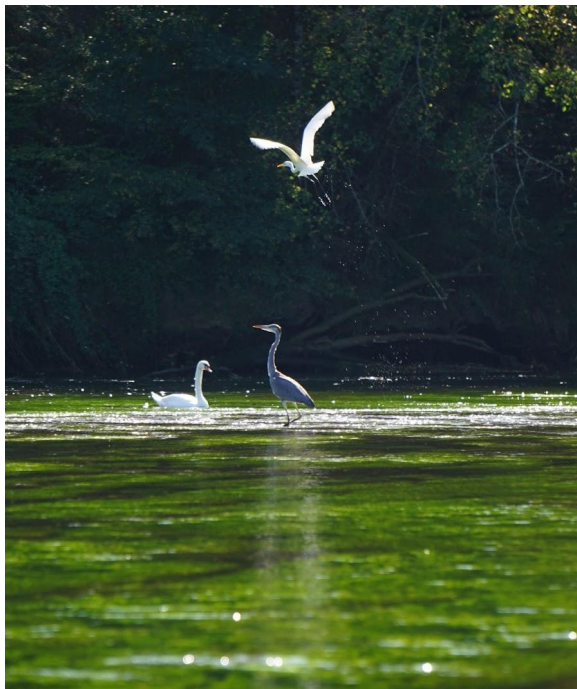


TIPS FOR

# Reading the Bible with an Ecological Lens



Adapted from [Every Creature Singing](#) curriculum, Mennonite Creation Care Network

and

Ched Myers' afterword in the book *Watershed Discipleship: Reinhabiting Bioregional Faith and Practice*, Cascade Books, Eugene, OR, 2016.

## Tips

1. Notice that the Bible is largely an outdoor book. If it is possible, consider **reading your text outdoors**.
2. **Observe the more-than-human elements in the text.** Note the animals, plants/trees, elements (water, rocks, wind, fire) in the text and ask what their role is in the story. Are they more than a backdrop or mere objects? Are they a participant in some way? Is this more than a metaphor or imagery?
3. Ask yourself if you are approaching the text from an **egocentric or ecocentric** view. Are you only looking at how it speaks to you as an individual? Or can you expand what the text might have to say collectively for humanity AND the community of creation?
4. **Land** is a central theme in scripture. How does geography or location inform the text? How does *your* bioregion inform your reading? How is God's will enacted and expressed on earth (as in heaven), and through the land?
5. **Notice how Jesus includes** or relates to the more-than-human world in his parables and teachings.
6. Does the text have anything to say about **transformation, renewal, salvation, or justice**? What is the connection between personal, social and ecological/cosmic aspects of these themes?

## Other Links

[The Earth Bible Project](#)

[Bible and Ecology](#)

[The Wild Lectionary](#)

[Watershed Discipleship](#)