



FRIDAY, APRIL 4

The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it,
the world and all who dwell therein.

—Psalm 24:1

Whenever I am leading a training with subsistence farmers, I always begin with a Bible study of this passage. Remembering that we are called to be caretakers and not owners of creation helps us to remember our right place before God. I ask the question, “What about the place you throw your garbage? Does that belong to God?” Realizing that all things belong to God helps us to hold our possessions more lightly, to share resources more freely and to make the effort required to be better stewards of what we have been given.

This lesson is just as important in the developed world as it is for impoverished rural farmers. We who have been given access to more resources are called not to hoard what we have. What we have belongs to God, and we are called to share it so that others will have the opportunity to be stewards of God's resources as well.

I have seen a light come on in the eyes of someone who considered themselves lowly, nothing but a subsistence farmer, but then through study of scripture discovered that farmers are called to the honorable and noble task of being caretakers of creation, stewards of God's riches.

What time, talent and resources have you been given? How can you be a good steward today? How can you share what you have to empower others?

—Robin Denney