

Caring for the Earth

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 5, Session 23**.

Dominion is control or rule.

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God wants us to uphold the moral law in our relationships with one another and expects us to do the same for our natural world.

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As God's people we have a responsibility to care for all creatures, one another, and our natural world.

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Along with dominion, God also gave us responsibility. He entrusted us with the responsibility of caring for his magnificent creation.

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Our responsibility to care for God's creation requires us to exercise moderation by using only what we need.

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The Scriptures speak of the natural world as though it were a person—it can rejoice or mourn.

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The seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching emphasize solidarity, dignity, and respect.

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By increasing worldwide solidarity, we can work to bring about environmental and social justice.

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In 1995 Pope John Paul II wrote an encyclical, a letter of instruction to the Church, called *The Gospel of Life*. It teaches us that all life is a sacred gift from God.

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