

## Study Guide: For the Life of the World

### *Stewards of God's Creation*

#### **John 6:51**

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

#### **Opening Prayer**

#### **Key Themes and Reflections**

1. Jesus' Mission: Redemption for All Creation
  - [Stewards of God's creation](#)
2. **Creation Is Whimpering**  
Environmental Crises:
  - Deforestation = Earth's lungs disappearing
  - Ocean pollution and climate change = death of marine life, struggling communities
  - The most vulnerable are hit hardest: poor communities, Indigenous peoples and island nations.
3. **Climate Justice = Love in Action**
  - Loving God and loving our neighbor must include caring for creation.
  - Environmental harm disproportionately affects those with the fewest resources.
  - Stewardship and justice are inseparable in a faithful Christian life.

#### **Scriptural Connections**

- Genesis — Humans are called to be stewards of the earth.
- Romans 8 — Creation is groaning, waiting for renewal.
- Revelation 21 — God's plan includes a new heaven and a new earth, restoration not destruction.

#### **Call to Action: How to Live "For the Life of the World"**

##### **1. Awaken Awareness**

- Learn about climate justice and its effects. Explore ELCA resources such as the Climate Justice program (available in English and Spanish). [Climate Justice and Faith Training - PLTS](#); [Lutherans Restoring Creation](#); [Blessed Tomorrow Climate Ambassador Training](#); [ELCA DC office for Environmental Advocacy](#)

##### **2. Live Responsibly**

- Minimize waste, utilize sustainable resources and promote ethical choices
- God's Work. Our Hands. [God's Work. Our Hands.](#)

##### **3. Advocate Boldly**

- Speak up for policies that care for creation and protect vulnerable communities.

##### **4. Plant and Rebuild**

- Join or support efforts such as reforestation and community gardening.
- Every action for the planet is an offering to God.

#### **Reflection Questions**

- What does "for the life of the world" mean to you personally?
- In what ways can your faith community live out environmental stewardship?
- How might your lifestyle change to reflect love for both neighbor and nature?