

# Truth & Culture

## The Mandate (*The Twin Bullseye*)

Genesis 1-2

### MAIN IDEAS

- We were made for God's glory. What does that mean?
- We are the ultimate stewards of the earth
- Creation is man-dependent
- After we "make it pretty," we then fill it up

What exactly is the "mandate" given to mankind in Genesis 1:28? How would you describe the "*work*" man is expected to do?

What kind of relationship is God establishing in the beginning between mankind and the rest of creation?

How do we today carry out the "creation mandate" to care for the earth and tend the garden?

Why is there such a change in focus from the land in the two covenants?

Does sin entering the world alter the mandate?

God said to multiply and fill the earth. Is that mandate still valid?

How does singleness now fulfill the mandate to reproduce?

### PERSONAL RESPONSE

Think about your own attitude towards creation. Do you have the attitude of a caretaker/steward? If you do, how does that attitude manifest itself?

Read Genesis 2. When God told Adam he needed to tend the garden, do you see man as a positive or negative force in creation? Explain.

Why do you think the OT has so much stress on the land compared to the NT?

Read 1 Corinthians 7:8-9. What is your reaction?

Read all of 1 Corinthians 7. Why does Paul say it would be good for a person to stay single if they can? Doesn't this go against the blessing to reproduce? Why or why not?

## GROUP RESPONSE

It seems like the Evangelical church in general ignores the creation mandate. If you agree, why do you think this is? If you disagree, give examples of creation care that the church gets involved in.

When you look at a verse like 1 Peter 2:11 or 2 Peter 3:10, why would we care for an earth in which we are aliens, and one which God is going to melt some day?

In a covenant that upholds singleness, why does the church seem to ignore it? We have many family resources, but what about discipleship for singles? Why is this?

What does stewardship of the earth and the Gospel have to do with each other?

## REPRODUCE

Plan a group event (or get involved with a local community event) centered around creation care. Discuss how you could use this as an opportunity to share the Gospel.

## KEY VERSES

- Genesis 1-2
- 1 Corinthians 7
- 1 Peter 2-3
- Genesis 12:1-3