



SPARROWS HI CURRICULUM

Creation Care & Environmental Stewardship

PURPOSE

The purpose of this framework is to help students understand the biblical call to care for God's creation and to develop habits of grateful, responsible stewardship of the natural world.

Creation care is not a political agenda. It is a theological conviction rooted in the character of God and the dignity of what He has made.

Students who understand their responsibility as stewards are better equipped to live wisely, appreciate God's goodness and serve others well.

PHILOSOPHY

The earth is the Lord's.

We did not create the world. We were placed within it as stewards to tend, protect and enjoy it for the glory of its Creator.

Creation care flows not from anxiety about the environment but from gratitude to God for the gift of a beautiful and ordered world.

Students are taught to appreciate creation, understand our responsibility within it, and act with wisdom and care.

GRADUATE OUTCOME

By graduation, students should:

- understand the biblical basis for creation care;
- appreciate the natural world as God's gift;
- understand their responsibility as stewards;
- practise habits of environmental care;
- engage thoughtfully with environmental questions from a biblical worldview;
- demonstrate growing gratitude for the created world.

BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

Creation

Students study:

- God as Creator and owner of all things;
- the goodness of creation;
- humanity created as image-bearers with a mandate to steward creation;
- the Sabbath as a rhythm of rest for creation.

Fall

Students explore how sin affected the relationship between humanity and creation:

- the ground cursed through human rebellion;
- creation groaning;
- the distortion of the stewardship mandate.

Redemption

Students learn that redemption includes creation:

- Christ reconciling all things;
- the renewal of creation;
- the hope of the new creation;
- faithful stewardship as an act of anticipation.

STEWARDSHIP

The biblical mandate to steward creation means:

- tending and keeping what God has made;
- using resources wisely and without waste;
- protecting what is beautiful and good;
- considering the wellbeing of future generations;
- living with gratitude rather than entitlement.

Stewardship is the framework. It avoids both exploitation and idolisation of the natural world.

APPRECIATING CREATION

Students are encouraged to develop genuine delight in the natural world through:

- outdoor experiences;
- noticing beauty;
- learning about ecosystems;
- gardening;
- nature journalling;
- photography;
- astronomy.

Delight in creation is an act of praise to its Creator.

PRACTICAL HABITS

Students develop practical habits of creation care including:

- reducing unnecessary waste;
- recycling responsibly;
- conserving water and energy;
- choosing sustainably where practicable;
- caring for plants and animals;
- participating in local environmental projects.

Faithful stewardship is practised in ordinary daily choices.

FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND LAND

Students explore:

- where food comes from;
- growing food;
- sustainable agriculture;
- food waste;
- the connection between food and gratitude;
- sharing food generously.

ENGAGING ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS

Students learn to engage with contemporary environmental questions from a biblical worldview by asking:

- What does Scripture say about our responsibility to creation?
- What is genuinely known about environmental challenges?
- What responses reflect wisdom, justice and stewardship?
- How can I act faithfully within my sphere of influence?

Students engage with environmental questions thoughtfully rather than reactively.

CREATION, REST AND SABBATH

The Sabbath principle applies to creation as well as to people.

Students explore:

- the Sabbath year in Scripture;
- rest as a gift to creation;
- the connection between Sabbath, trust and stewardship.

THE NEW CREATION

Christian hope includes the renewal of creation.

Students learn that faithful creation care is an act of anticipation of the world God is renewing.

We care for creation not because we can save it ourselves, but because it belongs to God and will be renewed by Him.

LEARNING PROGRESSION

The program is structured across three stages of secondary education.

Years 7–8

- God as Creator;
- the goodness of creation;
- basic stewardship habits;
- enjoying the outdoors;
- growing food.
- Emphasis: gratitude, delight and simple care.

Years 9–10

- Biblical stewardship;
- environmental challenges;
- sustainable practices;
- food systems;
- local environmental action.
- Students evaluate environmental questions biblically.

Years 11–12

- Theology of creation and new creation;
- environmental ethics;
- vocational application;
- advocacy and action.
- Students engage with complex questions with theological maturity.

LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Students should regularly participate in:

- outdoor activities;
- gardening;
- local environmental projects;
- cooking from produce they have grown;
- nature journaling;
- discussions about environmental questions.

Learning should be hands-on, beautiful and connected to the real world.

ASSESSMENT

Growth is demonstrated through:

- increasing appreciation of creation;
- development of stewardship habits;
- thoughtful engagement with environmental questions;
- reflective journaling;
- mentoring conversations.

Assessment values wonder, gratitude and faithful action rather than technical environmental knowledge alone.

INTEGRATION

Creation Care connects with:

- Biblical Literacy;
- Christian Worldview;
- Health, Fitness and Outdoor Education;
- Practical Life Skills;
- Financial Stewardship;
- Service and Mission.

Caring for creation is an expression of love for its Creator and for the neighbours who share it with us.

OUR PRAYER

We pray that students will discover genuine delight in the world God has made and a growing desire to care for it faithfully as those who will one day give account of their stewardship.

May they live with gratitude, act with wisdom and hope with confidence in the God who is making all things new.

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

Psalm 24:1