

Explaining climate change to children

Climate change is a challenging subject in terms of the underlying science and political issues about who is to blame and what the solutions might be. These resources may help you explain the subject to children in an engaging way:

Will Jellyfish Rule the World?, a book by Leo Hickman (Puffin)
Ages 9+. £5.49 on www.amazon.co.uk

The Genie in the Bottle, a beautifully illustrated children's book, available to download from www.globalcoolfoundation.org/genie_download.pdf

Noah drama sketch

Download a sketch from the 'Operation Noah' website. Go to www.operationnoah.org/resources/children/noah-drama-sketch-children

A Children's Talk for "HARVEST"

This activity explores what makes a good harvest for people around the globe.

You will need: seven A4 pieces of paper or cardboard, pens.

Seven children hold up a letter from the word 'HARVEST'. Ask the group "What makes a good harvest?" Answer this question by rearranging the children to spell 'HAVE'. List all the things which we have from God for which we are grateful (food, clean water, insects to pollinate plants, rain and the sun). Rearrange the letters to spell 'STARVE' and remember the people who do not have the things we have. Rearrange the letters to spell 'SHARE'. We share God's earth with other people and with all other creatures. When we share what we have with those who starve - that is what makes a good harvest.

Word Search

An activity to show how much God cares about the non-human creation as well as human beings. Read Psalm 104 and count how many birds, fish and animals are mentioned. Find them in the word search puzzle below. What other animals can you find?

X	B	Y	F	R	B	S	N	E	V	A	R
U	Y	P	Y	A	S	C	Z	O	S	T	
S	N	I	X	U	D	N	H	M	K	H	D
O	A	Q	X	Z	G	R	O	R	Y	O	J
S	Q	R	V	I	E	R	O	M	N	Q	K
K	D	T	D	Y	R	T	Z	K	L	Z	A
R	F	I	R	I	S	X	E	W	S	A	V
A	L	R	H	I	N	Y	G	O	A	T	S
H	X	I	Q	T	S	E	J	V	U	I	M
S	B	S	O	B	Z	R	S	W	D	P	N
J	Q	J	Q	N	C	O	S	Q	X	V	A
S	D	Z	A	O	S	L	T	V	V	R	B

Answers:

BADGERS • DONKEYS • GOATS

LIONS • RAVENS • SALMON

SARDINES • SHARKS • STORKS

You can download a larger version of the word search – go to www.selfhelpafrica.net, and click on How You Can Help



Globe of praise

An activity to introduce praise and prayer to God our creator

You will need: An inflatable globe (or the children can make one out of a balloon, paper mache and paint).

Throw an inflatable globe or a balloon into the group. When it lands, shout out *Thank you God for something (or somewhere) you love about the planet.*

It might be mountains, the sea or a forest.
It might be the sunshine, the snow or the flowers.



Animal Noises

This activity illustrates the importance of protecting all of God's creatures.

You will need: Recycled materials, card, scissors, glue, elastic.

Make some animal masks from recycled material and get the children to make the noise of their animal. Reduce the sounds one by one, asking each child to stop making their noise until all is quiet. Explain that many animals and birds are becoming extinct because of damage to the environment.

God has been rescuing animals since Noah because they give him and us much pleasure. You can download templates for animal masks from www.colchesterzoo-kidz.co.uk/wallpapers-masks/masks.html

Exploring in youth and house groups

God's Grandeur

A poem by Gerard Manley Hopkins, 1877

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. Why do men then now not reck his rod?
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
And all is seared with trade; Bleared, smeared with toil;
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

Discussion points:

How is God's presence described in the poem?
How is man's relationship with God and the natural world described?



Harvest Supper

Arrange a harvest supper where all the food and drink is locally grown, organically produced or fairly traded. You could cook African food such as Nshima and ask for a donation from guests. Find a recipe on our website – go to www.selfhelpafrica.net and click on 'How You Can Help'.

Global relationships of consumption

Ask your group "What were the last three things that you bought and where did you buy them from? What made you buy them?" As people answer, write a list of the items on a sheet of paper and ask "who has been affected (positively and negatively) by our decision to spend money on these things?"

Read Luke 10:25-37. Read the case studies in this pack
Climate change is threatening the lives of the world's poorest people. What could we do differently to express love for neighbour more fully? What changes could we make as consumers?

Finding out more about climate change

Download "The Truth About Climate Change"
from www.globalcoolfoundation.org/the_truth_download.pdf.

Watch the DVD "An Inconvenient Truth" by Al Gore.
This is an excellent introduction and asks "What sort of world do you want to leave for future generations?"

Watch the film "The Age of Stupid"
A man living in the devastated world of 2055 asks "why didn't we stop climate change when we had the chance?"

Creation Songs

Listen to a song about the natural world eg **Beautiful Day** by U2, **Messin up the System** by Pete James, **Under the Weather** by KT Tunstall or **Wonderful World** by Louis Armstrong.
Discuss the words. Have we been good tenants of God's creation?

Rainwater Harvesting Challenge

If there is a shortage of rain what are the impacts on us? What might the impacts be for a subsistence farmer in Africa?

Building a water butt is a great way to conserve natural resources and get a taste of the challenges that families in Africa face.

You will need: recycled materials to make a butt or container (empty plastic milk bottles, old food storage bins, plastic boxes), and other easily obtained used materials such as drainpipe, but nothing new.

You should consider: How to harvest as much rain as possible, how to funnel rain into the container and how to stop leaves collecting or insects falling in. Will the rainwater harvester be sturdy and robust enough to withstand heavy rain, wind and wild animals?

What next? The water you collect could be stored in another container and used to grow simple salad vegetables such as rocket, radish or mustard cress. You could consider installing a permanent water butt and developing a vegetable garden for the church or your garden. Think about how doing this will care for God's creation.



Visit: www.selfhelpafrica.com/selfhelp/Main/harvest.htm to watch a slide show about rain water harvesting.