

Sermon for Children
Taylor Allred, Westminster Presbyterian Church
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Do you know what this is? [Earth] Do you know how many Earths there are? There is only one Earth, and all the people who have ever lived, and all the stories in the Bible took place on this same Earth. We get our food, clean water and everything we need from the Earth that God gave us.

Do y'all know this song [sing]: "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands?" Yeah, y'all know it. Well, I think it should really be called "We've Got the Whole World in Our Hands," because the very first book in the Bible says that God gave people dominion over the Earth and all of its creatures. So, really, God said that it's in our hands. Now having dominion over the Earth doesn't just mean that we get to be the boss. It also means that we have a responsibility to take care of the Earth, just like your parents have a responsibility to take care of you.

Now, the Earth is very big compared to the size of one person (especially one of you), but it is really just a teeny tiny speck in an immensely vast universe. And as our technology has changed with the rise of things like electricity, and the number of people living on the Earth has grown and grown over the past two hundred years or so, our power to cause harm to the Earth has gotten greater and greater. And like Spiderman says, with great power comes great responsibility.

Now, God asked us to take care of the Earth, and the whole world is really depending on us to do a good job. When we don't do a very good job, one of the consequences is that some of God's creatures go extinct, meaning they're all gone - just like the dinosaurs. Scientists say we're living in a period of mass extinction caused by things people have done to the Earth. One conclusion you could draw is that some of the creatures God asked Noah to save from the Great Flood long ago got wiped out just recently because we don't always take good care of the Earth.

Another consequence of not taking good care of the Earth is that the poorest people around the world, especially children, have a hard time getting the food and clean water that they need to survive. And if you read about the life of Jesus, one thing that really stands out is that he wants us to do everything we can to help the poor, and to be kind and loving to all of God's children.

Did you know one of the most important things you can do to take care of the Earth is to make sure that you don't waste electricity? Here at our church, we've done a lot of great things to make sure not to waste electricity, but you kids can help out at home too. For starters, you can make sure you don't leave doors and windows open, or change the temperature on the thermostat when your parents aren't looking. I've got some tips here for each of you to take home with you so you can learn some of the ways you can save energy and help us all take good care of the Earth.

Now, before we go, let's all bow our heads for a short prayer: "God, please help us to find the wisdom and the strength to take good care of the Earth and of each other. And thank you for the beautiful world you've given to us; may we always treat this awesome gift with the love and respect that it deserves. Amen."