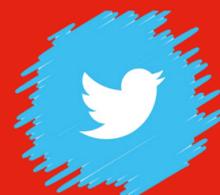


**Collaborative approach to developing
engagement with science and religion:
Exploring sustainability in an
international learning community**

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LASAR, CCCU
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Consortium Lead,
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Dr Caroline Thomas, Senior Lecturer



And YOU...

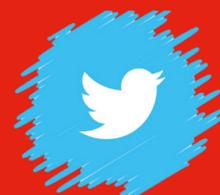


Begin to explore **sustainability** through:

- **Science**
- **Religious worldviews**

Participants are invited to:

1. Explore the **meaning** of the term '**sustainability**'
2. Consider the relationship between **science and religion**
3. Reflect on the nature and communication of **knowledge**
4. Explore the Learning Community **Blackboard**



- Sustainability: is often, a question for science and technology
- Though, questions of sustainability naturally link to theology
- Particularly stewardship or guardianship and 'looking after the earth'
 - who is responsible?
 - who are those responsible, responsible to?
 - why are they/we responsible?



Frozen Planet (Image: BBC Studios)

The workshops focus on the science-religion discourse

Synergy and interaction between stewardship and STEM

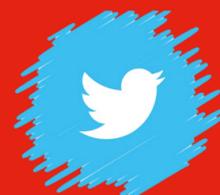
TIES the sustainability conversation together

Enables a multidisciplinary response: e.g., population, economics, technology, environment

And what related questions can you ask?

<https://bit.ly/3kCmFWz>





(1) Independence

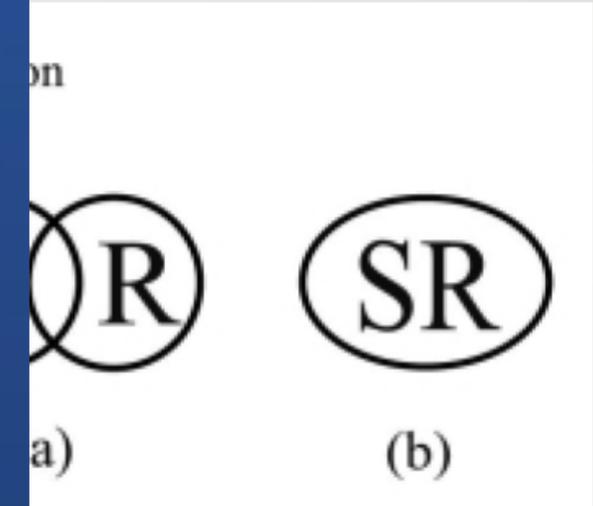


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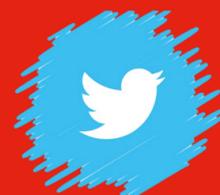
The preservation of the environment requires not only new technologies, but also a new consciousness about ourselves and our place in the world. This is what we're up against, a complete reconceptualization of our relationship with nature and the relationships that sustain society.

Arthur Dahl

President of the International
Environment Forum



[doi.org /10.1111/0591 -](https://doi.org/10.1111/0591-)



"I used to think the top global environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change. I thought with 30 years of good science we could address those problems, but I was wrong.

The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed and apathy – and to deal with these we need a spiritual and cultural transformation and we scientists don't know how to do that."

Gus Speth

Advocated by Gus Speth (2023) recognises the challenges of sustainability...

- going beyond science capabilities
- highlighting humanity's flaws
- promoting multidisciplinary approaches as a way forward

Sustainability – simple questions to ask:

- Science – How can we do it?
- Religion – Why should we be doing it?
- Science and religion – challenges for teachers
 - Can feel like a contested space/often perceived as incompatible





How does my/this discipline understand the question?

(Questions)

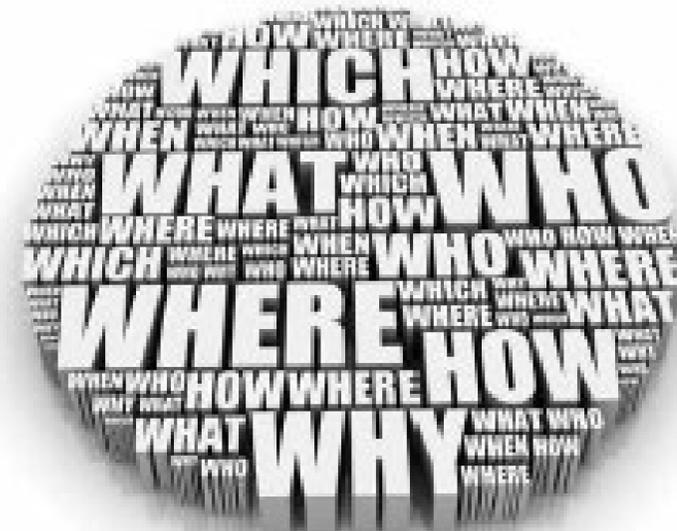
How does my/this discipline investigate the question?

(Methods)

How would my/this discipline know it has a good answer?

(Norms of Thought)

How can I make a better answer?



Stewardship

A responsible person, someone who looks after things for others, plans and manages as well.

Students were not much aware of the term stewardship....responsibility for something and take ownership to fulfil the responsibility and to manage the resources well to achieve the desired results.

That stewardship is understood as taking care of or looking after the environment and living things around us

They are eco aware and would say it is about recycling, not wasting resources. They worry about climate change. They may not yet understand their need to make personal sacrifices.

Sustainability

To be sustainable is to meet the demands of the present without sacrificing the requirements of the future, and to do so in a way that maintains a healthy equilibrium among economic development, environmental protection, and social progress.

It is the process of meeting ends meet and developing a stable lifestyle to avoid a crisis

Task One: What is Christian Stewardship?
Watch the clip and answer the questions at your chosen challenge level.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=joiSgXzP-ik>

Challenge

1. Who owns the Earth, according to Christians?
2. Name ONE resource that a person might have.
3. Who do Christians believe guides them to be good stewards?

More Challenging

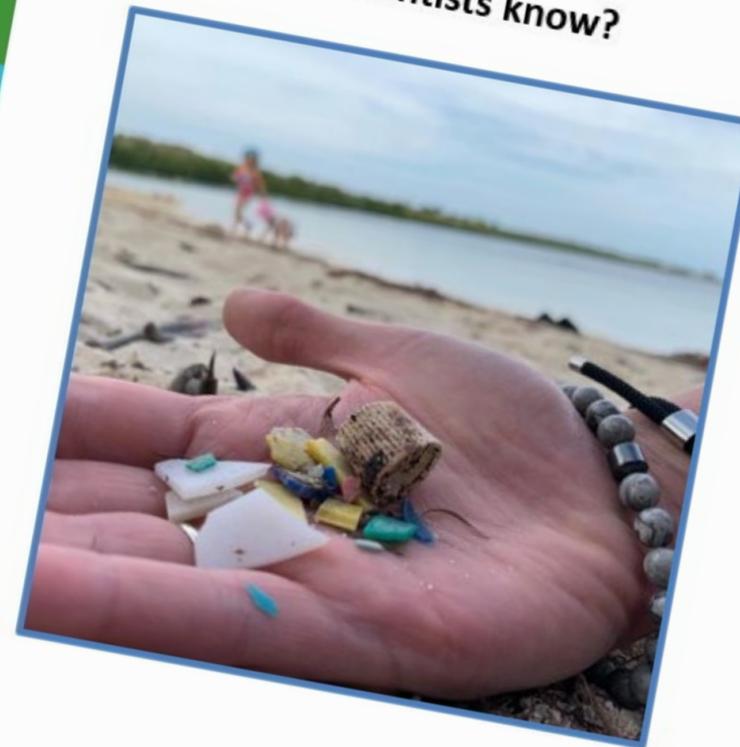
1. What are some of the resources which could be used in stewardship?
2. How is stewardship different from ownership?
3. Why do you think that the narrator of the video describes stewardship as a choice?

Mega Challenge

1. How would you categorise the different resources available to a person? Create THREE separate categories and explain each one.
2. Explain how the bucket metaphor illustrates the Christian idea of stewardship.
3. Why do you think there may be a tendency to revert to ideas of ownership, and how would Christians seek to avoid this? Explain your answer fully.

Open Access Resource from the TES

What did the scientists know?

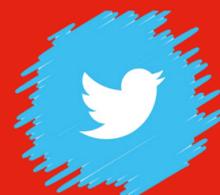


Plastics **pollute** our oceans.
This is harmful to animals and plants living in the sea.
The scientists knew that our soil is polluted by plastic too.

What do you use that is made of plastic?



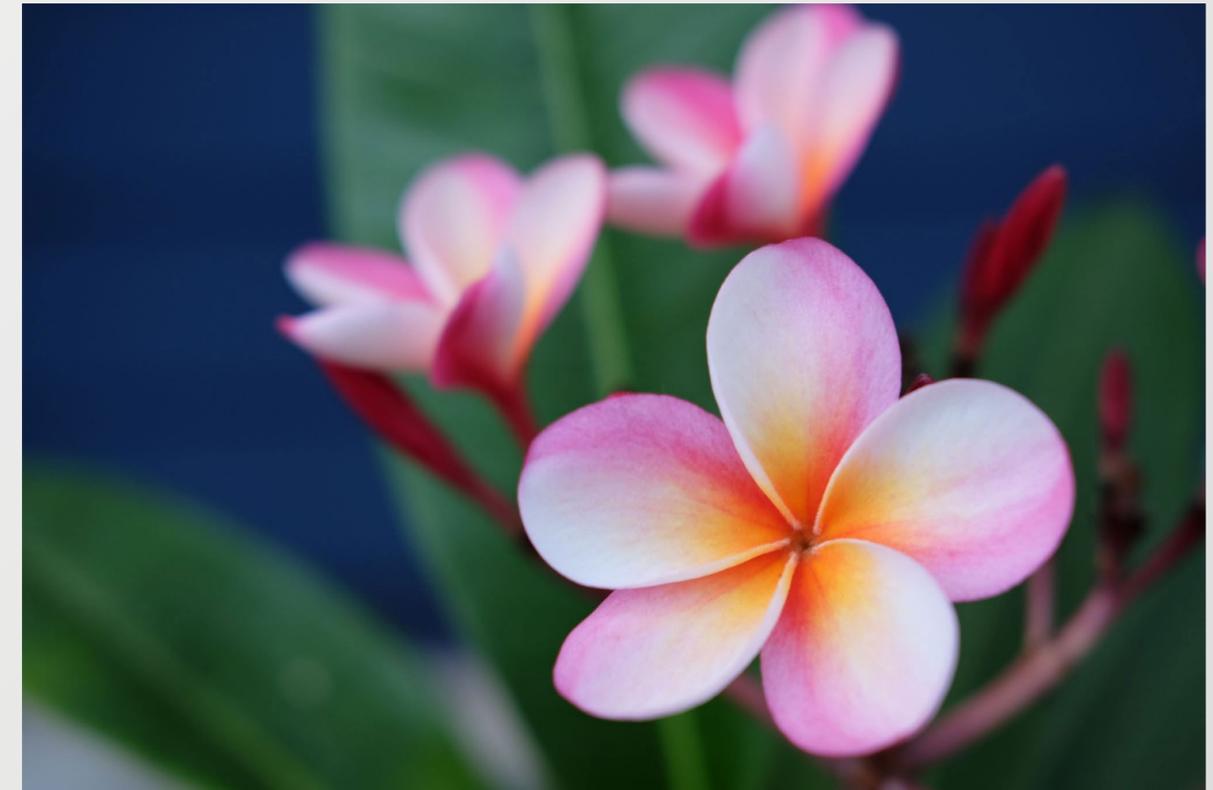
Open Access Primary Science Teachers Trust



2022-23 INSBS Learning Community

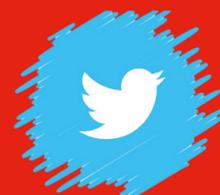
Resources:

- Science
- Religious
- Other disciplines



Upload and share with the [community](#)

<https://bit.ly/3ZwqM5r>



The resource

Who are the audience/learners

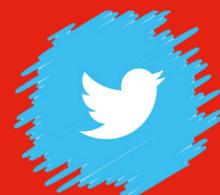
How have you used the resource in class?

How could it be developed? (interdisciplinary)

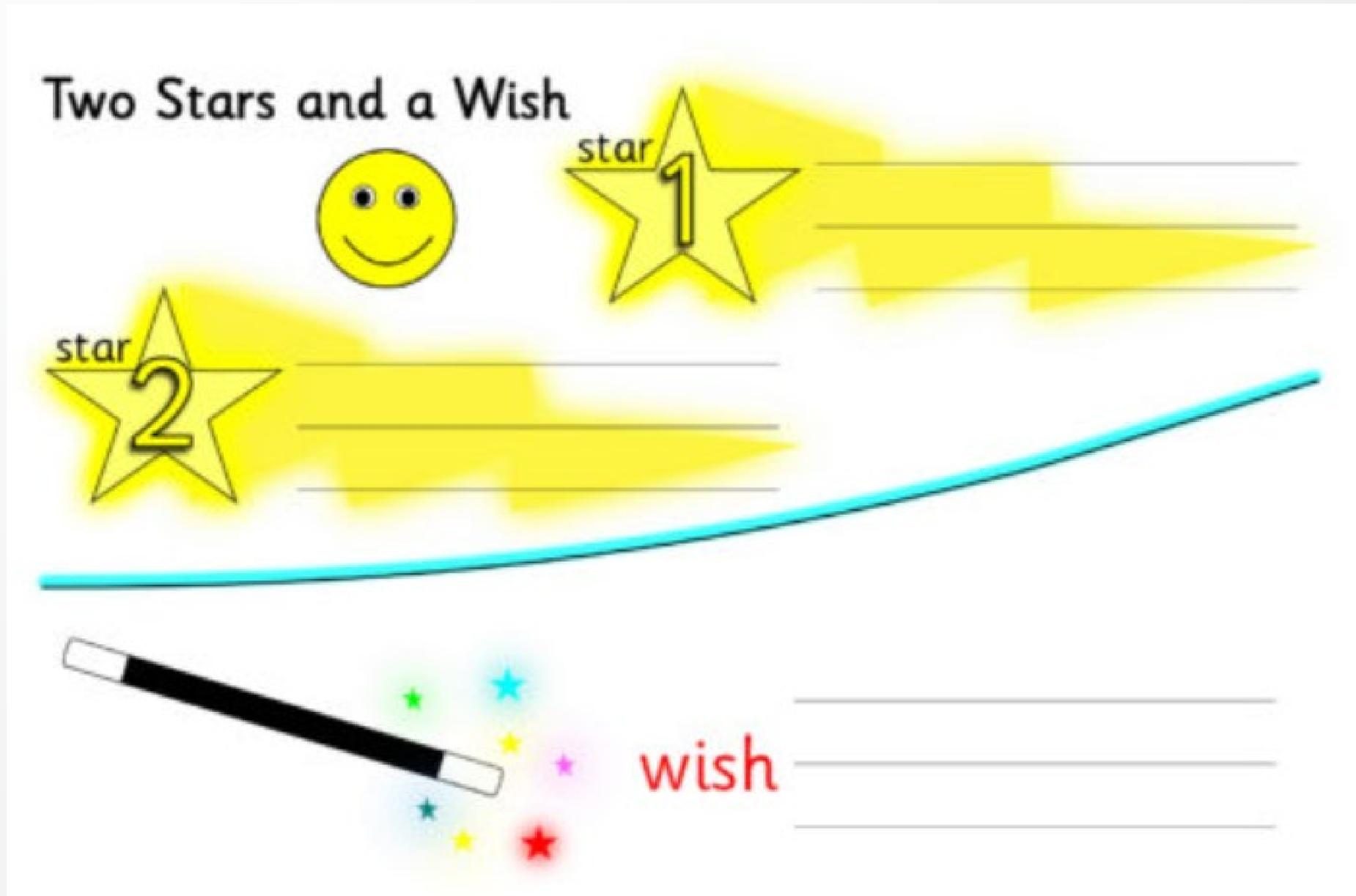
NEXT SESSION – April 19th

[Discussion board](#) tasks and sharing

<https://bit.ly/3meIZGI>







<https://bit.ly/3IBD7yi>