

Small Group Ministry @ UUCR

Session Plan September 2015

WALKING THE EARTH

CHALICE LIGHTING WORDS

“This we know. The earth does not belong to us; we belong to the earth. All things are connected. We did not weave the web of life; we are merely a strand in it.”

Chief Noah Seattle

CHECK – IN

READING

“Since earliest times the people of the earth have been aware of the four elements... fire, air, earth and water. Not only have people drawn sustenance from the elements, growing and nourishing themselves, their communities, and praying for their benefits but have feared them. Catastrophic wild fires, droughts, and floods are a part of human history. Today we have climate change, wide spread air and water pollution and chemical contamination to fear.

This “small blue dot”, as Carl Sagan called the earth, is both delicate and fragile, while at the same time, unpredictable, harsh and cruel. As citizens of the 21st century how do we protect, maintain and find balance in our natural world?”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. As a society how do we find balance between the natural world and technology?
2. Do the “miracles of nature” inspire belief in a god?
3. In times of stress do you find refuge in nature? How?
4. In your daily life, do your actions reflect respect for the inter-connected web of life?

5. Growing up, did you have a role model for how to live “green”?

LIKES and WISHES

CLOSING WORDS

“The love of wilderness is more than a hunger for what is always beyond reach, it is an expression of loyalty to the earth, the earth which bore us and sustains us, the only paradise we shall every know, the only paradise we need, if only we had eyes to see.”

Edward Abbey

American author and essayist, 1927-1989