



GOOD FAITH **READ ALONG**

STUBBORN HOPE AND FAITHFUL ACTION

***Brian Webb: Can Missionaries,
Not Politics, Depolarize Climate
Change for Christians?***

A companion guide to Good Faith episode 221.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This read-along guide accompanies the final installment of [the Good Faith climate series](#), featuring sustainability director and educator Brian Webb. We invite you to use this guide while listening to the conversation or return to it afterward for personal reflection or small group discussion.

As always, the goal is not to prescribe policy or pressure agreement, but to foster Christian formation. We hope this resource helps you engage a complicated, urgent topic with hope, curiosity, and moral clarity.

A gentle reminder: You do not need to agree with everything to engage faithfully. What matters most is attention, courage, and a willingness to act in love.

“I learned a while back that my job isn’t to change the entire church on climate change. That’s too big. My job is to be faithful – to do what God has called me to do. Even when the work feels undone, faithfulness still matters.”

BRIAN WEBB



CLIMATE CHANGE AS A DISCIPLESHIP TEST

Brian Webb opens this conversation with a clear conviction: climate change is not just an environmental or political issue. It is a test of Christian discipleship. If our call is to love God and neighbor, we must consider how a warming world affects both.

Webb recounts his own journey from indifference to passionate engagement, rooted in Scripture and shaped by a moment of conviction from 1 Corinthians 12: "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it." His conclusion is simple but disruptive: we cannot follow Christ while ignoring the suffering caused by climate change.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

- When you think about climate change, what stirs more quickly: spiritual urgency or political confusion?
- How might viewing climate change as a discipleship issue shift your posture toward it?
- Think back over the arc of your life. Have there been hinge moments where your faith has led you to rethink your position on an issue or to engage in a different way? Might climate now be among those issues?



SUFFERING IS GLOBAL – BUT ALSO LOCAL

Many American Christians struggle to connect with the urgency of climate change because its most devastating effects often seem distant.

Brian Webb disrupts this perception by telling personal stories from both overseas and at home: from his friend Marinel in the Philippines, who survived Typhoon Haiyan, to his own experience of contracting Lyme disease after a fall backpacking trip made possible by unseasonably warm weather.

His point is simple and sobering: climate change is not a future or faraway threat. It is already causing human suffering and, while tempting to view it as an issue that is perpetually “out there”, it’s likely already much closer to home than we realize.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

- Where have you seen or experienced changes in your own environment that might be linked to climate trends? Have you noticed the “weather getting weirder”?
- What stories or statistics have made climate change feel more real to you?
- Do you sense any tension between your lived experience and your faith response?



THE MISSIONARY ALARM: WHY THE GLOBAL CHURCH MATTERS

Perhaps the most surprising (and convicting) part of this episode is the role missionaries are playing in sounding the alarm about climate change.

Webb highlights the Cape Town Commitment, issued by global missionary leaders, which names climate change as an urgent challenge equal to poverty. He describes how organizations like YWAM and the Christian Climate Observers Program are already deeply engaged in climate discipleship.

The takeaway? Christians around the world are not waiting for a political consensus to act. They are responding to what they see on the ground.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

- How does hearing from global Christian voices change the way you think about this issue?
- Why might missionaries be particularly well-positioned to depolarize this conversation?
- Could you imagine bringing this topic up in your church? What response would you expect?



INSTITUTIONS MATTER: WHY CHANGE IS BIGGER THAN YOU

It's easy to get stuck between extremes: thinking that climate solutions are only possible at the global policy level, or that all we can do is recycle and change light bulbs. But Webb, like Curtis, insists on the power of the institutional middle.

We reflect God's image not only as individuals but as organizations and communities. Which means one of the most faithful things we can do is act within the institutions we already inhabit: churches, schools, companies, local governments.

"We're not called to single-handedly fix the planet. We're called to be faithful. Faithful to God, to the people around us, to the earth God made. And that faithfulness can show up in our workplaces, our churches, our cities – not just in our personal choices."

BRIAN WEBB

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

- What institutions are you already part of? Could you imagine initiating a conversation about climate stewardship there?
- How might your local church respond to a creation care team?
- When have you seen institutional change actually make a difference? How might this encourage you to believe it can do the same on this topic?



STUBBORN OPTIMISM: HOW TO KEEP GOING WHEN PROGRESS STALLS

Near the end of the episode, Brian Webb gets honest: he has felt crushed by despair. Years of progress feel undone. Political winds are shifting. Climate data remains bleak. And yet, he remains committed. Why?

Because he has embraced a posture of "stubborn optimism" – the belief that success is not guaranteed, but faithfulness is still required. Like Curtis, he draws on a theological vision of hope rooted not in outcomes, but in the character of God and the promise of Christ's return.

"If environmental problems are real and serious, why has my tribe – the church – missed it for so long? That became my calling: to bridge the gap between faith and environmental action, not just as an activist, but as someone rooted in Scripture and discipleship."

BRIAN WEBB

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

- Where do you feel discouraged about environmental issues or the state of the world?
- What might it mean to act in hope even when you cannot control the outcome?
- What practices or relationships help you sustain hope over time?



SERIES WRAP-UP AND FINAL TAKEAWAYS

Over three episodes, we've explored climate change through the lenses of science, Scripture, global missions, and personal discipleship. Along the way, some themes have emerged:

- ***Climate change is not just about the environment; it's about people.*** Especially the most vulnerable.
- ***Science and faith are not enemies.*** In fact, truth-telling about creation is an act of discipleship.
- ***You are not alone.*** Many Christians around the world care deeply about this issue, and are taking faithful action.

The Gospel is good news for all of creation. Our hope is not escape, but restoration.

If you feel overwhelmed, remember: the goal is not heroism. The goal is faithfulness. Small actions, rooted in love and sustained in community, matter.

You are invited to:

- Start a conversation at your church or workplace.
- Support organizations like A Rocha USA or CCOP.
- Learn from missionaries and Christians outside the U.S.
- Begin again, with stubborn hope.

And always, to remember: God is not absent. Christ is returning. And in the meantime, we are called to care.



CLOSING PRAYER

God of all creation,
You made this world and called it good.

When we feel overwhelmed by the weight of
the world,
Remind us that our call is not to save it,
But to love it as You do.

When we feel afraid or ashamed,
Remind us that You are not a God of fear, but
of love.

When we feel powerless,
Remind us that small faithfulness matters.

Give us eyes to see suffering,
Ears to hear the cries of our neighbors,
And hearts to respond with courage and
care.

Make us agents of Your hope.
Amen.

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