

Study Guide: “Christians Advocate for Climate Health”

This study guide is adapted from Session V of the “Discussion Guide on Creation Care and the Climate Crisis for Congregations,” created by the volunteer efforts of the Earthcare Committee of St. Benedict’s Episcopal Church, Los Osos, CA. To view the full five sessions, complete with videos and study guides, visit the [website of St. Benedict’s](#).

A. Opening Prayer

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with the you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*
(Collect for stewardship of creation, BCP, p. 259)

B. Bible Study

What can we draw from the Bible for guidance about our roles in public advocacy for creation care?

“Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.” (Proverbs 31: 8-9)

There are stories of advocacy throughout the Bible — think of Moses, Daniel, and Esther.

Some Christians feel free to engage in public advocacy in response to what they discern as God’s call, and others (including many Episcopalians) feel reluctant.

- Who have you seen or heard whom you felt advocated authentically from a place of Christian faith?
- When have you advocated for something from a deep place of spiritual calling? What was the experience like for you? What difference did it make? What have you learned from being an advocate on behalf of God?

C. Video presentation – key topics concerning public advocacy for climate health and justice (30 minutes with The Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas)

D. Activity (in small groups of 5-7 people for active discussion)

What experience have you had in public advocacy about Creation Care or any other issue?

1. Vote
2. Contact decision-makers
3. Write and get published
4. Testify at public hearings
5. Pray publicly
6. Engage in direct action

*Which of these have you found most powerful? Which stand out as most needed now?
What concerns you most about climate change?
What is God placing on YOUR heart and calling you to do?*

E. Group Conversation

- Who in our congregation is interested in climate justice advocacy? How might our congregation get involved?
- What are three things we would like to do or support within our congregation in advocating for Creation care?

F. Closing Prayer

Almighty God, you proclaim your truth in every age by many voices: Direct, in our time, we pray, those who speak where many listen and write what many read; that they may do their part in making the heart of this people wise, its mind sound, and its will righteous; to the honor of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* (Prayer for those who influence public opinion, BCP, p. 827)

G. Resources

See separate PDF with references and links to resources from the Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas.