



## ***Tell Your Story:*** **A Guide to Telling Your Creation Testimony**

Bearing witness around protecting God's creation is imperative in shaping the public discourse. If you take a look at our [Op-Ed Writing Guide](#) you will see how writing an op-ed is a powerful way to speak out. One strategy in writing an effective op-ed article is telling personal stories. Humanizing and putting a face on an issue can really drive a point home.

The Good Steward Campaign is encouraging you to tell your story. First however, it's important for your op-ed to be current and fresh! Start your article with something in the news that connects with environmental protection. For example – in all three Presidential debates (four if you include the Vice Presidential Debate) not once was climate change mentioned. This is the first time this has happened [since 1988](#) – before many of us were born! Millions of lives are being affected by the negative consequences of global warming and it's only getting worse – and it's not even being talked about?!

Once you have the hook (i.e. the fresh connection), the main question to answer is this:

### **Why, as a Christian, do you care about protecting God's creation?**

Dive deep into the answer. You might want to consider:

1. Have you had any experiences in nature that brought you closer to God?
2. Is there any verse or piece of scripture that speaks to your belief in creation care?
3. What role does science play in shaping your beliefs on environmental protection? How does this interact with your faith?
4. When did you start caring about environmental stewardship? What started it?
5. Has your pastor ever preached a sermon on caring for God's creation? Why or why not?
6. Is there an environmental issue that you feel particularly passionate about? If so, why?
7. Was there any individual and/or group that made you start to think about creation care?

**→ Try to tell a personal story in answering one of these questions ←**

After you beautifully tell why, as a Christian, you care about God's creation, answer this:

### **What do you believe needs to change moving forward? Why?**

Again, dive deep. You might want to consider:

1. What do we need to change – as individuals, churches, communities, states, a nation and as a world – to protect God's creation? What should hold our first priority?
2. There will be resistance – from all realms, including the church – how should we answer this?
3. We can't look at environmental issues without considering where our energy comes from – what energy sources should we turn to?

**Last part – dive into *how* these changes are going to occur. Here’s your chance to get a bit idealistic. Consider:**

1. What role should we play, as members of the Millennial Generation, in confronting the degradation of the environment, namely climate change? (Hint: you’re doing it right now – speaking out!)
2. What should our church leaders be doing? (Hint: speaking out as the moral voice! [Ask your pastor to preach about creation care](#))
3. What should are political leaders be doing? (Hint: having the courage to do what is right)

Of course you don’t have to answer all of the questions broached here – this is just meant to help get your brain churning. That said this is your opportunity to speak out, tell your story, and demand change. Our generation is the one who will have to suffer the consequences of our irresponsible choices today. Don’t sit on the sideline while your future is put in jeopardy. We are told in Genesis 2:15 to be good stewards of the earth. This world is God’s, not ours. It’s time we started taking care of it.

Also don’t forget the Good Steward Campaign is here to help you throughout all the stages of this process – from drafting, editing and ultimately placing the article. We want to help your voice reach as large an audience as possible!

Reach out to Drew at [drew@goodstewardcampaign.org](mailto:drew@goodstewardcampaign.org)!

One additional resource – check out a 20-minute [presentation](#) by Eric Sapp, Executive Director of the American Values Network, on writing an effective op-ed!