



## Climate Changed Podcast Discussion Guide

### Season One, Episode Six

Created by Tyler Mark Nelson

**Guest:** Ben Yosua-Davis

**Title:** *Daddy, Did We Hurt Them?*

**Listening excerpt:** 9:00–19:32

### Welcoming Activity

To begin this gathering, spend a few minutes quietly thinking about a particular tree that you are fond of. Consider how long you have been in relationship with this tree. Visualize the texture of the bark, the colors of the leaves, the way that the branches stretch outwards.

### Introduction

#### To Climate Changed Podcast

The BTS Center's new podcast, *Climate Changed*, offers intimate interviews and conversations around some of the most pressing questions about faith, life, and climate change. Hosted by [Ben Yosua-Davis](#), Director of Applied Research, and [Nicole Diroff](#), Program Director, and produced by [Peterson Toscano](#), the podcast features acclaimed guests who are exploring what spiritual leadership looks and feels like in a climate-changed world.

#### To Episode

Three conversations about climate grief occur in this episode. Co-host Ben Yosua-Davis reads his audio essay, "Daddy, Did We Hurt Them?", featuring his five year-old-son, then co-host Nicole Diroff and her father, Michael DiMonte, speak about the importance of intergenerational dialogue about climate change. Hannah Malcolm and Nicole then discuss the diverse experiences of grief from global Christian perspectives.

### Discussion Questions

1. Think of the young people in your life. Children, nieces and nephews, neighbors, students, and so on. Do you feel ready to answer their questions about climate change and the injustices of society?
2. How would you describe to those young people the reality of climate change and present injustices?
3. Nicole's father, Michael DiMonte, states that one reason why children ask such poignant questions is that they can see through the clutter. What do you think he means by this?
4. One of Hannah Malcolm's colleagues commented about her edited volume, *Words for a Dying World: Stories of Grief and Courage from the Global Church*, how many of the essays from authors in the West sounded lonely. He attributed this loneliness to people living in a culture that is not acknowledging the problems contributing to climate change. Hannah adds that individualistic culture and extractive capitalism, too, alienate people from their communities

and lands. Have you experienced this loneliness yourself? How might a local community recover a depth of relationship between its people?

5. What is one way that conversations about climate grief can move from the individualistic and private sphere to one of collective sharing and learning? What are the benefits of learning from the grief experienced by people who don't look like, live like, worship like, or speak like you?

### **Closing Activity**

Recall the tree that you had thought of during the Welcoming Activity. Hold that tree in your spirit as someone reads aloud the poem by Jamaican poet Claude McKay, titled, "[Like a Strong Tree](#)." As everyone moves on with the week, take time to reflect on the poem and what it can teach us in this era of climate change, especially the lines: "So would I live... Like a strong tree against a thousand storms."