Reconnecting with Earth
A SEVEN-SESSION DISCUSSION CIRCLE FOR THE HOME, FAITH CENTER OR WORKPLACE

Purpose

› To clarify earth-related values through discussions about deep ecology and related topics.

› To discover how personal values affect the way we view and treat the earth.

› To explore what it means to take personal responsibility for the 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 in many cases was inspiring.”
- circle participant

Session Descriptions

1. 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?

2. 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?

3. 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?

4. 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?

5. 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?

6. Bringing it Down to Earth: Modern, postindustrial society reflects an outdated worldview.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?

7. Call to Action—Wrap-Up

For information on how to join or start an Reconnecting with Earth discussion circle in MD or DC, please visit www.simplicity-matters.org/info

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Simple living for a sustainable future

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Reconnecting with Earth
Readings and Excerpts


4. **The Universe Story.** “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


7. **Wrap-Up.** Evaluation and Next Steps

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