YOUTH MINISTRY RESOURCES

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?

This session provides a framework for a youthwork session introducing the subject of climate change/ environment issues to young people. It will explore the theology behind why we should care, what the issues are and how we can respond as Christians.

RESOURCES NEEDED

- Something to watch a YouTube video on, internet connection
- Washing line
- Pens and paper (use some scrap cut into the size and shape of Post-it™ notes)
- Wooden pegs
- Bibles

ICE BREAKER – COULD YOU COPE?

10 MINS

Get all the young people in the middle of the room / space. Imagine the room is a sliding scale – at one end is the statement "I could cope, no problem" the other is "I wouldn't last five minutes."

Ask a series of questions, in response to each one the young people have to position themselves in the room according to how well they think they could cope.

Suggested questions. **I could cope a week…**

- Without going to school
- Without my mobile phone
- Without access to a car
- Without having a shower
- Without eating meat
- Without having central heating
- Without my friends
- Without the internet

DIOCESE OF GLOUCESTER

QUIZ

5 MINS

Introduce the session theme, and do a quick quiz to see how much we know about the climate crisis – you can get people to put their hand up, stand up or run to a section of the room to indicate their answer (correct answers in bold).

1. Wasting less food is a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. **TRUE**/FALSE

2. Which of the following is a greenhouse gas?
   a. CO2.
   b. CH4.
   c. Water vapor.
   d. All of the above.

3. What is the greenhouse effect?
   a. The name of climate change legislation that was passed by United Nations.
   b. When you paint your house green to become an environmentalist.
   c. When the gases in our atmosphere trap heat and block it from escaping our planet.
   d. When you build a green house.

4. Which of the following are consequences associated with climate change?
   a. The ice sheets are declining, glaciers are in retreat globally, and our oceans are more acidic than ever.
   b. Surface temperatures are setting new heat records about each year.
   c. More extreme weather like droughts, heat waves, and hurricanes.
   d. Global sea levels are rising at an alarmingly fast rate — 17 cm (6.7 inches) in the last century alone and going higher.
   e. All of the above

5. Which of these countries emits the most carbon dioxide?
   a. China.
   b. USA.
   c. UK.
   d. Russia.

WATCH TOGETHER

10 MINS

Watch this video from Tearfund as an introduction to the topic and discussions that follow.

Why should you care about climate change?:We are Tearfund - YouTube »

BIBLE STUDY

15 MINS

Hand out Bibles, or get young people to grab their Bible / Bible App.

Read Genesis 2:15-22 as a group and then discuss these questions:

- God gave the human race a role, what is it?
- Do we still have that same role today?
- God gave them boundaries of how they should consume in the Garden of Eden. Do we have boundaries on this earth of how much we can consume?

DISCUSSION: CLIMATE CHANGE IS A JUSTICE ISSUE

15 MINS

In small groups, discuss the impact of these two statements from Laura's video:

- "The people who contribute the least, are impacted the most."
- "God calls on us to seek out the injustices in the world."

Have you ever thought of environment issues as a justice issue?

Does understanding the impact your choices have on the last and least on earth change the way you want to respond?

Does it make it more or less important an issue?

ACTION

15 MINS

Set up a washing line across the room sectioned into the five following sections.

Me personally	My family	My school	Church / group	My community

Give each young person a pile of scrap paper cut into squares (like Post-it™ notes but re-used!) and some wooden pegs.

Challenge each young person to come up with some small practical changes we can make in our lives, and then peg them onto the line in the relevant section.

For some inspiration, think about the following categories:

- Recycling
- Renewable energy / energy usage
- Food and diet choices
- Deforestation
- Gardens
- Fashion / clothes choices
- Travel

Discuss as a group which of these we are going to commit to. Particularly focus on those things as a youth group you could do together (eg reduce waste, not use paper crockery, turn the heating/ lights off).

PRAY

10 MINS

In small groups pray for each other, the commitments you have made and the move against the injustice of climate change on the world.

JOIN US...

5 MINS

If you are passionate about seeing change in the church and world around climate change, sign up for one of our Youth Eco-Forum launch events happening on 22 and 26 June:

Christian Eco-Youth Forum - Sign Up »

OTHER RESOURCES

Burning Down The House »
Tearfund and Youthscape research on Christian young people's view of Environmental Issues

greengloucestershire.org.uk »
Gloucestershire Churches Environmental Justice Network

Environment – Diocese of Gloucester »
Resources / info for the local church

Shuffle: Green Edition | Youthscape »
A set of daily challenges around the green agenda (Costs £8:50)

CONNECT

DIOCESE OF GLOUCESTER