

Laudato Si' Study Guide- Leader's Notes

What you need:

- Copies of the *Laudato Si'* study guide for each member of your group.
- At least one copy of *Laudato Si'*- the full encyclical. You can download the encyclical from **cafod.org.uk/encyclical** or buy a copy from your local Catholic bookshop.
- Internet access or a DVD player and screen (optional).
- Bread to share (at the close of session four only).

About the study guide

This study guide invites you to reflect on some of the key themes of *Laudato Si'* and to explore ways of taking action. It is not intended to be a complete guide to the encyclical, but an initial way of engaging with Pope Francis' important message. The guide includes four sessions, each representing the different ways of reading the encyclical:

Session one: Creation is a caress of God. This reminds us that as believers, Scripture reveals that God created the world and it is good.

Session two: The climate is a common good. This encourages us that as inhabitants of the earth, we have a particular responsibility to protect creation.

Session three: A universal family. This calls us, as neighbours to each other, to recognise that we are on an earthly pilgrimage together.

Session four: We were made for love. This final session looks at how we are called to respond in solidarity with our global family and all of creation.

How to use with a group

It is not essential that the participants of your group have read *Laudato Si'* beforehand. Each session starts with relevant quotes from the encyclical, with a reference corresponding to the passage it has been taken from. It will look like this: #1. However we recommend having at least one full copy available for reference.

You can choose to look at all of the sessions at once, or more gradually over a course of four weeks.

Each session lasts approximately one hour and follows the same format:

1) Read the passages from the encyclical

Start by reading the passages aloud slowly. Then ask the participants to read them quietly for a second time, keeping in mind a word or a phrase which resonates with them. Ask people in your group to discuss what they find striking about these passages with the person next to them.

2) Share the witness story

Each passage from the encyclical is accompanied by a story from the communities we work with overseas or parishes in the UK. Give people time to think and comment on the feelings it provokes.

3) Reflect

You may want to read the reflection aloud slowly. This is optional and is intended to prompt discussion.

4) Discuss

Go through some or all of the questions. There are no wrong answers! Encourage an atmosphere where everyone feels comfortable sharing their thoughts.

Note: Session two includes an examination of conscience in the place of discussion questions. You may like to invite the participants to reflect on these quietly, or if people feel comfortable, ask people to share their reflections as a group.

5) Act

Ask someone to read aloud the action. Think about how you can respond to what you've been reflecting on, both as an individual and as a group. Encourage the members of your group to share their own ideas for action.

6) Pray

Finally, say the short prayer at the end of each session together. If you would like to close or open your reflection with a longer prayer, there is a selection available at **cafod.org.uk/encyclical**

Some of the sessions include an optional accompanying film, which goes into more depth on Church teaching and the environment. Play the film to the group, and ask participants to consider whether this makes them think differently about any of the questions.

You should receive a free copy of the *One Climate, One World* DVD when you order a copy of the study guide. We hope you find the DVD helpful to explore some of the issues covered in the guide, such as climate change, in more detail.

Ordering more copies

Order a *Laudato Si'* study guide for each member of your group and the DVD with accompanying films at shop.cafod.org.uk or call 0300 011 5680. You can also download a copy (for larger print) at **cafod.org.uk/encyclical**