

EARTH Bingo

A Learning Game for those responding to Pope Francis's Encyclical, Laudato Si'

Sr. Adeline Kroll, OSF, and Franciscan Associate Melissa Fafarman of the Faithful Fools Street ministry have collaborated to make this sociable and reflective game for those concerned and wishing to prepare to respond to the Pope's call to action for the wellbeing of our Earth. This game is a device to foster reflective discussion of Laudato Si' and to form work groups for effective projects. We encourage laughter while playing, prayer in convening reflection, and we appreciate any suggestions for making the directions clearer or improving the game! And don't stop with doing this just once. Play it in Sunday School! Play at your recycling center. Invite your neighbors over! Send it to your friends! Have fun!!!

--Ade and Melissa

Description of the EARTH Bingo.

1. This Earth Bingo comes in three sets using different paragraph selections from Laudato Si' (Praised Be). Each of the three sets is color-coded—GREEN, YELLOW, OR BLUE--and numbered to show which player boards, and caller cards go with which paragraph selections. The player boards in any particular color set contain basically the same selection of words but in different positions on the player board (BINGO'S more fun when the boards provide diversity! 😊)
2. Each set—green, blue, and yellow--includes EARTH caller cards, each bearing a quote drawn from somewhere throughout the entire encyclical. The paragraph numbers under each quote refer to the encyclical. The color coding of the caller cards matches the color of the player boards.
3. The kit does not contain buttons to cover the called words on the board. Instead the leader may supply natural items such as peanuts, seeds, beans, leaves, etc. For less mess, use pencils.
4. The player boards have two messages printed on the margins: The opening words of Laudato Si' and the Quaker wisdom which may serve as a mantra.
5. The leader should make enough photocopies of the player boards chosen using paper color or ink color to match the caller cards, e.g. green caller cards with green boards. Copied and played boards can then be taken home by the participants as a brief summary. Encourage your players to make notes on their boards for the discussion and later reflection at home. (Though it would be possible to copy only one board from a set, all players would have identical boards, spoiling the surprise call, "EARTH!")
6. You will have decided before the game starts whether you will pause for discussion after each quote card, after each third card, or after all cards have been called up to the cry of "EARTH!"
7. An empty Master Copy of the player board is included so you can choose quote cards and create your own board(s) appropriate to the part of the encyclical you wish to explore or to the needs of the assembled players.

For the Leader/How to play

Because there is a certain amount of BINGO conditioning connected to this format, players are so eager to win they listen only for the word to fill their square and board faster than the other players. However, EARTH bingo is intended as a participatory way of discussing the encyclical, and it can invite participants to a more contemplative state of mind. SO,

- a. Pronounce **the bold face** indicated words.
- b. Alert the group to hear/ listen to the word's meaning in the context of the full quote on the caller card.
- c. Take time to discuss the meaning and application of the quote where it exists in the section of Laudato Si' from which the quote was drawn. Decide whether to discuss each card or to pause for discussion after several cards are called. You may have an eager group, but make these discussions short so you can keep playing to form your working group(s) and collect action commitments.

Leader/caller brings all the equipment, having chosen which color set to use and duplicated on the same colored paper enough player boards for one to each player. There will be some duplicates, since we only created three different arrangements of the quotes in each color set. Each color set uses a different set of quotes. If playing with seeds as markers, hand out at least 25 to each player or place a bowl of them on each table.

Hand out one player card to each participant.

Shuffle your caller cards. Explain that this will be like BINGO, except there is no FREE space. Players will call out "EARTH" when they have made a horizontal row or a diagonal row pointing up and right or up and left or have covered the central square and all four corners.

Call the first **bold** word(s), and then read the full quote on your card. Call the bold word(s) a second time. Players mark their boards.

Once "EARTH!" is heard, ask the all the participants who got a bingo on that round to form themselves into an action group. Together, they will choose an action area and plan an event for their community. Depending on the time frame, you may want to continue with the calling of the cards until all are assigned to action groups, or you may want the first planning group to draw themselves into a small circle (fishbowl style) inside a circle of all the rest so everyone can hear the planning and then offer questions and suggestions. Those outside may want to do a similar action or form their own action groups focusing on a different priority area.

Before all depart, collect and post a list of the action areas people have chosen. You could have them mark the posted list with colored markers showing their 1-2-3 personal urgent items.

Other Ways to Play

1. Another mode of play is to have each player/participant draw a quote card, discuss it, and then have everyone mark where it appears on their own board.
2. The sets can be used individually, consecutively—say, green for the first time, the blue for the second, and yellow for the next—or the leader can combine all the cards and all nine boards (Just use the color codes to re-assemble the sets after the game.) Each color set contains different quotes from the other two sets. This makes a much longer game and covers more of the encyclical.
3. Another way to use the EARTH Bingo kit is to assign the group to read the whole encyclical before gathering and then – skipping the distribution of player boards -- have each participant randomly draw a quote card to discuss, referring back to the encyclical as a whole, as in a book club or classroom activity. Reading it is actually a joy rather than a job, because the style is so clear.

Designers' Notes

1. Partial paragraphs were selected to facilitate discussion focus. The full paragraph can be looked up in the encyclical through the reference number on the caller card and on the player boards which match paragraph numbers in the encyclical.
2. The **bold face** words on the leader's caller card are the words players are to locate and mark on their player boards. If the leader chooses, she may call the bold face words only, or may read the full quote and then speak the bold face words.
3. The leader/caller may want to have participants take their player board home for further contemplation.

Thanks for using our game!

Ade Kroll OSF, Little Falls MN and Berkeley CA

Melissa Fafarman, Associate FSLF, San Francisco and Oakland CA

Replacement cards, boards, instruction sheets are available electronically from Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls (FSLF).

Praise be to You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth,
 who sustains and governs us,
 and who produces various fruits with
 colored flowers and herbs. St. Francis

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Pope Francis 2015

ENCYCLICAL: LAUDATO SI'

DO I WANT IT? DO I NEED IT? CAN I DO WITHOUT IT?
Quaker Wisdom