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GreenFaith's Discussion Questions on Disneynature's® earth

"Our traditions all teach us that we are part of the earth, and that our Creator calls us to be good stewards of the earth. earth provides a vivid reminder of Creation's beauty, and reminds us of our responsibility to be leaders on Creation's behalf."

**Rev. Fletcher Harper
& Rabbi Lawrence Troster**
GreenFaith

earth

earth is a remarkable film which provides stunning footage of the lives of its animal families. earth also offers opportunities to reflect on what our religious traditions teach us about the relationship between God, people and Creation. The following questions are designed to help members of your house of worship to discuss some of the religious dimension of earth.

- 1** earth does a remarkable job of showing the beauty and splendor of Creation. Most people have had meaningful spiritual experiences in nature – and have often not shared these experiences with anyone else. Share your own experience on God in Creation – whether in a city, country or suburb. And, when your group has listened to several stories, reflect on the themes and similarities between the stories. Do any of the stories remind you of themes or passages from sacred writings or from prayers from your tradition?
- 2** earth shows animals in the wild – largely apart from interaction or influence from human beings. And yet, science has taught us that all of Creation is interconnected, and many religious texts describe all of Creation as joined in a communal praise of its Creator (read Psalm 148 as an example). How would you describe the ways in which all of Creation is interconnected? What does this interconnection teach us about God?
- 3** earth contains footage that has been seen by only a small number of human beings, reminding us that there is much about Creation that we do not yet know or that we have not seen. What does this remind us, or teach us about God?
- 4** earth mentions that human-caused global warming is destroying the habitat of one of the animals featured in the film. Religions have done a very good job of teaching us about the duty of care or responsibility we have to our fellow human beings. What are some of the ways you would describe the duty of care or responsibility we have to animals, plants, and other members of the wider community of Creation?
- 5** The remarkable footage in earth makes it very easy to have feelings of fondness, respect, and even love for the animals featured in the film. Our religious traditions have done a good job of teaching us about our love for God and for our fellow human beings. What might our traditions teach us about our love for Creation, or for its various members and parts?
- 6** Our religious traditions teach us that God calls us to care for and protect those who are vulnerable, and to protect the most vulnerable members of our communities from harm or exploitation by those who are powerful. Do we think of Creation as fitting within this category of vulnerability? If we do, how are we called to respond?