**Creation Justice Tips for Lent #1-21**

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1. Become an “environmental thinker.” At home, at work, at school, at church, in your organizations, with your friends, through your voting—approach any opportunity with a creation-care mindset. Speak up with ideas. Help others see the possibilities and take action.
2. Jesus told the story of one who crossed a social boundary to help a “neighbor.” Today, we are called to care for our neighbors of the future, which means shifting our thinking to cross the boundary of time and swinging into action now on behalf of all Creation. Our children, grandchildren, and their children count on us to be faithful with our Earth.
3. Do you love someone who has asthma or COPD? The air pollution that affects our climate also harms the health of people. Jesus challenged us to care for the “least” among us, including children and older adults whose lungs are vulnerable. What will you do?
4. Feeling overwhelmed? Jesus reminded us that all we need is 2 or 3 gathered in his name. Find a partner who also cares about the environmental issues we face. Look in your church. Use networking skills. Browse for an organization. Discover your voice. Invite others.
5. Be aware and care that our actions affect people and places with fewer resources. Climate change consequences are life- and livelihood-threatening as the sea level rises, drought jeopardizes food harvests, and extreme storms wreak havoc.
6. Speak up for environmental justice, giving voice to the concerns and hopes of people most affected by failures of governments and corporations to act in their policies and practices for positive change.
7. 500,000 school days missed annually by U.S. children are due to pollution from burning fossil fuels. Sick children mean parents miss work. Missing work often means no wages. Missing too frequently may mean no job. People who live closest to toxin-spewing plants pay a heavier price than those who have resources to live elsewhere.
8. Confused about climate change? Experts are just a click away. Visit TED Talks on your computer. Type in “climate change” in the search bar and learn about both the science and why climate change is a human rights issue. Hear what they say and make up your own mind.
9. “The earth is the LORD’s and all that is in it.” Psalm 24:1a reminds us the earth is not the property of humans to use or abuse as we please. Rather we are called to be caretakers, stewards of this place God has entrusted to us. To be faithful requires we choose actions that honor that sacred trust.
10. To God’s prophet Jeremiah, it seemed nobody was listening as he warned of impending doom from the Babylonians. In the face of climate change, we too may feel ineffective as we speak out for justice. Jeremiah continued: He was faithful to his call from God to speak up, and he bought land as a sign of hope, trusting God that the people would return.
11. Jesus has told us that we are to care for the “least.” Working to ameliorate climate change recognizes that the “least” in our world will suffer the most from the ravages that are coming. We may have the resources to survive, but others will not. Jesus calls us to care for humanity, to work for climate justice.
12. Queen Esther could have hidden safely behind her royal status. Instead, with the encouragement of her uncle, she faced danger in order to save her people. Many of us, because of our resources, are relatively protected from the effects of climate change, but others are not. “For just such a time as this,” we can use our blessings to save our people.
13. You may be able to weather some of climate change’s effects, but what about people who have fewer resources? Who is your neighbor? Jesus asks.
14. “In Genesis 1, we read that God declares creation good, and we read in Genesis 2 that God ‘took the human and settled him in the garden of Eden to farm it and to take care of it.’ The goodness of God’s creation, and the value given to every part of it, call people to respect, protect, and care for the creation….”—UM Social Principles
15. “We urge United Methodists to adopt sustainable habits and practices, including refraining from overconsumption, repurposing and recycling materials, avoiding products that pollute or otherwise harm the environment, and reducing the carbon footprints of individuals and families by reducing overall reliance on fossil fuels for heat, transportation, and other goods.”—UM Social Principles
16. “With respect to creatures living in the wild, we urge cooperative efforts by international bodies, governments, civic institutions, churches, and concerned individuals and groups to end poaching and protect endangered and vulnerable species and preserve dwindling habitats. We decry the mass extinctions currently underway….”—UM Social Principles
17. “Few biblical themes ae as prominent or as numerous as the scriptural injunctions to stand in solidarity with ‘the least of these,’ including the poor, the orphan, the widow, the stranger, and all other vulnerable members of society….Accordingly, we pledge ourselves to the establishment of just, equitable, and sustainable economies that work for all.”—UM Social Principles
18. “We affirm that all creation belongs to God and is a manifestation of God’s goodness….Rather than treating creation as if it were placed here solely for humanity’s use and consumption, we are called to practice responsible stewardship and to live in right relationship with the Creator and with the whole of God’s creation.”—UM Social Principles
19. From UM Social Principles: “We confess that the negative impacts resulting from the degradation of the natural world have fallen disproportionately on marginalized communities, including indigenous tribes, religious and ethnic communities, people living in poverty, and other vulnerable groups. We, therefore, pledge to resist all forms of environmental exploitation, neglect and inequality.
20. From the *UM Book of Resolutions:* “As we continue to call for bold leadership and advocate for policies in justice and sustainability, we understand that God is calling each of us to respond and that as a denomination we cannot hope to transform the world until we change our way of being in it.”
21. Take to heart John Wesley’s Rule for Christian Living in relationship to caring for creation: “Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can!”