

"SURELY THE LORD IS IN THIS PLACE" GENESIS 28:16



This year, Creation Justice Ministries focused on the Sense of Place in our Earth Day resource. As noted in the resource, the "sense of place" can be hard to define but it is something that we recognize when we see it. This resource explored two crises our communities are facing: environmental and social, and the impact that they have on our sense of place.

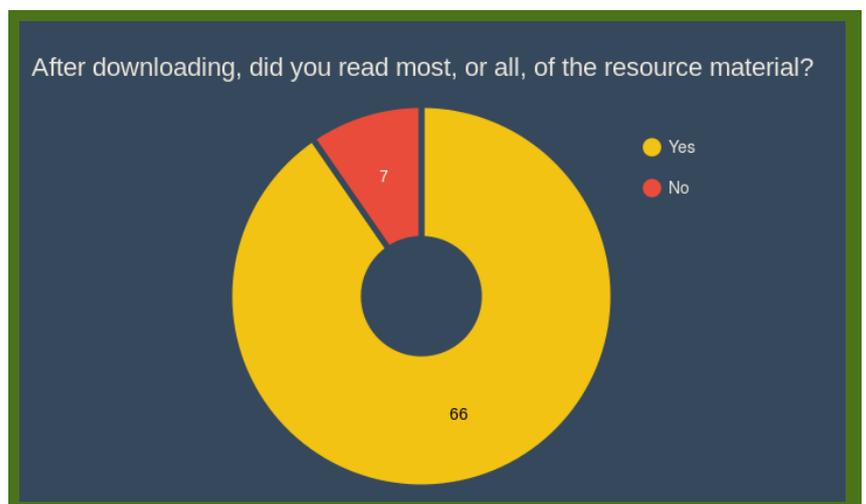
This evaluation seeks to reflect on the 2018 resource in regards to feedback that Creation Justice Ministries received via surveys from those who downloaded the resource.

SURVEY OVERVIEW

We received 73 responses in total from those who downloaded our Earth Day Sunday 2018 Resource. We asked a total of fifteen questions, which were a mixture of set answers and comments, both of which are presented in this report. All in all, the resource was downloaded 1,557 times. We received 73 total responses to our survey, although not all respondents answered every question.

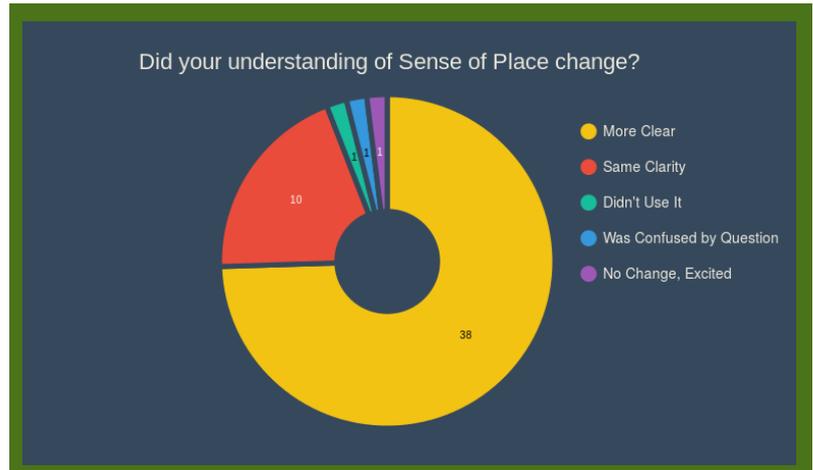
QUESTION ONE

The first question asked if responders read most, or all, of the resource materials after they downloaded it. 66 responders indicated that they had read the toolkit, and 7 indicated that they had not. As such, the 2018 Earth Kit had a 90% read rate amongst survey respondents.



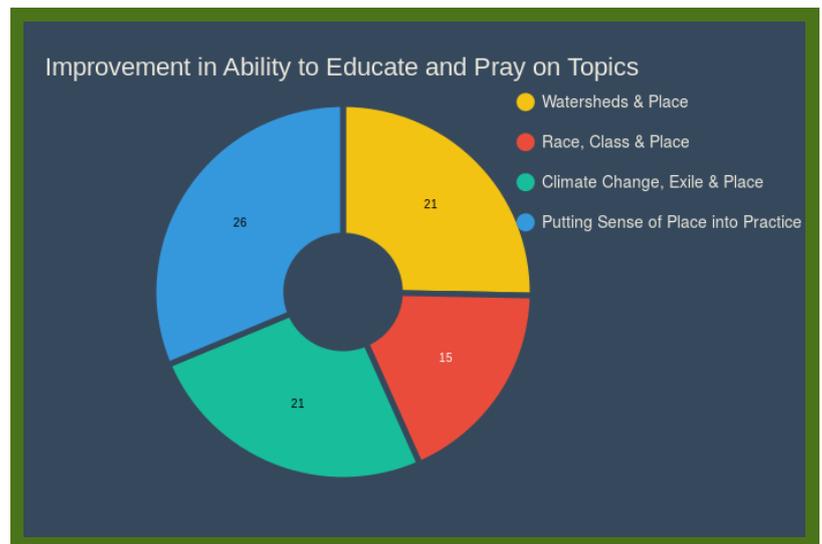
QUESTION TWO

The second question survey respondents answered was regarding if their understanding of Sense of Place changed. 38 respondents indicated that they had a more clear understanding, 10 respondents said that they had the same clarity as before, and 1 respondent each said that they did not use the toolkit, was confused by our question, or indicated that there was no change but they were excited about the resource. This indicates that 94% of respondents had a favorable understanding of the Sense of Place.



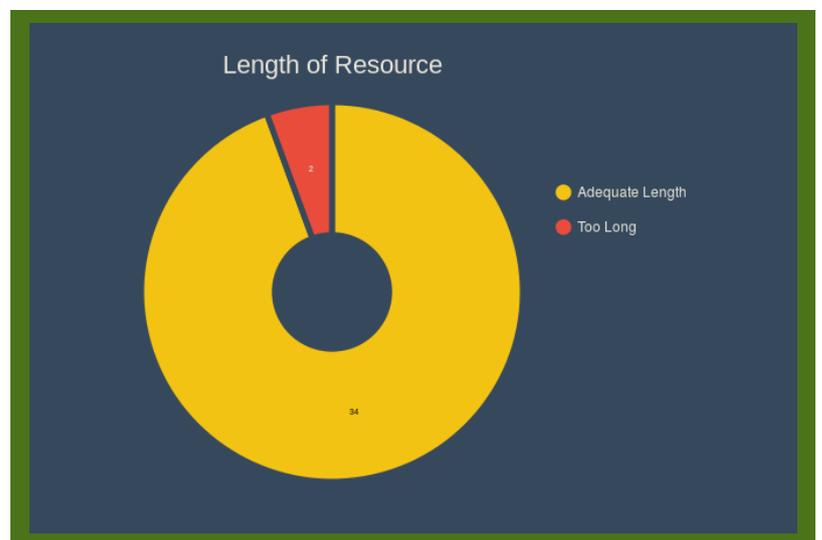
QUESTION THREE

The third question survey respondents answered was regarding if respondents saw an improvement in their ability to educate and pray on the topics of watersheds and place; race, class, and place; climate change, exile, and place; and putting sense of place into practice. 25% indicated an improvement in ability to educate and pray on watersheds and place; 18% on race, class, and place, 22% on climate change, exile, and place; and 31% on putting sense of place into practice.



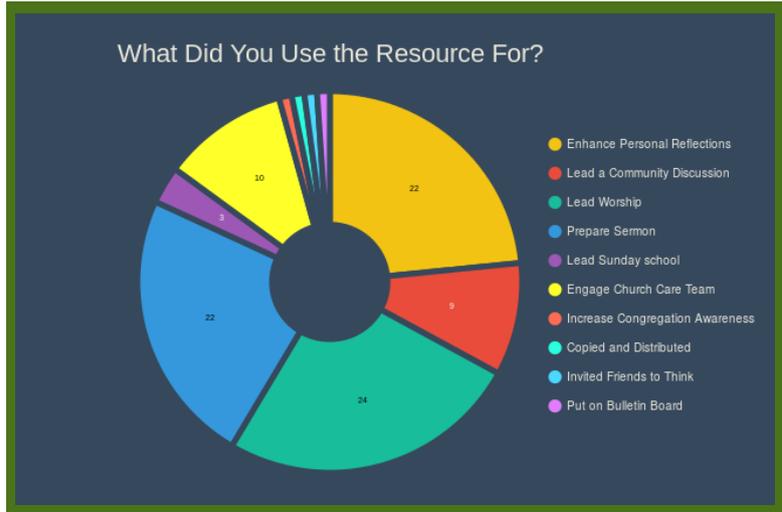
QUESTION FOUR

We also asked respondents their opinion on the length of the resource. We had 34 respondents say that the resource was of adequate length, and 2 that said the resource was too long. As such, 94% of survey respondents were satisfied with the length of the toolkit.

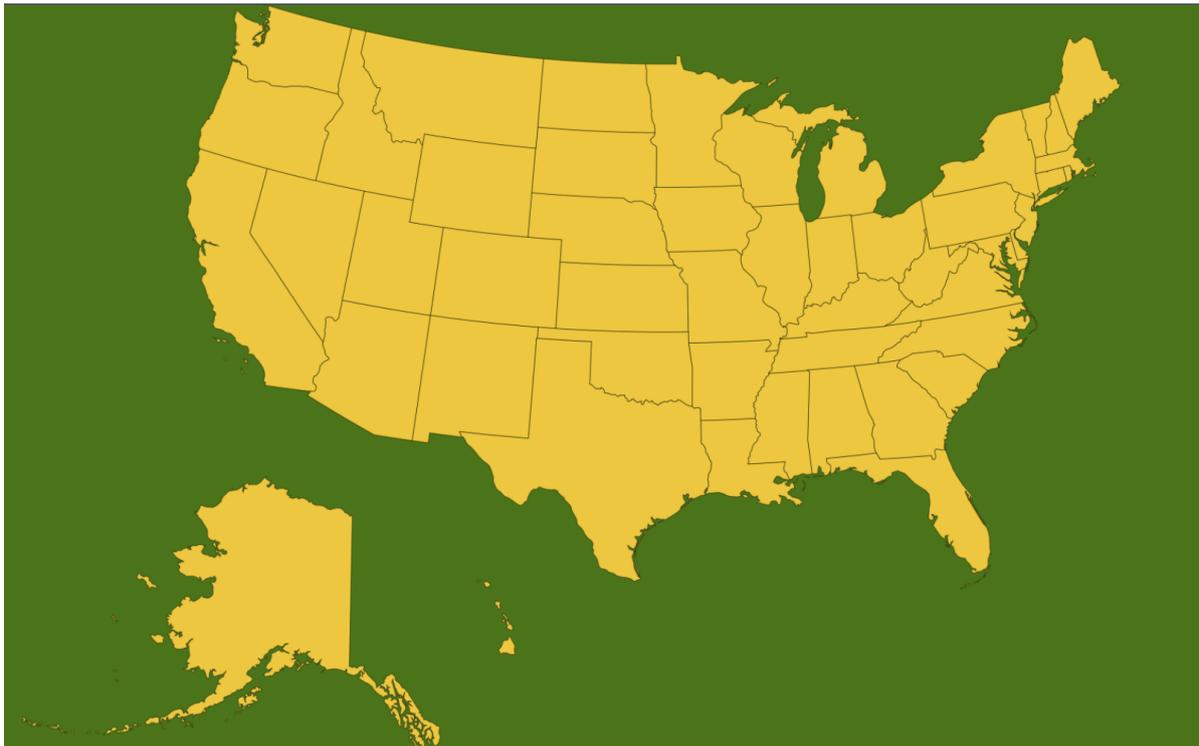


QUESTION FIVE

We next asked respondents to share how they used the resource. 24 respondents said they used the resource to lead a worship, 22 respondents said that they used it to prepare a sermon, 22 said that they used it to enhance personal reflections, 10 used them to engage with a church care team, 9 used them for community discussions, and one respondent each indicated that they to lead Sunday School, copy and distributed them, invite friends to think about the materials, or put them on a bulletin board.



WHERE WAS THIS RESOURCE USED?



As previously mentioned, this resource was downloaded 1,557 times. These downloads spanned across all fifty states, as well as several regions in Canada. There were even a couple downloads in the United Kingdom. Furthermore, respondents noted that they shared this resource with others that did not download it themselves. 25% of respondents shared it with 1-5 people, 29% shared it with 6-20 people, 11% shared it with 25-45 people, 18% shared it with 50-80 people, 11% shared it with their congregation, and 3% of respondents shared it with their newsletters.

OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

In addition to questions where we had set responses for respondents to choose from, we provided a variety of open-ended questions to give respondents the opportunity to engage with us on their opinions of the toolkit. We asked a variety of questions that asked about insights that they obtained from the resource, their ideas for future resources, ways for the 2019 resource to be improved, ideas for the 2019 theme, and their interest to be contacted further regarding this resource. Some of their responses are included in the following pages of the evaluation.

What topics would you like to see in the future?

- More on water bottles
- More on the impact locally - it was a great resource on why we need to care and change.
- Dealing with resistance in a small congregation.
- Air pollution and renewable power sources.
- Recycling
- More of the same
- More resources on the connection between theology/spirituality of caring for our earth.
- Keeping current with the issues at hand
- Energy stewardship (efficiency, extracted and renewable sources included)
- Creation care, climate change, and plastic pollution.

"I titled my message "Does God Care About the Toothpaste you use?" I used the information in the download to explain, how some manufacturer use things like microplastics in products and we do not even know that these ingredients are there. That we do not understand the harm they are causing, to us and the environment around us. God cares for us, so, if something is causing us harm and harm to the water we need to survive then YES God cares about what is in the toothpaste we use. I also talked about the plastic that is ending up in our oceans and fish that we eat."

- Respondent's anecdote on how resource increased action/insight



"Members of the congregation thought about the waste we create on Sunday mornings and started bringing their own coffee cups instead of using the styrofoam ones that our kitchen committee provides."

- Respondent's anecdote on how resource increased action/insight

THOUGHTS ON 2019 EARTH DAY TOOLKIT

The following two questions asked respondents for their opinions on the 2019 Earth Day Toolkit.

In what ways can we improve the 2019 resource?

- More worship resources
- I would suggest developing 2 resources, not everyone is at the same place. The community I work at is for too conservative to have used the resource and those are the folks we need to reach. We have to preach to others besides the ones in the choir.
- I thought it was a good starting place for Earth Day worship planning. Hopefully, next year we will have an eco-justice ministry team that will help and do more with the resource.
- A useful resource in prompting different approaches and insights
- Keep up the great work that you all do and just make sure that the information you give is up to date and complete.
- More specific and brief suggestions to choose from
- Could you add a bibliography additional resources we could use? I'm especially interested in books that lead to adult class discussions and possibly Bible study resources on this topic.
- Children Sermon and Educational Resources
- Briefer dialog to use on display boards
- More liturgy - I downloaded the resource in hopes of finding prayers, call to worship, etc. that I could use but was disappointed. I was not able to find anything that I could easily incorporate into worship.

Ideas on children and youth as a theme

- Children and youth have the power to make positive changes in how we care for creation in their homes, schools, community, and world - and they already are!
- Making theological and liturgical linkages with what is currently taught in schools about the environment and climate change.
- Family activities facts and figures of interest ways kids can help
- Activities to better educate our youth
- Please put together a contact listing all the schools (Catholic and non) OR at least promote it in the secular press. A positive facet of our community of faith!
- Could place in a few educational activities for kids/families to explore creation.
- We do not offer single age segregated activities. A multi-generational approach highlighting children's leadership would be better for our purposes.