

# PROTECT GOD'S CREATION



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## PRAYER

Begin by taking 5 minutes in silence to increase your awareness of God's loving presence in your life. Place your burdens in God's hands. Open your heart and mind to let the Spirit move within you. Then pray together: *Come Holy Spirit and make us advocates of God's creation.*

## INTRODUCTION

In the Gospel, Jesus confronted injustice that oppressed the poor. He challenged Temple officials who profited from the heavy burdens placed on the poor for access to God. Pope Francis reminds us how our own consumerism and materialism not only destroys the environment but places heavy burdens on the world's poor.

## 1. SEE OUR REALITY



- Share a situation when you have encountered people being taken advantage of. What did you do?
- Share how you have experienced God's presence in creation.
- **Global connection:** Watch Pope Francis's message about respecting creation.

## 2. DISCERN WITH OUR FAITH



Read or listen to the Gospel: Jn 2:13-25

### Reflect:

- Share which character in the story you relate most to. Why?
- Like Jesus in the temple, what is one injustice to God's Creation that angers you and compels you to do something?



## 3. GO FORTH AND DO JUSTICE



### PRAY

Pray with creation that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.



### FAST

Fast from buying things you can do without. Bring reusable bags to store. Measure your carbon footprint.



### GIVE

Consider what you can donate or recycle instead of throwing it away.

## PRAYER

Bring your intentions to God with an Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be. Then pray together: *Come Holy Spirit and make us advocates of God's creation.*