

Enrichment: Character

Stewardship of Creation

What is your favorite place to be in God's creation?

When God created the universe, He entrusted the earth and its resources to all of humanity as a gift. This means that God gave us stewardship over everything on earth. Having stewardship means that we can use the goods of the world for our benefit, but we must always respect them as belonging to God first. ***What does it mean that everything God gave us is a gift?***

We should not look on the goods we own as exclusively our own but should see them as a way they also can be a blessing to others. This stewardship requires us to make good use of what is in our care—for our family first and then for the larger community. ***What belongings do we share with one another as a family? What can we share with those outside our families?***

The entire world is a gift to all of mankind: earth, rocks, plants, and animals are all included in this gift. Animals give glory to God by their mere existence. Animals are also given to us for our own use in many different ways. We must treat them with care. We must not cause animals to suffer needlessly. However, animals are not equal to human persons. Human persons have a unique dignity among creation because we are created in the image and likeness of God. [See the parent portal for a diagram of the hierarchy of creation.](#)

God's gift of creation to all of humanity includes the past and future. This means that we must respect past generations and future generations as joint receivers of this gift. We must keep in mind the good of those who will come after us when we make decisions about what we do with creation in the present.

Journal Reflection

How can you treat God's creation and its creatures with respect as gifts from God? Write your answer on the journal page. [Journal pages are available on the parent and student portals.](#)

