

Reconnecting With 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 was inspiring."

— Reconnecting With Earth Participant



DISCUSSION COURSE ON

RECONNECTING WITH EARTH

Will you ever bring a better gift for the world than the breathing respect that you carry wherever you go right now?

— WILLIAM STAFFORD



Join an upcoming *Reconnecting with Earth* course:

What:

When:

Where:

Contact:

Additional information and cost:

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SIX-SESSION DISCUSSION COURSE WILL:

- Clarify values through discussions about our relationship to Earth
- Discover how personal beliefs and values affect the way we view and treat the Earth
- Explore what it means to take personal responsibility for the Earth



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RECONNECTING WITH EARTH

DISCUSSION COURSE DESCRIPTION

SESSION THEME	DESCRIPTION	READINGS
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?	<p>"The Real World Around Us" by Rachel Carson</p> <p>"The Tuolumne Camp" by John Muir</p> <p>"The Judgement of the Birds" by Loren Eiseley</p> <p>"Seeing" by Annie Dillard</p> <p>"The Phosphorescent Soul" by Terry Tempest Williams</p> <p>"The Moral Equivalent of Wildness" by Kathleen Dean Moore</p>
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?	<p>"Thinking Like a Mountain" by Aldo Leopold</p> <p>From The Web of Life by Fritjof Capra</p> <p>"The Eight Principles of Deep Ecology" by Naess and Sessions</p> <p>"Deep Ecology and Lifestyle" by Arne Naess</p> <p>"The Gaia Hypothesis" by Mother Earth editors</p> <p>From Seeing the Whole at the Center by F. Marina Schaffler</p>
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?	<p>"The Greening of the World's Religions" by Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim</p> <p>"The Gospel of J. Matthew" by David Roberts</p> <p>"First Do No Harm" by Stephanie Kaza</p> <p>"Sharing One Skin" by Jeanette Armstrong</p>
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?	<p>"Cosmology: The Largest Context" by Michael Dowd</p> <p>"Comprehensive Compassion: An Interview with Brian Swimme" by Susan Bridle</p> <p>"The Universe Is Our University" by Thomas Berry</p> <p>"Living the New Story: An Interview with Sister Miriam MacGillis" by Alan AtKisson</p>
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?	<p>"Ecopsychology" by John Seed</p> <p>"When the Earth Hurts, Who Responds?" by Sarah A. Conn</p> <p>"Restoring Nature, Restoring Yourself" by Francesca Lyman</p> <p>"Interview with Bill Plotkin" (unknown)</p> <p>"Imagination: Creating a New Reality" by Laura Sewall</p>
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?	<p>"The Learning Curve" by David Orr</p> <p>"The Genius of Nature" by Jeanine Benyus</p> <p>"Developing Bonds to Place" by Starhawk</p> <p>"The Pleasures of Eating" by Wendell Berry</p> <p>"The Night of the Razor-Clam Tide" by Kathleen Dean Moore</p>