



# Living Well

in God's world

**A children and families resource**

**Includes a weekly bible reading, weekly prayer, discussion questions and challenges**



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# Living Well in God's World

This resource provides a challenge that will help you think about Christian living and the environment. This resource is for children, families and households to use over a 6 week period. It could also be used in a weekly children's group.

For each week you will find:

- A summary to explain the week's theme.
- A prayer for the week
- Discussion questions
- 6 challenges to choose from for each week. You may like to do all of them or you may choose to do one or two of them.
- A Bible reading for each week. You may choose to look at it in one sitting or you may like to use the readings that have been split up for each day of the week (excluding Sundays). Unless otherwise stated, the readings have been taken from The Lion Storyteller Bible by Bob Hartman and Krisztine Kállai Nagy and from the Open the Book resources.

We would love to hear your stories and experiences of using this resource. Please share your stories through sending us an email or sharing your pictures with us on Twitter (@GoTeamAdvisers and @bathwells) and/or Instagram (goteamadvisers).

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Tony, Cheryl and Andy – your Go Team Advisers

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## What a wonderful world!

Week 1

Bible Reading: Genesis 1:1 – 2:3 – The Creation Story

God created our amazing world and it was good. As we reflect on the story of creation, may we use this as an opportunity to celebrate creation, appreciating all that God has made and giving thanks for our incredible world, full of diversity and beauty.

### What's the issue?

At its centre, the distance around the planet is almost 25,000 miles.

There are around 1,324,000 animal species on the planet and 426,000 other species including plants, bacteria and fungi. In fact it is estimated that there are 12,250,000 species still to be discovered.

There are 195 countries spread over 7 continents. In Africa the Sahara Desert measures over 3.5 million miles (square), more than 16 times the size of France. Meanwhile in South America the Amazon is over 3 million miles (square), which is bigger than the country of India. The Amazon, and other tropical rainforests, are thought to contain up to 90 per cent of all plant species.

The highest point on the planet, the peak of Mount Everest, is a staggering 8,850 metres above sea level. While the deepest point, situated in the Pacific Ocean, is 10,994 metres below sea level. What a wonderful world!

### Prayer for the week

Father God, thank you for creating our wonderful world. Help us to notice and appreciate our beautiful world. Help us to take care of it. Amen.

### Household discussion questions

1. What is your favourite part of creation? How could you celebrate creation more?
2. How do you think your view of creation would be different if you had witnessed God's creation of the world? How would you feel about Creation if you were God – and had created it?
3. As you talk to the members of your household, for each person, share one thing you love about them and remind yourselves that you are all created in God's image and that he loves you all very much.

## Challenges to choose from

1. Go for a walk somewhere new and thank God for the things you see on it.
2. Get your hands dirty! Plant some vegetable or herb seeds, or buy seedlings ready to transplant. If you don't have a garden, how about a sunny window sill or window box?
3. Take time to look at the moon and stars tonight. If you or your parents have a smartphone, you may like to download a star gazing app e.g. Star Walk 2 (Android) and Live Sky (Apple iOS)
4. Take a look at a project that looks after animals for example your local RSPCA centre, RSPB site, Somerset Wildlife Trust or any other project locally. You could even look at a project in another country and consider how you may support them.
5. Take a moment to pray outside, take time to listen to all the sounds you can hear – can you hear any animals? Insects / birds
6. Get creative – make something, write a poem or a song, paint or take photos to celebrate the extraordinary world that God has made.

## Bible readings

### Monday:

At first, there wasn't anything at all. Nothing! So God set to work. But he didn't use his hands, or a special machine. He spoke, that's all. He said, 'I'd like some light.'

And there was light. Brighter than a summer morning or a thousand Christmas candles.

God spoke again. He said,

'Sky. I'd like some sky. And some water underneath.'

And, sure enough, there it was. The bright blue sky. With the dark blue heavens above it. And the blue-green sea below.

### Tuesday:

'Earth.'

That's what God said next, hard and firm, as if he really meant it. And the blue-green waters parted, and there was dry land underneath. Great patches of it, dirt black and brown. Here and there, all over the world.

'We need some colour,'

God whispered, as if he were thinking out loud. And, quivering with excitement, green growing things crept right up out of the dark earth, then burst into blossom-red, orange and blue! Pine trees and palm trees. Rose bushes and blackberry bushes. Tulips and chrysanthemums.

### Wednesday:

God shouted next.

'Day-shining sun!'

'Night-shining moon!'

'Bright shining stars!'

And there they were, for morning and evening, summer and winter-time and heat and light!

**Thursday:**

After that, God called to the sky, as if he were expecting some kind of an answer.

'Come forth, flying things!' he called. And through the clouds they came. Flying high and flying low. Flying large and flying small. Eagles and insects. Hummingbirds and hawks.

Then God called to the sea.

'Come forth, splashing things!'

And they came to him, too, leaping right up through the waves. Sailfish and swordfish. Dolphins and trout. Great grinning hump-backed whales.

**Friday:**

Finally, God called to the earth.

'Come forth, walking things, crawling things, running, hopping, climbing things!'

And sure enough, they came. Up from burrows. Down from trees. Out of the high grass, and across the open plains.

**Saturday:**

Now everything was ready. Good and ready. So God spoke again.

'Man and woman'

It was as if he were calling the names of his very best friends. And out of the dust came Adam and Eve.

To enjoy all that God had made. To take care of it for him. And to talk with him.

'This is the way things ought to be. This is very good!' said God.

# **We make mistakes and mess up God's wonderful world**

Week 2

Bible Reading: Genesis 3 – Disobeying God

Humans have a tendency to go their own way and do their own thing, rather than keep their place in relation to the creator. The story of Genesis 3 describes a separation between God and humans, between humans and each other and between humans and the environment. As we reflect on this how can we change our lifestyles and our habits and attitudes towards travel, as a way of beginning to restore our relationship with the environment?

## **What's the issue?**

Every year over 70 million overseas visits are made by UK residents. There are approximately 37.5 million vehicles on our roads, which makes it possible for us to travel more independently, especially shorter journeys. So whether it's a holiday to Spain, or just a quick trip to the shops, travelling has never been so easy.

The problem with many modes of transport is that they create a lot of pollution, which in turn damages the environment. In fact the way we choose to travel, especially by car and plane, has one of the biggest impacts on global warming.

## **Prayer for the week**

Father God, we are sorry for the mistakes we have made and the part we have played, however small it may seem, in messing up your wonderful world. Help us to think more carefully about the ways in which we travel. Amen.

## **Household discussion questions**

1. How does the environment get damaged by the ways we travel?
2. How does it feel to think about how we are harming Creation? How do you think it makes God feel?
3. What kind of pollution bothers you most on a day-to-day basis?
4. Do you think your household ever make unnecessary journeys? Can you think of any you have made recently?

## Challenges to choose from

1. Take one of your journeys in a different way this week. If you normally drive to work or school, why not consider parking some distance away, so you can walk, cycle or scoot the final part together instead.
2. When could you use public transport rather than the car? As a household, talk about how you could make some journeys in a different way to help the environment.
3. Are you going on holiday this year? How can you make it more eco-friendly? As a household, think about where you are going and how you are going to travel there. For some super helpful ideas, follow this link:  
<http://www.ecofriendlykids.co.uk/ecofriendlyfamilyholidays.html>
4. Go for a family bike ride or walk and enjoy your surroundings.
5. Take a look at the news or search on the internet for information on places where people are having to flee their homes. Take a moment to pray for those countries and people. Is there a local refugee charity you could support? You may be able to donate some of your old or unwanted clothes.
6. Look up what a 'Carbon Footprint' is -  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid\\_6720000/newsid\\_6720600/6720673.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_6720000/newsid_6720600/6720673.stm)  
Calculate your carbon footprint using: <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/questionnaire>

## Bible readings

### Monday:

'Welcome to my world!' God said to Adam. 'It's good isn't it?'

'Welcome to my garden!' God said to Eve. 'This is the most beautiful place of all. And I want it to be your home. Take care of the animals for me. Take care of the plants. And eat whatever you like. There are plenty of trees to pick from.' Adam and Eve didn't know what to say. They looked at the garden. They looked at each other. And then they smiled the world's first smile.

Life was going to be perfect here. Just perfect.

### Tuesday:

'There's just one more thing.' God said. 'Do you see that tree over there? The one in the middle of the garden? Well, the fruit on that tree is not good for you. If you eat it, you will make me very unhappy. And you will have to leave this beautiful place.'

Adam and Eve looked at each other again. With so many trees to choose from, that hardly seemed to be a problem. And for a long time, they were content with soft juicy pears, sweet thick-skinned oranges, and round ripe melons.

### Wednesday:

Then, one day, the serpent came to visit.

'Tell me,' the serpent said to Eve, 'which trees are you allowed to eat from?'

'Every tree!' Eve smiled. 'Except the one in the middle of the garden.'

'Oh?' said the crafty serpent. 'And why is that?'

'Because it would make God unhappy,' Eve answered. 'And we would have to leave this beautiful place.'

'Ridiculous!' laughed the serpent. 'God does not want you to eat that fruit because he knows it would make you as clever as him. You know all about being good. But God has told you nothing about what it means to be bad. Eat the fruit, and you will know all about that, too!'

**Thursday:**

Eve thought that the fruit looked delicious. She had sometimes wondered what it tasted like. And it wasn't really fair of God to keep things from them. So she picked a piece. And took a bite. And gave Adam a taste as well. And, right away, they discovered what it meant to do something bad. Their stomachs churned with guilt. Their faces turned red with shame.

**Friday:**

Instead of running to meet God when he next visited the garden, they ran away to hide.

'I know what you have done.' God called out sadly

'Now you will have to leave this beautiful place.'

'Goodbye.' God said to Adam. 'From now on, you will have to scratch at the earth for the food you eat.'

'Goodbye.' God said to Eve. 'Your life will be hard, too.'

'And when your lives end,' God said finally 'you will go back to the ground from which you came.'

**Saturday:**

Adam and Eve looked at each other. Then they walked sadly out of the garden.

They had learned what it means to be bad. And they had changed God's good world for ever.

## God gave us responsibility to care for our world

Week 3

Bible Reading: Psalm 8

The Old Testament tells the story of God's plan to save humanity. It involves choosing a people who will model a restored relationship with God, who will attract all other people back to God. The plan appears to fail, as the people of God are exiled, before returning in wait of a rescuer. The Old Testament is full of stories about the land and people trying to claim the land. This week, reflect on the beauty of a Psalm. The book of Psalms is a collection of songs written over many hundreds of years. Some of the Psalms were written to praise and worship to God, some were written out of sadness, to tell God how they were feeling and some were written to ask God for forgiveness. The Psalm we will be reflecting on this week reminds us of the majesty of God and our place in creation, with the need to take responsibility. How can this impact the way we shop and our choices when consuming food?

### What's the issue?

Did you know the average household wastes £470 of food per year? Roughly 250,000 tonnes of edible food is unnecessarily wasted, which is equivalent to 650 million meals! With an estimated 8.4 million people in the UK struggling to afford to eat, it's easy to see how this food could be better used.

### Prayer for the week

Amazing Father, thank you for the abundance of food available to many of us. We pray for those who do not have enough to eat. Help us not to be wasteful with what we have and to make good choices about the food we eat, so that we may benefit the environment. Amen.

### Household discussion questions

1. Here in the UK, we throw away edible food worth £470 per household each year.<sup>1</sup> This amounts to enough to fill Wembley Stadium nine times over. What do you think contributes to people throwing away perfectly edible food? How do you think this could be changed? Why do you think Christians should be concerned about food waste?  
<sup>1</sup> Household food waste in the UK (WRAP, 2017)
2. In the UK, if we stopped wasting food from our homes it would have the same environmental benefit as taking one in four cars off the road!<sup>2</sup> Have you ever considered the relationship of food waste to climate change? Does this make you think differently about food waste?  
<sup>2</sup> Household food and drink waste in the United Kingdom 2015 (WRAP, 2017)
3. What are some of the ways you try to care for God's creation in your daily life?

## Challenges to choose from

1. The next time you are in a supermarket or shop that sells food, take a look at some of the countries where the food has come from. Some food products have travelled many, many miles. Is there a way in which you and your family could change some of your spending and food eating habits? Do you have a local farmers market or green grocers or butchers?
2. Mums, Dads and carers are busy people and sometimes finding time to cook meals from scratch is difficult. Could you help your parents or carers in cooking a simple meal? There are some simple, affordable options out there, for example, check out this website: <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/category/family-kids>
3. Take a look at the packaging your food comes in. Is there a way in which you can change your buying habits, to buy things with less plastic? For example, the loose tomatoes, rather than the ones sitting on a Styrofoam tray and covered in plastic cellophane. Could you write a letter to your local supermarket asking what they are doing to reduce plastic packaging?
4. Watch this short YouTube clip about Food waste - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=71&v=XAOTOsHNRSg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=71&v=XAOTOsHNRSg) make sure any leftovers or peelings are recycled, rather than put into landfill waste, you may like to look into having a compost heap in your garden.
5. Find out which fruits and vegetables are in season in our country at the moment. Try to encourage your parent/s or carer/s to buy them locally and seasonally. Search on the internet for recipes you can use these ingredients in.
6. Make sure you understand the difference between 'use by' and 'best before' – it could save you money and stop food being wasted  
<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/shopping/cheap-supermarket-shopping/#tips-23>

## Bible readings

### Psalm 8, adapted by Bob Hartman

#### Monday:

Lord, you are king, it's your name we sing and the heavens ring with your glory.

#### Tuesday:

Infant sighs and baby cries, defy the lies that we are just a passing accident of time.

#### Wednesday:

For even though the sky at night is peppered with your wonder and delight, still we are the ones that find your kindness and occupy your mind.

#### Thursday:

For you have made us in your image, a little lower than yourself, and honoured us by trusting us to care for all you have created:

#### Friday:

Cattle and sheep; all that roars and creeps, and flies and swims and splashes and leaps.

#### Saturday:

Lord, you are king, it's your name we sing and the heavens ring with your glory.

## God sent Jesus in human form

Week 4

Bible Reading: John 1: 1-18

The New Testament shows us that Jesus is the answer, allowing humans to be at one with God again. People had got things wrong over and over again, but God's solution is to get closer to us, not abandon us. Jesus became God in flesh and came to live among us. God demonstrated his overwhelming generosity to us in Jesus. When there's a problem, God chooses to be right in the middle of it with us. As we reflect on John's words about God becoming flesh, how can we respond? How does this affect our attitudes towards energy and water consumption?

### What's the issue?

An average household uses 136,000 litres of water every year, that's equivalent to 4.5 bath tubs every single day! Meanwhile, in comparison to many other countries, most households in the UK use 25 per cent more electricity. Did you know turning appliances off standby saves around £30 a year? That would be enough to power a light bulb for 600 hours.

### Prayer for the week

Father God, thank you for sending Jesus to live among us. Thank you for the many things we have that make our living conditions comfortable. Help us to remember to care for our world and only use electricity and water when it is needed. Amen.

### Household discussion questions

1. What appliance or electronic do you think uses the most energy in your home?
2. What appliances or electronic items do you leave on all the time?
3. Do we have any things that use energy that we really don't need?
4. How can we reduce the amount of energy consumed by appliances and electronics?

### Challenges to choose from

1. Take a short shower instead of a long bath or even, just make that shower shorter. It might take 115 litres of hot water to fill the bathtub, compared to only 32 litres for a quick shower. You may like to use a timer and try to be 1-2 minutes quicker than normal on a few days of the week to save energy.
2. Don't run the tap while you're brushing your teeth.
3. In the winter, close the curtains at dusk to help preserve the warmth inside your home or if you are cold, put on extra layers, rather than always cranking up the central heating!
4. Remember to turn the lights off when you leave a room and only turn them on if necessary.
5. It's not just lights that waste electricity, turn off the TV, computer, video games and other electrical stuff when you're not using them. Don't leave appliances on standby and remember not to leave appliances on charge unnecessarily.
6. How many light bulbs do you think you have on the go? Have a guess then go and count up all the light bulbs in the house – don't forget table lamps and ceiling lights – you'll probably be amazed by how many you use! Talk with your parents about the type of light bulbs you have in your house. Ask your parents/carers to consider putting in an energy efficient light bulb.

## Bible readings

### **Monday:**

God had an idea. It was not a new idea; he had always had this idea. Right from when he created the world. It was his own special idea. It was in his heart, it was a part of him.

This was God's idea: to go and be with the people he had created on earth. It would be like sending light into a dark place. It would have to be a special light - after all, it would be God on earth, God with people.

### **Tuesday:**

God's idea was a good one. It was an idea full of love. By sending himself to be with people, he would be giving new life to the earth. New life to all people. A new special kind of God-life.

But how would God do that? God had already appeared to people over hundreds of years in many different ways. In a burning bush. As a great wind. As a still quiet voice whispering in your ear. Even as hand writing on a wall. But this was to be different. This was to be God living on Earth. This was a big idea.

### **Wednesday:**

God's big idea needed something special: special but small. A baby. That's how God would show himself to people. A baby. But not any baby - this would be God's son. Created by his spirit. Born of God. And those who saw the baby, and loved him, they would see God. They would know that God was with them. They would know that God loved them.

### **Thursday:**

For many years, God told people about his idea. He told his prophets and his - priests and the kings and the ordinary people. He told them that one day he would send his special person to be with them. He gave them lots of clues, like you do when there is an exciting surprise ahead. The people wrote them all down, but they didn't really understand them. And after a while they got tired of waiting and wondered if perhaps God had forgotten about his good idea.

### **Friday:**

And then, when it was just the right time, the perfect moment, God spoke to a man called John.

Soon, very soon, I will send a special person into the world. Get everyone ready! He will be like a light for the world. Not the kind of light that comes from a lamp or a torch, but the kind of light that shines out of bright, happy faces. An inside light. A special light!

### **Saturday:**

And so God reached out to human beings. He sent himself to live an ordinary life with an ordinary family. His own son - a little boy. Sent to the world that God himself had made. The same spirit of creation that had hung the stars in the sky and made the mountains high and the rivers wet - that spirit was made into a little baby. A little boy. Born to an ordinary mum and an ordinary dad. But also the son of God.

## Jesus showed us how to live

Week 5

Bible Reading: Luke 10: 25-37 – The Good Samaritan

Jesus modelled a totally different way of living. Jesus was radical as he walked on earth. He showed us how to stand up for what is right, even when that is inconvenient to us. As we reflect on the story of the Good Samaritan, how can we act responsibly and fairly when caring for our world?

### What's the issue?

Climate change is having a massive effect on the environment. Rising temperatures are affecting wildlife and their habitats especially. For example because the ice in the Antarctic is melting the population of Adelie penguins has reduced by 90 per cent in some areas. As a result of the melting ice caps, sea levels are expected to rise by 26 - 82 cm by the end of the century. Meanwhile many other species will be forced to move north, while others, such as polar bears could face extinction.

Meanwhile, in warmer climates, many tropical rainforests are being effected by environmental destruction, and it is those rainforests which support more than half the plant and animal species worldwide. The Amazon alone produces 20 per cent of the world's oxygen because of all its trees. It is estimated that 18 million acres of forests are lost every year, which is equal to the size of 20 football pitches being lost every minute.

### Prayer for the week

Father God, thank you for the story of the Good Samaritan. We are sorry for the times when we make decisions to keep going instead of stopping and doing the right thing. Help us to take time to stop and see what is happening to your world and decide what we can do to make things better: for us, for our neighbours across the whole world and for the planet which you gave us to care for. Amen.

### Household discussion questions

1. Talk about a time when you were treated unfairly, either in a large or small way. How did you respond? What happened?
2. Talk about a time when you were busy doing something that felt important to you and it stopped you taking the time to do something you thought you perhaps could have done.
3. What do you think is the most unfair thing about our world?
4. What are ways we can show justice and fairness in our home, school, work, church and beyond?

## Challenges to choose from

1. Have you ever thought about being a global citizen? We are all global citizens, whether we realise it or not. We rely on many people around the world for the food we eat and the clothes we wear. Why not play this game with your family or friends?  
<https://www.compassionuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Global-Citizens-Activity-Game.pdf>
2. We are fortunate in this country to have drinkable water, but that is not true throughout the world. Find out about water issues around the world – which communities are short of water, where is it polluted? Take a look at the Water Aid website for more information ([www.wateraid.org.uk](http://www.wateraid.org.uk)). If you usually buy bottled water, this week drink tap water, in a reusable water bottle, remembering those who don't have access to drinkable water.
3. Does your school have a link with another country? Find out some facts about how they live and the differences between the way we live and the way they live.
4. As so much of what we do and buy affects people from different countries, we need to make sure that they are treated well and receive fair pay for their work. One of the best ways of making sure this happens is to look out for the Fairtrade Mark. It is a guarantee that the people involved in producing your food were paid well for their work. What items in your house have the Fairtrade logo on? Could you talk to your family about changes you could make when you are next shopping?
5. We take sanitation and toilets for granted! 2.3 billion People don't have somewhere safe to go to the toilet. Take a look at the Toilet Twinning website (<https://www.toilettwinning.org/>) to find out more and to see if there is anything you could do to make a global difference.
6. Reflect on the story and all the things we have considered this week. Who is your neighbour? Who or what could you commit to, to make a global difference to environmental justice?

## Bible readings

### Monday:

Jesus was teaching one day when a man in the crowd asked him a question:

'Can you tell me, Jesus, what I have to do to live forever?'

Jesus smiled and answered: 'Love God and love your neighbour as much as you love yourself.' The man, hoping to trick Jesus, asked: 'But who is my neighbour? Is he just the fellow who lives next door?' Jesus said: 'Let me tell you a story and I think you will understand.'

### Tuesday:

Once upon a time, there was a man - a man like anyone of us - who was travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho. Now as you all know, that is a very dangerous road. It's twisty and it's steep, and there's no end of places for robbers and thieves to hide.

Well, the robbers were waiting that day. And they grabbed the man. And they beat him. And they took his money and left him to die.

**Wednesday:**

In a little while, another man came walking down that road - a priest, on his way home from worshipping God at the Temple. He saw the dying man, and what do you think he did?

Somebody shouted from the crowd: 'He helped him!'

Another shouted: 'He saved him!'

No! He did not. He took one look at that poor, beaten man, then crossed to the other side of the road and walked away.

**Thursday:**

Soon another man passed by. He served God at the Temple too. So what do you think this man did when he saw the wounded traveller?

Someone shouted: 'He ran for help!'

Another shouted: 'He raised the alarm!'

No! He did not. Just like the priest, he crossed to the other side of the road and left that poor man to die.

**Friday:**

Don't worry. For there was one more man who passed by that day. And he was a Samaritan.

Someone shouted: 'A Samaritan? They're different from us!'

Another shouted: 'We hate Samaritans!'

A third added: 'And they hate us!'

So I've heard, said Jesus, but when this Samaritan saw the man, he did not walk away. No. He bandaged his wounds. He loaded him on his donkey. He took him to a nearby inn. And he paid for that man to stay there until he was well.

**Saturday:**

Jesus looked at the man who had asked him the question. 'So tell me, which of these men was a neighbour to the man who had been robbed?'

'The third one. The Samaritan.' The man answered.

'That's right.' Jesus smiled. 'Because my neighbour is anyone who needs my help. Now you go and help your neighbour too.'

## Kingdom of God

Week 6

Bible Reading: Luke 12: 13-21 – The Rich Fool

Christians believe that the Kingdom of God is not a physical place on earth – you cannot draw a map of it or visit it for holidays. The ‘Kingdom of God’ reflects God’s ideal for human life in the world – a vision of life lived in the way God intended for human beings. We live in anticipation of a future heavenly Kingdom, seeking to live life in God’s Kingdom on earth, following the example of Jesus, inspired and empowered by the Holy Spirit. As we seek to follow Jesus’ example, how is our attitude to the environment going to change? Our reading this week talks of someone whose greed overtook their awareness and care for others and the world. It offers us perspective on this life, but what about the future?

## Being the Change

‘If everyone waits for someone else to act, nothing will change.’ (A Rocha)

Rt Revd Peter Hancock, Bishop of Bath and Wells says, “What we now know about climate change and the impact we humans make on the world we live in, means that it is imperative that we take this responsibility seriously. The Earth is our home. It is beautiful beyond words. It is God’s gift to us and so we must take care of it!”

Christians have a strong record of speaking up for justice and doing the right thing – have you heard of William Wilberforce and the abolition of slavery in the 19<sup>th</sup> century? How about the ‘Drop the Debt’ and ‘Make Poverty History’ Campaigns at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century? If not, look them up. The church and individual Christians are also playing a key role in tackling climate change and the environmental challenges we face today.

The Bible doesn’t use the word environment, but it contains over 2,250 references to the land, soil, air, water, plants etc. With so many mentions in the Bible, it highlights just how important this area is to God. As we look to the future, what are we going to do to help make a long-term difference?

## Prayer for the week

Father God, we praise you for our wonderful world. This Holy Week, help us to think about ways in which we can make a difference to your world for the future. As we remember the new life you offer in Jesus, may we be changed as a result of this challenge, bringing new life to those we meet. Amen.

## Household discussion questions

1. What have you learned during the past five weeks that will help you change your thinking and habits around the environment?
2. What part(s) of Creation have you decided you especially wanted to help thrive in the future? What specific things are you going to do to make that possible? What parts of your own lifestyle are you going to permanently change?
3. How has your faith grown over the last few weeks? How will it help you face these challenges moving forward?

## Challenges to choose from

1. Does your school have an eco-council/green council? Are you involved or could you support them in some way over the coming weeks. If your school doesn't have one, could you ask your teachers about setting one up?
2. Have a go at the climate change quiz included in Appendix 1
3. How clean and tidy is your community? The next time you are out and about with your parents or carers, try to safely pick up 5 pieces of litter each and dispose of it in the most eco-friendly way – be careful, you may need to wear gloves to be hygienic.
4. Could you save a little of your pocket money and support an environmental cause that you have found out about through taking part in this challenge.
5. Christians believe that God made the world, that God cares for the world and that God wants us to care for it too. Can you make a Green-Cross Code for your Church? It could contain a list of what you believe about God and what you can do to show your care for God's creation.
6. As a result of taking part in this challenge, what 1 or 2 things are you going to commit to doing differently to help look after our world and environment?

## Bible readings

### Monday:

Jesus told a story:

Once upon a time there was a rich man who spent his whole life thinking about how he could get richer. One morning, the rich man, who owned a farm, walked from his house to his fields. He looked at his crops and rubbed his hands together greedily and said: 'Mine! All mine!'

He climbed to the top of his biggest barn and looked out across the farm.

Work harder!

He ordered his servants, who were loading grain, sack after sack, in the hot sun. He said to himself: 'I'm very rich, but I'd like to be richer!'

### Tuesday:

The next week he walked from his house to his fields. He looked at his crops and rubbed his hands together greedily, 'Mine! All mine!'

He climbed to the top of his biggest barn and looked out across the farm. He screamed at some birds: 'Shoo! Go away!'

For they had swooped down and started to peck at the grain. He added: 'This is mine - all mine, and you can't have any of it!'

**Wednesday:**

Another week went by. The rich man walked from his house to his fields.

He looked at his crops and rubbed his hands together greedily. He said: 'Mine! All mine!'

He climbed to the top of his biggest barn and looked out across the farm. He shouted:

"Stop, thief!"

To a poor man who had stopped to pick up some grain which had accidentally spilled on the floor.

The poor man had a wife and three children to feed and nothing to eat.

You will have to find some other way to feed your family. This is mine – all mine, and you can't have any of it!

**Thursday:**

The rich man walked home. He thought long and hard about his grain. He thought to himself:

It's spilling out. The birds are eating it. Poor people are coming to steal the grain that's spilling out of the door. And I can't allow that to happen. That grain is mine - ALL MINE! What shall I do?

The next morning the rich man walked from his house to his fields. He called to his servants.

Hey! Stop working! Put down your tools! Come over here!

The servants put down their shovels in surprise and listened as he spoke:

This barn isn't big enough. Today I want you to pull it down. Yes - pull it down completely and build a bigger one. Oh and when you've finished you can start to build a second one. I have tons and tons of grain and I'm going to store it all. Then I will sell it and I will be rich - rich beyond my wildest dreams!

**Friday:**

Day after day the rich man went to his fields to watch the servants building his enormous barns. He made sure that no-one came by to take so much as a handful of his precious grain. At last the barns were finished. The rich man walked home. He thought long and hard about his life and said: I have so much that I will never need to work again. In the morning I will go out and buy myself some fine clothes. I'll order in the best food and crates of the best wine. I'm going to have a wonderful time spending all my money - and it's mine - ALL MINE.

**Saturday:**

But that very night, the man died in his sleep. No-one mourned and no-one wept for the man who had all the riches in the world, but who kept them all for himself.

As Jesus finished the story, he looked around. 'Don't be like that man, he said. People like that can never please God. Being rich won't make you happy and being selfish is always a bad choice in the end.'



## Quiz for children

1. How many people are there in the world?
  - a) 7 million
  - b) 7 billion
  - c) 7 (squillion)
  
2. Why are people worried about climate change?
  - a) Because there will be more storms and floods and damage to houses and gardens
  - b) Because there will be more droughts and less food to eat
  - c) Because lots of wild animals will become extinct
  - d) All of the above
  
3. How thick is the breathable atmosphere around the earth? In other words, how far up into the air could you go before there wasn't enough air (oxygen) to keep you alive?
  - a) A few hundred metres
  - b) Seven miles
  - c) Eighty eight thousand miles
  
4. How much climate change is caused by trees?
  - a) Most of it
  - b) None of it
  - c) They actually help stop it
  
5. What do trees do to help stop climate change?
  - a) They take in gases which otherwise warm up the world
  - b) They drop leaves
  - c) They make tree-cle
  
6. In the Bible who built an ark and saved all the animals from a great flood?
  - a) Noah
  - b) Elijah
  - c) Amos
  
7. How many sorts of bird are there in the world?
  - a) Nearly 1,000
  - b) Nearly 10,000
  - c) Nearly 100,000

8. How many sorts of bird do scientists think may become extinct if we don't act very soon?

- a) Over a thousand
- b) Over ten thousand
- c) Over a hundred thousand

9. Which of the following is very good at slowing down climate change?

- a) Deserts
- b) Rainforests
- c) Eating lots of chocolate



## Answers

1. How many people are there in the world?  
b) 7 billion
2. Why are people worried about climate change?  
d) All of the above
3. How thick is the breathable atmosphere around the earth? In other words, how far up into the air could you go before there wasn't enough air (oxygen) to keep you alive?  
b) Seven miles
4. How much climate change is caused by trees?  
c) They actually help stop it
5. What do trees do to help stop climate change?  
a) They take in gases which otherwise warm up the world
6. In the Bible who built an ark and saved all the animals from a great flood?  
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8. How many sorts of bird do scientists think may become extinct if we don't act very soon?  
a) Over a thousand
9. Which of the following is very good at slowing down climate change?  
b) Rainforests