

“LOVE IS”

Kind

SHOWING KINDNESS TOWARD OUR PLANET

Part 2 of 4 in the “Love Is Kind” Series

By Daniel Dombrowski

The background of the slide is a solid light pink color, decorated with numerous semi-transparent heart shapes of varying sizes and shades of pink, creating a bokeh effect.

Whether we realize it or not, our fate is irrevocably linked with that of our environment. We depend on it for the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat. Take away any of these, and the world would be a very different place.

Beyond self-preservation, remember that we live in an ecosystem teeming with various life forms. If we fail to protect them, we fail to protect our children and our future.

The way we take care of our planet reflects our values as a society. What do you think we're saying as a society? Could we be doing better?

Kindness Toward Our Planet

Thinking About Our Planet's Future: We are called to be good stewards of the earth. This means we're responsible for taking care of it. We should recycle when we can, dispose of trash properly. Our oceans, city streets, highways, and neighborhoods are not trash cans. Utilizing glass can be a healthy alternative to plastic.

Biblical Passages Supporting this Principle

Gen 2:15 NIV The Lord God took man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”

From the beginning, humans were given the role of caretakers, not exploiters.

Psalms 19:1 NIV The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Lesson: We see here that nature reveals God's beauty and power. To respect what God created is to respect and honor Him.

Leviticus 25: 2-5 NIV Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘When you enter the land I give you, the land itself must observe a sabbath to the Lord...’

Lesson: Even the land was given a rest, showing that God values sustainability and care of the earth's resources. While some of the earth's resources can be replenished, others cannot. Let's try and use them wisely.

Kindness Toward Our Planet

Be kind to animals: I live in the country. Years ago, someone dumped a burlap bag containing a couple of kittens on our road. One had found his way out; the other had not. I can't begin to understand how hard someone's heart must be to carry out such a cruel act. I would just remind everyone that we are all God's creatures. The kindness we show to the least of them reveals the true nature of our hearts. In case you're interested, those two cats now have a good life.

Proverbs 12:10 NIV "The righteous care for the needs of their animals, but the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel."

Here God reminds us that the proper care of animals is the mark of a righteous person.

Deuteronomy 25:4 NIV "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain."

Here, the Lord reminds us to care for our working animals. The fair and humane treatment of animals is of concern to our Father in heaven.

Demonstrating biblical kindness to the earth's creatures reflects our respect for God's creation and ultimately Him.

Kindness Toward Our Planet

Care for Nature: Consider planting trees if you have the space available. This is a great way to replenish one of our greatest natural resources. Also consider feeding our feathery friends. They can be a great source of delight.

Deuteronomy 20:19 NIV “When you lay siege to a city for a long time, fighting against it to capture it, do not destroy its trees by putting an axe to them, because you can eat their fruit. Do not cut them down. Are the trees people, that you should besiege them?”

The earth belongs to God; it has great spiritual value to Him. We mustn't exploit or waste its resources. Consider the legacy we leave our children.