

# CALLED TO UNDERSTAND

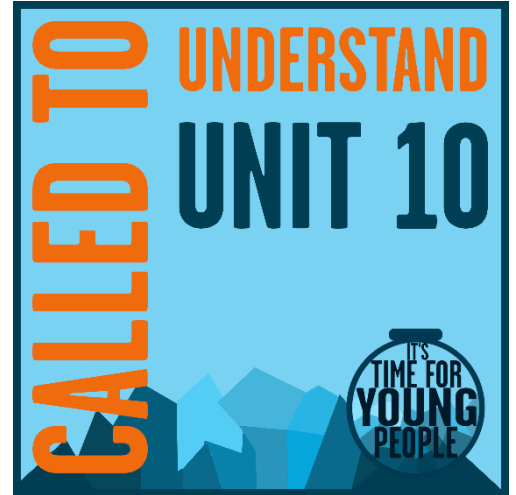
— understanding the interconnectedness of our world —



Do you have questions about the world? About God? Religion? Faith? We celebrate these questions. Having curiosity is a gift.

Many things are beyond our comprehension. However, through our faith, we begin to see that there is an interconnectedness in our world. This is made explicit in *Laudato Si'*, where Pope Francis demonstrates the connections, the cause and effects, of the crisis of greed, consumption and exploitation. When we look beyond ourselves and our lives to what is happening around the world we begin to sit, uncomfortably, with the realisation of the role we play in this.

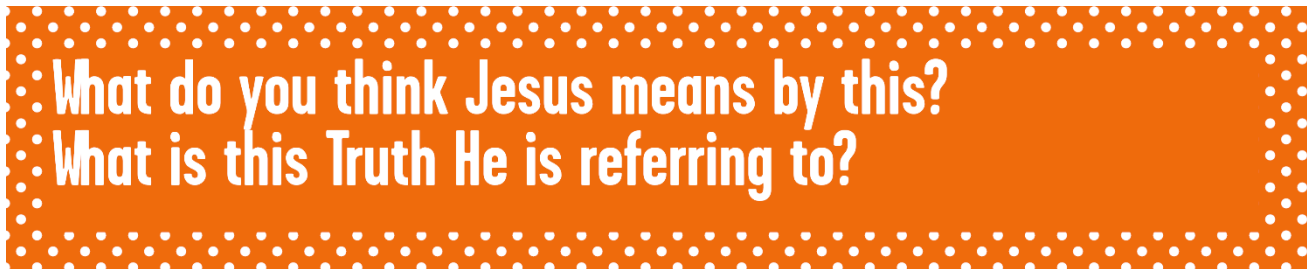
It is time to reflect on ourselves and explore our own world views, our attitude towards humanity and nature. Are we for exclusion, domination and wealth, or care, protection, and love?



## Reflections

### For a short reflection:

Jesus proclaimed, 'I am the Way, the Truth and the life' (John 14:6).



What do you think Jesus means by this?  
What is this Truth He is referring to?

### For a longer reflection:

**Laudato Si' #91:** A sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack **tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings**. It is clearly inconsistent to combat trafficking in endangered species while remaining completely indifferent to human trafficking, unconcerned about the poor, or undertaking to destroy another human being deemed unwanted. This compromises the very meaning of our struggle, for the sake of the environment. It is no coincidence that, in the canticle in which Saint Francis praises God for his creatures, he goes on to say: Praised be you my Lord, through those who give pardon for your love". **Everything is connected. Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society.**

**Do you believe that 'everything is connected'?  
Have you had any experience of this?**

**and/or**

Laudato Si #118: There can be no renewal of our relationship with nature without a renewal of humanity itself. There can be no ecology without an adequate anthropology."

**Do you see this connection between our relationship with nature and relationship/ attitude towards humanity, and towards one another? Can you explain it?**

**and/or**

"The pandemic has highlighted how vulnerable and interconnected we are all. If we do not take care of each other, starting with the least, those who are most affected, including creation, we cannot heal the world. Creation is a harmony in which we are called to live... The harmony created by God asks us to look at others, the needs of others, the problems of others, to be in communion. We want to recognize human dignity in every person, whatever their race, language or condition."

- Pope Francis, The General Audience, 12.08.2020.

**Take this passage and highlight the key words, the words that move you. Jot down some ideas that come to mind for how we might build a more harmonious society.**

## **Faith Sharing**

### **Ephesians 4:1-7**

I beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love. May your unity be based on the unity of faith. For there is one Christ, one faith, one baptism, and one God who binds us together as the foundation of hope. The word of the Lord.

## **Activity**

*15-minute exercise:*

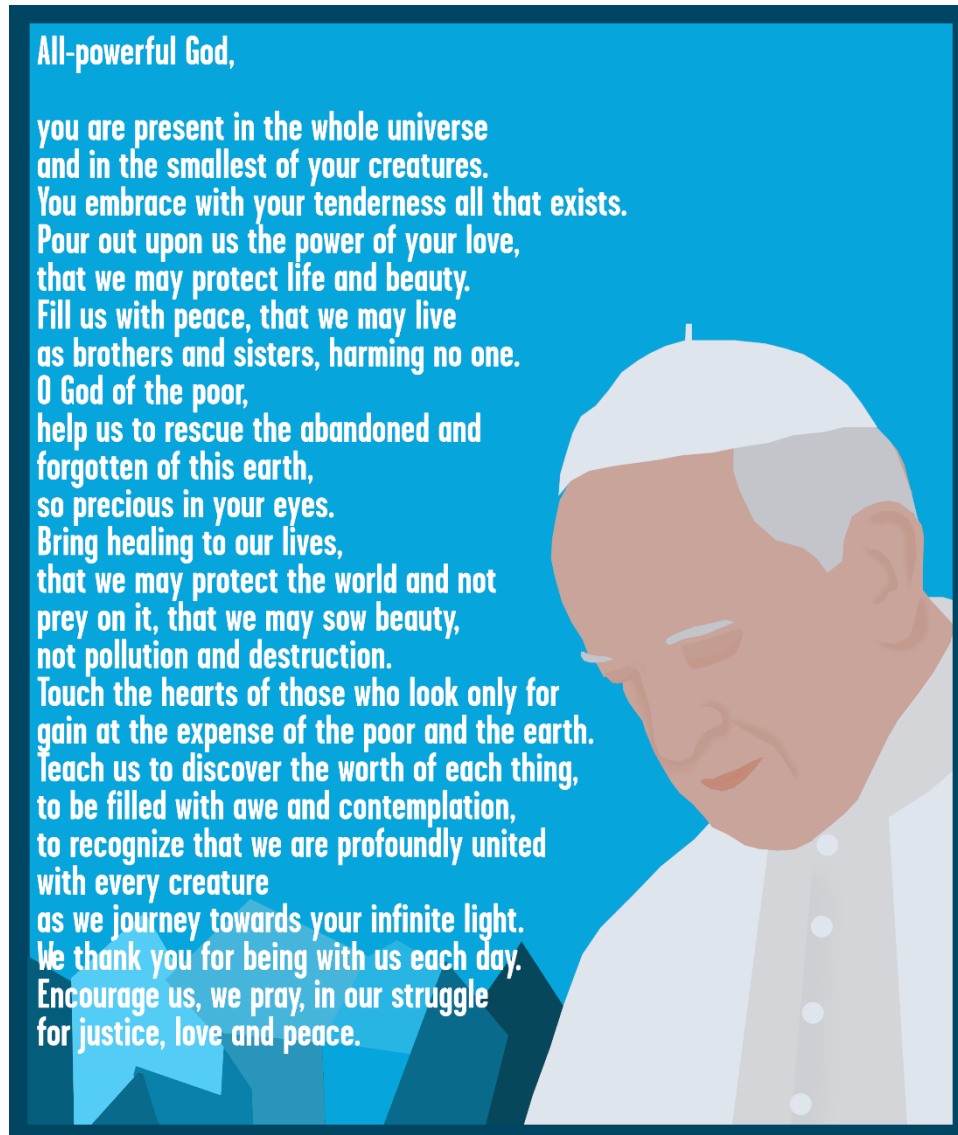
On the middle of a piece of paper write the words 'I find God in...'. Around the outside draw symbols representing where you find God. Examples may include in prayer, in other people, in nature, in Church, in scripture, in the Holy Communion, and more... Think of your own and draw an image for each.

Now, play 'SNAP'! Get into pairs, one person is person A and the other is B. Person A chooses one thing from their sheet, does person B also have the same thing? If you both do, then that is a SNAP! In 30 seconds explain to each other why you decided to write this thing - has there been a particular experience of when God was present in your life through this? Find another person and repeat the game. Pairs who did not find a match continue until you find something in common, or, if you don't after three attempts, then share one with each other, explaining in 30 seconds why you wrote that one down. Then can continue to go around the room and create a new pair.

## Prayer

### A Prayer for Our Earth

Encyclical: *Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home*, Pope Francis



## Further Resources

The Ecological Conversion Group: <https://theecg.org/>

The Climate Coalition: <https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/>