

## Week 2.

- What is your favourite tree & why?
- Read Genesis 2:4b-17
- What was God's purpose in planting various trees?
- What do trees & forests provide?
- From the perspective of early man, the forest was often seen as a wilderness context, lying outside of the cultivated 'Garden of Eden'. How has that attitude persisted?
- How have we used or abused our responsibilities to develop and sustain our forest environments?
- What impact may the degradation of our forests have on the wider environment and ultimately upon ourselves?
- How can we therefore best care for our trees and forests?

*'The New Forest is enjoyed by millions of people every year, the majority of visits (13.5 million) are by day trip visitors, including those who live within the forest.'*

[NFDC Website]

- How can we support our Forestry Commission in managing our local Forest areas?
- Close in prayer, giving thanks for our forests, particularly remembering the Forestry Commission, Agisters & Rangers who work to maintain and sustain the forest environment.



## Forests

*Trees are mentioned eight times in the creation story, where they stand out prominently as evidence of the vital life force that energises this account. As objects of nature, trees are also images of providence, in a twofold sense. They are themselves the objects of God's provision and trees in turn are a provision for people & animals.*

[IVP Dictionary of Biblical Imagery via Logos]

### Recommended Reading for the Series :

**Bible and Ecology : Richard Bauckham : DLT : 2010**

**Creation As Sacrament; Reflections on Ecology & Spirituality : Revd Dr. John Chryssavgis : T&T Clark : 2019**

**Blue Planet, Blue God, The Bible & The Sea: Meric Srokosz & Rebecca Watson : SCM : 2017**

**Agisters help manage the stock on the land. Rangers help manage the environment by tracking wildlife & caring for sites of special scientific interest (SSSI's).**

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