

- 10. Which of the views seems more Biblical?
- 11. What other things shape our response to creation?
- 12. Have your views on this changed? (5 minutes)
- ★ What in the life of our Church shows this Mark matters to us? (2 minutes)
- ★ How is this Mark reflected in our worship? (2 minutes)
- ★ What more could we do as a Church to live this Mark? (10 minutes)
- ★ Who else in our community does this? How can we help them? (3 minutes)

In a moment of silence, reflect on your definition of Mission that we started this series with. Has it changed? Which mark of mission has challenged you the most? What can you do to change? Pray for opportunities. (5 minutes)

A Lent course for the Anglican Church of Bermuda, 2014

*Written by the Bishop of Bermuda with help from the Diocesan Evangelism and Education Committee based on the **Five Marks of Mission***

The time allocations are suggested to facilitate completion of your group session in one hour

Getting to know you (8 minutes)

1. Introduce yourself to the group.
2. What inspires you in the created world to think of God?

Mark 5 – to strive to safeguard the integrity of Creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

“... the fifth mark of mission is not an optional extra, or simply a contemporary reaction to our current environmental crisis, but rather a genuine recovery of a biblically integrated understanding of mission”

Dave Bookless

3. Do you agree? (3 minutes)

Together read out Psalm 65.

4. How does this describe God's relationship to His creation?
(3 minutes)

Read Colossians 1:15-20

5. What is Christ's relationship to the created order?
(3 minutes)

Read the following excerpts from the book of Genesis.

6. What does the word 'stewardship' mean and not mean from this context? (Genesis 1:26-31; Genesis 2:15, 19-20) (5 minutes)

From Genesis 3 to the present we live in a world of corruption and pain.

7. How does Christ's coming change that? (See Romans 8:18-25)
(3 minutes)

8. Where is the creation headed? (see Rev. 22:1-15) (3 minutes)

Taken from the book 'Planetwise' Dave Bookless characterizes 4 worldviews amongst Christians.

9. Review the following and ask which represents your world view.

Trudi Tree Hugger - too many environmentalists are New Age nature worshippers. Ecology and environmentalism should be avoided by Christians.

Soul-Saving Sam - caring for the earth is not very important for people's eternal salvation. The gospel is about saving souls, not saving seals. Environmentalism is a distraction.

Boxed Barry - caring for creation is right and proper for some – it is good to have Christian lawyers and Christian conservationists – so long as I don't have to be one!

Integrated Ian - caring for God's world is a core part of Christian discipleship – found throughout the Bible and is an essential part of Christian discipleship, worship and lifestyle. We witness to God by caring for his world.

(5 minutes)