**Extension Activities 2: Origins of Stewardship**

[**http://ex.ac.uk/beyondstewardship**](http://ex.ac.uk/beyondstewardship)

**1. Stewardship**

Read some of the Christian literature promoting the idea of environmental stewardship. Make a note of which biblical texts are quoted. Then look up those texts and see what they actually say and whether you think they support the idea of stewardship, either explicitly or implicitly.

For example, you could look at:

* The chapters by Ronald Sider and Calvin B. DeWitt in R. J. Berry (ed.), [*The Care of Creation: Focusing Concern and Action*](http://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/0851116574) (Downers Grove/Leicester: IVP, 2000)
* Loren Wilkinson (ed.), [*Earthkeeping: Christian Stewardship of Natural Resources*](http://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/080281834X) (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1980)
* The website <http://creationcare.org/> by the Evangelical Environment Network

**2. Bible Commentaries**

Take a closer look at the text of Genesis 1-2 by using a Bible commentary. A commentary is a book that explains the meaning of biblical texts by commenting on each verse or section. The individual commentator’s perspective will influence what they say, so it’s a good idea to look at two contrasting versions. You could try one that is more conservative, and another that is more critical. For example:

* David Atkinson, [*The Message of Genesis 1-11*](http://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/0851106765) (Nottingham: IVP, 1990)
* Laurence A. Turner, [*Genesis*](http://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/1906055661) (Second Edition) (Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2009)

David Horrell's [*The Bible and The Environment: Towards a Critical Ecological Biblical Theology*](http://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/1845536223)(London: Equinox, 2010) ch. 3 might also be of interest for a further examination of the various interpretations of these texts.

**3. Made in the Image of God**

The Latin phrase *imago Dei*, meaning 'image of God',is often used in Christian theology and ethics. Try tracing the influence of the idea that humanity is made in the image of God.

For example, some Christian ethicists argue against euthanasia on the grounds that it destroys the intrinsic value and dignity which humans have as the image of God. You can read about these arguments on this website:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/christianethics/euthanasia_1.shtml>

Others, however, argue that allowing terminally ill people to choose to end their lives presents a more loving and dignified option. You can read about this approach on this website:

<http://christiansforve.org.au/bible-facts/>

You might also like to research the impact of *imago Dei* on areas such as abortion and animal rights.