



Session Two

Exploring biblical understandings of land management

Materials needed: Bible, bell, hymnal, newsprint with reflections from your denomination's statements regarding rural life, extra copies of Session Two Hand-out. Optional: music as folks gather.

Welcome: Space for God's voice: Repeat the meditation from Isaiah 65:21-22 from the first session. Begin with the gentle sound of a bell and end with the sound of a bell. Do not rush this meditation, go slowly.

Discuss the questions about the article.

Sound the bell for a few moments of silence. Sound the bell again to resume conversation.

Refer to your denomination's statements which focus on rural life.

Ask folks to bring this handout to the following class sessions.

Closing: Responsive reading of the first stanza of *For the Fruits of This Creation* (used with permission from Augsburg Fortress) Ask group to respond with **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: *For the fruits of this creation...*

Group: ***Thanks be to God.***

Leader: *For good gifts to every nation...*

Group: ***Thanks be to God.***

Leader: *For the plowing, sowing reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping, Future needs in earth's safe-keeping...*

Group: ***Thanks be to God.***