Eco-Discipleship?

*How we’re framing it*

➢ Eco - *(Greek)* oik/oiko/oikos & *(Late Latin)* oeco = house or home
➢ Discipleship - The lifelong process of following Jesus, becoming Jesus and doing what Jesus did (Swanson).
➢ Eco-Discipleship = Discipling & faith formation experiences rooted in our earthly home (God’s Earth)
  ○ Eco-Orthodoxy
    ■ Eco-Blueprint
    ■ Eco-Theology
  ○ Eco-Orthopraxy
    ■ Eco-Stewardship
    ■ Eco-Disciplines
Eco-Blueprint

God’s Ecological Pattern for all of Life
A Natural Blueprint from our Creator

Rich heritage of indigenous wisdom traditions

Older language of Medicine Wheel

Wilderness Awareness School - Elders in First Nation, Australian, European

● Eight Shields Model - incorporates intercardinal directions as well
● Anake Outdoor School (‘10) - integrated into 9-month immersion experience
● Survivor & Dadirri Camps at Camp Mack & Brethren Heights

Eco-Wheel represents what??
East

Diurnal Cycle: Dawn/Sunrise

Time of Day: Morning

Season: Spring

Plant Life Cycle: Sprouting

Human Life Cycle: Birth

Element: Water
South

Diurnal Cycle: *Zenith*

Time of Day: *Mid-Day (Noon)*

Season: *Summer*

Plant Life Cycle: *Flowering*

Human Life Cycle: *Adolescence*

Element: *Earth*
West

Diurnal Cycle: *Sunset*

Time of Day: *Evening*

Season: *Autumn*

Plant Life Cycle: *Bearing fruit/food*

Human Life Cycle: *Adulthood*

Element: *Fire*
North

Diurnal Cycle: *Hidden*

Time of Day: *Midnight*

Season: *Winter*

Plant Life Cycle: *Seeds germinating*

Human Life Cycle: *Elderhood*

Element: *Air/Wind/Breath*
East Quality: *Inspiration*

**Embodied:** *Creativity, Excitement, Beginnings, Renewal*

**Indicator of Awareness:** *Common Sense (All Senses)*

**Shema:** *Heart*

**Christ:** *Inspires & Amazes*

**Spiritual Formation:** *Missional, Hospitality, Welcome/Inclusion*

**Shadow Form:** *Agitation*
South Quality: Formation

Embodied: Focus, Study, Working/Laboring

Indicator of Awareness: Inquisitive Focus

Shema: Mind

Christ: Instructs

Spiritual Formation: Biblical, Theological Study

Shadow Form: Demolition
West Quality Celebration

**Embodied:** Gathering, Sharing, Appreciation, Harvesting

**Indicator of Awareness:** Service to Community

**Shema:** Strength

**Christ:** Involves

**Spiritual Formation:** Worship

**Shadow Form:** Lamentation
North Quality: *Integration*

**Embodied:** Wisdom, Distillation

**Indicator of Awareness:** Self-Sufficiency & Confidence

**Shema:** Soul

**Christ:** Infuses Spirit

**Spiritual Formation:** Spiritual Direction/Discernment, Prayer

**Shadow Form:** Stagnation
Thresholds

Southeast: Growing Pains

Southwest: Identity

Northwest: Grief

Northeast: Legacy (End/Begin)
Inspiration. Formation. Celebration. Integration.

Application in Ministry Settings

How would you *preach/teach*?

How would you *plan worship*?

How would you *plan a retreat*?

How would you do *pastoral care*?

How would you run a day of *camp*?

How would you fuse it in your *prayer life*?
Resources:

*Coyote’s Guide to Connecting with Nature* by Young, Haas, McGown

*Celtic Wheel of the Year* by Tess Ward

*The Four Shields* by Steven Foster & Meredith Little

*A Wild Faith: Jewish Ways into Wilderness* by Rabbi Mike Comins

*Water, Wind, Earth, & Fire: The Christian Practice of Praying with the Elements* by Christine Valters Painter

Wilderness Awareness School (wildernessawareness.org)