

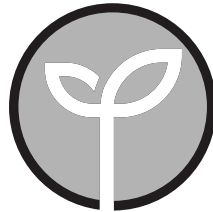
## Take-home sheet for Unit 2 – Session one:

# God's boundless creation

*We want you to find ways to share the boundlessness of God with your friends, family and congregation. What happened here today should be shared, and we hope that the lesson doesn't end here, that it continues in conversations on the car ride home, with families around the dinner table, at school tomorrow ... that this multiplies and becomes boundless!*

Dwelling in a Psalm of the incredible beauty of creation, we explored and celebrated God's boundless creation. Psalm 104:1-34 was the foundation of our time together, helping us to notice the wonder of creation, explore what it can teach us about God and offer prayers of thanksgiving for its presence in our communities and lives.

Share what you remember. Try to retell our story from today, Psalm 104:1-34, or look it up in your Bible app (we were using the CEV: Common English Version).



### Wondering questions

**(discuss these questions with someone at home):**

- How did this passage help you understand God's boundless creation?
- What does creation teach you about God?
- If God's creation is boundless, how do we bind or restrict it? Why?
- How can we listen to what the rest of creation is trying to teach us?



Post your answers to these questions using **#ELCAYG2022** and **#boundlesscreation**.

### congregation connection

Here's a challenge for you this week: make your own creation litany.

- What natural features are part of your community? (waterways, mountains, etc.) [https://water.usgs.gov/wsc/map\\_index.html](https://water.usgs.gov/wsc/map_index.html)
- What animals and plants are important to your region?
- What indigenous communities have lived on the land that makes up your state? <https://native-land.ca/>
- Write your own creation litany that incorporates the people, places and creatures unique to your setting. Ask your pastor and worship leaders if you can include it in worship sometime soon.

### Prayer:

boundless God: We are overwhelmed with the power, the beauty, the peacefulness and the glory of your great creation. Fill us with your creative Spirit, so that we can participate with you in the ongoing creative work that is unfolding in the world. I pray that Christ Jesus and the church will forever bring praise to God. God's power at work in us can do far more than we dare ask or imagine. Amen.

### Dismissal/blessing – Call and response:

- God's love is (place hand over heart) boundless.
- God's creation is (open arms wide) boundless.
- God's forgiveness is (cross wrists) boundless.
- God's invitation is (uncross wrists, cradle open palms outstretched) boundless.
- God's promise is (make the sign of the cross on another's forehead or hand) boundless.



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## Take-home sheet for Unit 2 – Session two:

# God's boundless creation, going deeper

*We want you to find ways to share the boundlessness of God with your friends, family and congregation. What happened here today should be shared, and we hope that the lesson doesn't end here, that it continues in conversations on the car ride home, with families around the dinner table, at school tomorrow...that this multiplies and becomes boundless!*

Dwelling in God's boundless creation, we went deeper into Scripture about God's boundless creation. We looked more closely at the ways that humans harm creation, consider how we, too, are wonders of creation, and contemplate how we can participate in God's creative work.

Share what you remember. Try to retell our story from today:, Psalm 104:1-34, or look it up in your Bible app (we were using the CEV: Common English Version).

Here is some additional Scripture to help support these themes:

- Genesis 1:27-28: "So God created humans to be like [Godself; God] made men and women. God gave them [a] blessing and said: Have a lot of children! Fill the earth with people and bring it under your control. Rule over the fish in the ocean, the birds in the sky, and every animal on the earth."
- Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV): "For we are [God's] workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

### Wondering questions

**(discuss these questions with someone at home):**

- How did this passage help you understand God's boundless creation?
- What does it mean to you to be God's "artistry"?

Post your answers to these questions using **#ELCAYG2022** and **#boundlesscreation**.



### congregation connection

We considered our role in participating in creation and caring for what God has made. We watched or read a story of a person who takes their part in caring for creation very seriously, and discussed what we could do to care for creation.

- What small steps are you willing to take to help repair humanity's relationships with one another and the earth? If you are doing this lesson in December, consider using reusable or recyclable gift wrapping.
- As a family, church or community, can you commit to taking that step?
- Let us know what you're doing at #ELCAYG2022 and #boundlesscreation.



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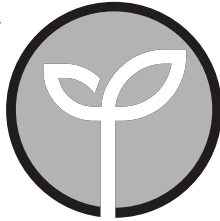


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## Prayer:

Creator God, you are an artist, and you make us artists, too. You care for us, and you show us how to care for each other. Stir in us the desire not only to keep your earth and its inhabitants safe but also to participate in the unfolding of creation that is still occurring. I pray that Christ Jesus and the church will forever bring praise to God. God's power at work in us can do far more than we dare ask or imagine. Amen.



## Dismissal/blessing – Call and response:

- God's love is (place hand over heart) boundless.
- God's creation is (open arms wide) boundless.
- God's forgiveness is (cross wrists) boundless.
- God's invitation is (uncross wrists, cradle open palms outstretched) boundless.
- God's promise is (make the sign of the cross on another's forehead or hand) boundless.

## Additional resources:

- ELCA resources
  - Creation care liturgical resources: [Webofcreation.org](http://Webofcreation.org)
  - Grassroots creation care organization, <https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/>
  - ELCA social statement Caring for Creation, <https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Caring-for-Creation>
  - ELCA Environmental Advocacy staff: Ruth Ivory Moore, <https://www.elca.org/Resources/Advocacy#Issues>
- Kids who make a difference for the earth: "Greta Thunberg Isn't Alone. Meet Some Other Young Activists Who Are Leading the Environmentalist Fight," CNN.com, Sept. 28, 2019, <https://www.cnn.com/2019/09/28/world/youth-environment-activists-greta-thunberg-trnd/index.html>
- Creation care role models:
  - Venice Williams, urban farmer. "Alice's Garden: Solutions for Clean Water in Milwaukee," AmericanRivers.org, <https://www.americanrivers.org/rivers/films/alices-garden/>
  - Sean Sherman, chef. "The Sioux Chef's Indigenous Menu," CBS Sunday Morning, Nov. 18, 2018, <https://youtu.be/w-V0uZfzX4>
  - Paul Douglas, meteorologist. Mitch Hescox and Paul Douglas, Caring for Creation: The Evangelical's Guide to Climate Change and a Healthy Environment (New York: HarperOne, 2008).
- "Canvas and Clay" by Pat Barrett, <https://youtu.be/OcDRp0zWGIw>.



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