

Reconnecting With Earth

"I really enjoyed the discussion style of the course. It was wonderful to hear everyone's different viewpoints and opinions... The diversity caused me to think a great deal about my own ideas and beliefs and was inspiring."

-Reconnecting With Earth Participant

RECONNECTING WITH EARTH IS A SIX-SESSION DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR THE WORKPLACE, COMMUNITY CENTER OR HOME.

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS DISCUSSION COURSE WILL:

Clarify values through discussions about our relationship to Earth

Discover how personal beliefs and values affect the way we view and treat the Earth

Explore what it means to take personal responsibility for the Earth



Inspiring people to take responsibility for Earth

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RECONNECTING WITH EARTH: DISCUSSION COURSE DESCRIPTION

SESSION THEME	DESCRIPTION	READINGS
Wild Nature	An experience of awe and wonder in nature can lead to a deeper sense of connection to the Earth. How do these experiences shape our relationship to the Earth?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "The Real World Around Us" by Rachel Carson "The Tuolumne Camp" by John Muir "The Judgement of the Birds" by Loren Eiseley "Seeing" by Annie Dillard "The Phosphorescent Soul" by Terry Tempest Williams "The Moral Equivalent of Wilderness" by Kathleen Dean Moore
Shifting Paradigms	Human beings are one of many species, everything is interconnected, and sustainability should replace economic growth as our long-term goal. How do these underlying assumptions differ from current assumptions of our society?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Thinking Like a Mountain" by Aldo Leopold From <i>The Web of Life</i> by Fritjof Capra "The Eight Principles of Deep Ecology" by Naess and Sessions "Deep Ecology and Lifestyle" by Arne Naess "The Gaia Hypothesis" by Mother Earth editors From <i>Seeing the Whole at the Center</i> by F. Marina Schaeffer
Nature and Spirit	Religion and spirituality can play a significant role in shaping ecological values and ethics. What insight and inspiration for taking responsibility for Earth do they offer?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "The Greening of the World's Religions" by Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim "The Gospel of J. Matthew" by David Roberts "First Do No Harm" by Stephanie Kazak "Sharing One Skin" by Jeanette Armstrong
The Universe Story	Scientific discoveries in physics, biology and cosmology are challenging our assumptions about how the world works. How might these insights change our relationship to the Earth?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Cosmology: The Largest Context" by Michael Dowd "Comprehensive Compassion: An Interview with Brian Swimme" by Susan Bridle "The Universe Is Our University" by Thomas Berry "Living the New Story: An Interview with Sister Miriam MacGillis" by Alan AtKisson
Ecopsychology	Modern life tends to cut us off from our bond to the natural world. Could restoration of that bond help to heal both individuals and the planet?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Ecopsychology" by John Seed "When the Earth Hurts, Who Responds?" by Sarah A. Conn "Restoring Nature, Restoring Yourself" by Francesca Lyman "Interview with Bill Plotkin" (unknown) "Imagination: Creating a New Reality" by Laura Sewall
Bringing it Down to Earth	Modern, postindustrial society reflects an outdated worldview. How can we build a society that reflects a new understanding of our place on Earth? How can we as individuals, live a more Earth-centered lifestyle?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "The Learning Curve" by David Orr "The Genius of Nature" by Jeanine Berryus "Developing Bonds to Place" by Starhawk "The Pleasures of Eating" by Wendell Berry "The Night of the Razor-Clam Tide" by Kathleen Dean Moore