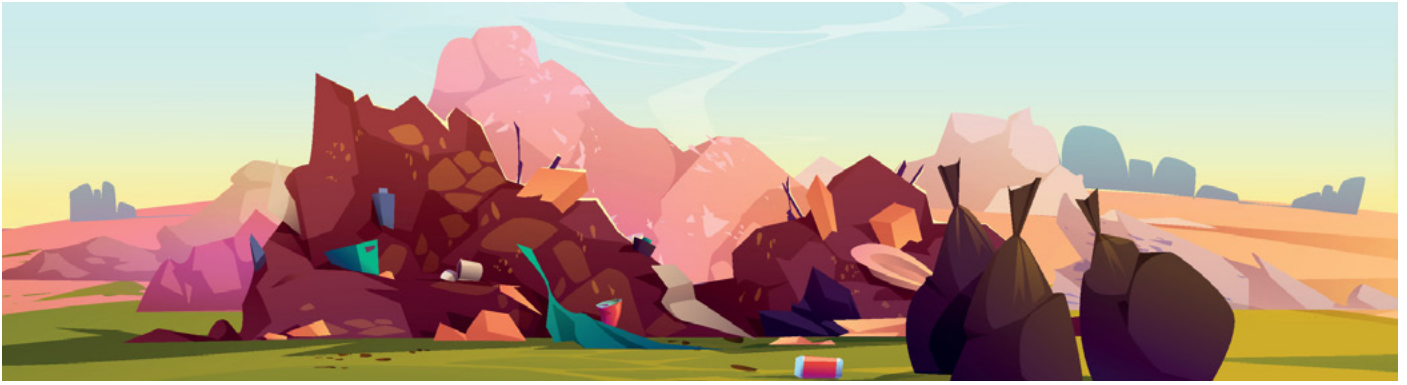
**MESSAGE:** Just as a potter shapes life from clay, we are called to nurture life from soil. We participate in God’s ongoing work of restoration.

### 4. “Potter’s Wheel” Drama Skit

**AGE:** Youth

**ACTIVITY:** Create a short skit or mime of Jeremiah visiting the potter’s house, then relate it to how human actions can harm or heal creation.

**MESSAGE:** God gives warnings, but also offers second chances—to people and to the planet.



## WEEK TWO “When the Earth Mourns”

**BIBLE STUDY:** Read Jeremiah 4:23–26

### SUMMARY

*“I looked at the earth, and it was formless and empty; and at the heavens, and their light was gone.”  
(Jeremiah 4:23)*

Jeremiah sees a terrifying vision of the land becoming formless and void, echoing Genesis 1:2. The mountains tremble, birds flee, cities collapse, and the fruitful land becomes a desert. This is not just poetry—it is a prophetic warning. The earth itself groans under the weight of human rebellion and injustice. This passage presents a reversal of creation. Where God once brought order and life, sin has brought chaos and desolation.

- Ecological breakdown reflects the spiritual and moral breakdown of society.
- The Earth is not separate from human action—it is deeply affected by our choices.
- God’s grief is not only for people but for the whole of creation.

**THEME:** Environmental breakdown as a result of human sin and disobedience.

**KEY MESSAGE:** When humanity turns away from God and justice, creation suffers. This passage is both a warning and a call to repentance and restoration.



### QUESTIONS

#### 1. OBSERVATION:

Read Jeremiah 4: 23 “ I looked at the earth, and it was formless and empty; and at the heavens, and their light was gone. Verse 23 mirrors Genesis 1:2. “<sup>2</sup>Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.”

1. Why do you think Jeremiah chooses that language?
2. Which of the verses best speaks to you about environmental destruction?
3. Which of these environmental damages do you see in your community and country?
4. What other environmental issues is your country facing ?
5. How does Jeremiah use nature to reflect God’s judgment?
6. What is the relationship between sin and the state of the land in this text?





## PRAYER

*Based on Jeremiah 4:23-28*

Merciful God,

We confess that we have turned away from Your ways,

And the earth groans under the weight of our sin.

The land is broken and barren,

The heavens darkened, and the fields destroyed.

We have ignored the signs of Your warning,

Choosing selfishness over compassion,

Neglecting the cries of Your creation.

Forgive our hardness of heart and renew our spirit,

That we may live in harmony with all You have made.

Restore us, O Lord, to walk gently on the earth,

And to cherish the beauty of Your handiwork. **Amen.**

## ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH OR SUNDAY SCHOOL

Choose one or two of the following exercises that best suits your group

### 1. Environmental Collage – “Creation in Crisis” (Ages 6–18)

**MATERIALS:** Old newspapers, magazines, glue, cardboard, scissors

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Children cut out images of pollution, deforestation, drought, and environmental harm.
2. Arrange them into a collage that shows how nature is suffering.
3. Reflect on what they see in the collage that connects with Jeremiah’s images.

**DISCUSSION TIE-IN:** What pictures stood out to you? What kinds of judgment or destruction are shown?

### 2. Soundscape Drama – “The Earth Mourns” (Ages 10–18)

**MATERIALS:** Home-made instruments from repurposed household items, recycled objects, voice

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. In small groups, create a short sound drama of the earth in mourning (v.28), with crashing, wind, silence, and cries.
2. Share how each sound reflects an image from the passage.

**DISCUSSION TIE-IN:** How does Jeremiah use nature to reflect God’s judgment?

### THEME: From Creation to Chaos

### 3. “From Light to Darkness” Skit (Ages 8–18)

**MATERIALS:** Simple props, flashlight, fabric

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Act out the transformation of creation (Genesis 1) into the chaos described in Jeremiah 4: darkness, emptiness, quaking mountains
2. Compare and contrast the two.

**DISCUSSION TIE-IN:** Why might Jeremiah echo Genesis 1:2 to describe destruction?

### THEME: Everyday Choices Matter

### 4. Carbon Footprint Game (Ages 10–18)

**MATERIALS:** Cards with everyday actions (e.g., “used a plastic straw,” “rode a bike”)

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. In teams, sort actions into “helpful” or “harmful” for the planet.
2. Discuss simple lifestyle changes to reduce harm.

**DISCUSSION TIE-IN:** How do our modern lifestyles contribute to environmental damage?

## 5. Eco Pledge Tree (Ages 6–18)

**MATERIALS:** Paper leaves, markers, tree branch

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Each child/youth writes a commitment on a leaf (e.g., “reuse my water bottle,” “turn off lights”).
2. Hang the leaves on a tree as a symbol of care for creation.

**DISCUSSION TIE-IN:** How can we live differently to reflect care for God’s creation?

## HOPE AND RESTORATION

**THEME:** God’s Mercy and Our Mission

## 6. Restoration Art – “God Has Not Given Up” (Ages 6–16)

**MATERIALS:** Broken or discarded items (scrap fabric, old toys), glue, paints.

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Create art using broken things to show renewal and hope.
2. Title it “God will not destroy it completely.”

**DISCUSSION TIE-IN:** What does this say about God’s mercy and restoration?



# WEEK THREE: HEALING THE WOUNDS OF CREATION

**BIBLE STUDY:** Read Jeremiah 8:18–9:1

### SUMMARY

In this passage, the prophet Jeremiah expresses deep anguish over the suffering and sin of his people. Often called “the weeping prophet,” Jeremiah reflects God’s broken heart over injustice, idolatry, and the people’s unwillingness to change. His lament reminds us of God’s deep compassion and desire for healing—even when we turn away. The people of Judah had turned from God, trusting in false security and ignoring the warnings of the prophets.

Jeremiah is not only warning them—he’s mourning with them. The harvest language symbolizes missed opportunities for repentance and healing.

The passage ends with a profound cry: “Is there no balm in Gilead?”—a search for healing that echoes through generations. Balm is a medicine or cream that is used for healing.

### SCRIPTURE

“O my comforter in sorrow, my heart is faint within me. Listen to the cry of my people from a land far away: ‘Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King no longer there?’

....

The harvest is past, the summer has ended, and we are not saved.” – Jeremiah 8:18–22

“Oh, that my head were a spring of water and my eyes a fountain of tears! I would weep day and night for the slain of my people.” – Jeremiah 9:1

**THEME:** God's Grief and Our Responsibility



## QUESTIONS

### 1. OBSERVATION

1. What emotions stand out to you in this passage?
2. Who is speaking in the text, and how would you describe their tone?
3. Why do you think Jeremiah speaks with such deep sorrow?
4. What does this passage reveal about God's heart toward suffering and sin?
5. Verse 22 asks: “Is there no balm in Gilead?” What does this question suggest about the people's condition and their hope?

### 2. APPLICATION – PERSONAL

1. Have you ever felt like Jeremiah—heartbroken over the state of creation and the environmental damage in your community? How did you respond?
2. What environmental situations today might cause God to “weep” through His prophets? Who is suffering because of environmental damage?
3. Based on this discussion - what “balm” (healing) does your community or generation need most?



## PRAYER

*Based on Jeremiah 8:18, 22 and 9:1*

O God of the drumbeat and the drought,  
Of rivers that run deep and skies that remember rain,  
Our hearts are heavy, like dry earth waiting for the first drops.  
We have seen the pain of the land, and we have heard its cry.  
Where is the balm for the wounds of creation?  
Where is the healing for the broken soil and the broken spirit?  
Today, like mourners in sackcloth, we bring our sorrow and turn it into purpose.

We commit to walk with gentler steps, to till the land with care,  
To protect the forests, the waters, and the lives they hold.  
Make us your healers, O Lord—carrying the medicine of love,  
The strength of community, and the wisdom of the ancestors.  
In Your mercy, may our lament become the song of renewal.

**Amen.**



# ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH OR SUNDAY SCHOOL

Choose one or two of the following exercises that best suits your group

## 1. Story and Talk: “Jeremiah’s Tears”

Read Jeremiah 8:21–22.

Talk about what makes God sad today—like pollution, deforestation, dirty water, or animals losing their homes.

**ASK:** What do you think God feels when the earth is hurting?

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## 2. Tear & Heal Activity

Give each child a paper heart.

Ask them to tear it slightly as they name something that hurts the earth (e.g., littering, wasting water).

Then give them tape or band-aids to “heal” the heart while talking about what actions can help the earth.

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## 3. Nature Prayer Walk

Take the children outside. Ask them to look and listen to creation.

Stop at 3–4 points to say short prayers:

- Thank You for birds and animals
  - Forgive us for hurting trees and rivers
  - Help us bring healing to the earth
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## 4. “Balm for the Earth” Art

Children draw or paint what a healed Earth looks like—clean rivers, trees, animals, happy people.

Write a caption: “We can be God’s healing hands!”

## 5. Environmental Lament Service or Poem

Invite youth to write short laments about environmental destruction in their community.

### EXAMPLES:

“O God, we cry for rivers filled with waste...”

Share them aloud or post on a bulletin board or social media.

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## 6. Healing Action Project

Do a cleanup day, plant trees, or start a recycling initiative.

Call it: “A Balm in Gilead for Creation”

Let each person reflect afterward: What did you feel? What might God be saying to you through this?

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## 7. Creative Campaign: “The Earth Is Crying”

Make posters, reels, or spoken word pieces that show the Earth “weeping” like Jeremiah.

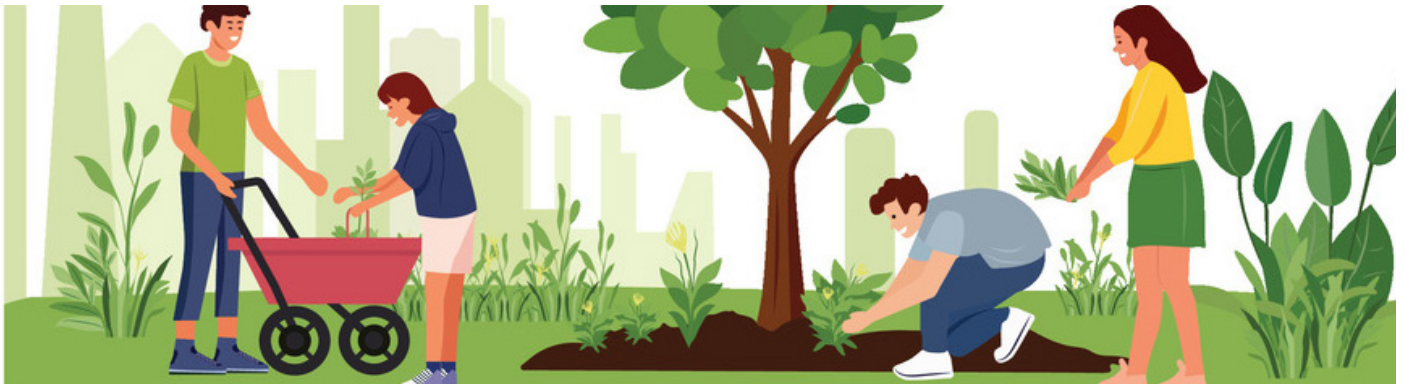
Add the message: “Be the healing” with practical eco-justice tips.

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## 8. “Where Is the Balm?” Mapping Activity

On a large poster, draw or map out places in your local community where the environment is suffering (e.g., a polluted stream, deforested area).

Brainstorm “balm” - healing actions for each spot (e.g., awareness, cleanup, advocacy).



## WEEK FOUR: STUBBORN ACTS OF HOPE?

**BIBLE STUDY:** Read Jeremiah 32:1–3a, 6–15

### SUMMARY

In this passage, Jeremiah is in prison as Jerusalem is under siege by the Babylonians. Despite the chaos, God tells him to buy a field—a surprising act of hope and long-term vision. Jeremiah obeys, purchasing the land and sealing the deed, declaring, “Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be brought into this land.”

Even in a time of destruction, Jeremiah acts in faith, showing that land still has value, and God’s promise includes restoration of both people and land. This passage reminds us that we are stewards of creation, not just for today, but for future generations. Even when things seem hopeless we must continue to take action.



### QUESTIONS

#### 1. OBSERVATION:

1. Where is Jeremiah when he receives this message?
2. What is surprising about God’s command to buy land during a siege?
3. What does Jeremiah do with the title deed to the land?

#### 2. INTERPRETATION:

1. Why do you think God told Jeremiah to buy a field at that time?
2. What does this act of buying land say about faith in the future?
3. How is this symbolic of God’s relationship with the land and His people?
4. Are there places today that seem “too far gone” environmentally—but still need hope and restoration?

#### 3. ACTION-ORIENTED REFLECTION:

1. What is one small action you could take to invest in the healing of the earth?
2. What long term acts of hope can your community do today? How can we make a difference for the future generations?



## PRAYER

Go now, as children of the earth and sky,  
Guardians of the rivers, forests, and fields.  
Walk gently upon the soil,  
Speak kindly to the winds,  
And live with the peace of the morning sun.  
May the ancient wisdom of the land guide your steps,  
And the sacred rhythms of earth and sea inspire your heart.  
Carry the blessing of creation wherever you go—  
To heal, to hope, and to bring peace. Amen

## ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH OR SUNDAY SCHOOL

Choose one or two of the following exercises that best suits your group

### 1. “Hope Field Jar”

**MATERIALS:** small jars or cups, soil, seeds (like beans or wildflowers), paper tags

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

Each child fills a jar with soil and plants a seed.  
Write on the tag: “God cares for the Earth. I will too.”

Water and take the jars home to watch them grow—just like Jeremiah’s field.

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### 2. Game: “Invest in Creation”

Create pretend money or tokens. Set up stations (e.g., “Plant a tree” – 2 coins, “Pick up litter” – 1 coin, “Cut down a forest” – 0 coins). Kids decide how to “spend” their coins in ways that protect creation. Talk about wise choices that build a better future.

### 3. Creative Action: “Balm for the Earth” Investment Board

On a board or large poster, write: “What Fields Are We Buying for the Future?”

Have youth write or draw eco-actions they are committing to (e.g., planting trees, avoiding single-use plastic, joining a cleanup).

Hang it where others can see and be inspired.

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### 4. Photo Challenge: #FieldOfHope

Encourage youth to take photos of green spaces, gardens, or polluted areas they want to restore. Post with captions like “Jeremiah bought a field. I’m investing in creation too.”

## PEACE WITH CREATION PRAYER

Creator of all,  
we praise you for the gift of life  
and for the faith that unites us in care for our common home.

We confess how estranged we have become—  
from one another, from your Creation, and from our truest selves.  
We acknowledge that our greed and destructive impulses  
have fractured our relationships with you, with others, and with the Earth.  
Fertile fields have become barren,  
forests lie desolate,  
oceans and rivers are polluted.  
Thriving communities have become places of suffering,  
and the earth cries out.

Beloved Christ,  
who spoke “Shalom” to frightened hearts,  
stir us to compassionate action.  
Inspire us to work for the end of conflict,  
and for the full restoration of broken relationships—  
with you, with the ecumenical community,  
with the human family,  
and with all Creation.

Prince of Peace,  
through your wounds, teach us to stand in solidarity  
with the woundedness of others,  
of creation, and of the world.  
Through your resurrection,  
make us people of hope—  
with a vision of swords turned into ploughshares  
and tears transformed into joy.

May we come together as one family,  
to labour for your peace—  
a shalom where all your people  
may dwell in safety,  
and rest in quiet places.

**Amen.**

Download this prayer and other resources from  
**[www.seasonofcreation.org](http://www.seasonofcreation.org)**