

OUR PLANET NEEDS HELP

Our climate is changing - does it matter? What difference is it making?

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Total resource time: ⌚ 55mins

What to wear...

 Game  10mins

Introduction:

A fun game where teams will compete to create the best, most practical, most creative clothes for the arctic.

Object of the game:

Teams use their creativity to create outfits in an allotted time

You will need:

- BinBags
- Toilet Roll
- Selotape

How to win:

Get the most votes from other teams (or if you have limited numbers you could designate a fashion guru judge!)

Steps / rules:

1. Split the group into teams and give them 5 bin bags, a toilet roll and a selotape.
2. Give the groups seven minutes to dress two of their team in clothes fit for the arctic.
3. Teams will be judged on detail, practicality, creativity and craftsmanship
4. Give a time limit, for example 7 mins
5. At the end of their time, the groups must score each other out of ten and the winning team announced.

Warning

Take extra care when putting the plastic bags near people's faces.

Cause and Effect

 Discussion  15mins

Introduction:

Climate change is impacting our planet. We see it in the UK with colder winters, shock floods and unusually warm summers. One day we're wearing woolly jumpers and ready for snow, the next the flip flops are out. But the effects of climate change on the rest of the world are far more severe. The typhoon in the Phillip pines was considerably more damaging because of the effects of climate change. It's also a significant contributor to reasons why people are trafficked. We'll explore this more through this activity.

Divide into smaller groups and give each group a large piece of paper. Invite them to create 3 sections on the paper; 'causes', 'effects' and 'dangers'. Give the groups at least 7 minutes to fill out everything they know about the causes, effects and dangers of climate change. Then invite all groups to feedback to everyone else.

Questions:

1. Causes of Climate Change
2. Effects of Climate Change
3. Dangers of Climate Change

Conclusion:

It might look something like this; Causes: too much CO₂ pollution because of so many cars on the road, mass farming for beef from cows producing methane, deforestation etc. Effects: communities' water supplies dry up, no rain for a crop season results in no food, flash flooding washes away crops. Danger: people die of malnutrition, people have to drink dirty water, people accept offers of a better life elsewhere and are trafficked into forced work.


Climate Change 101

 Video  5mins



(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3v-w8Cyfoq8&feature=youtu.be>)

Input Moment

P Paragraph  5mins

Text:

Teach your group the content below:

Climate change is a significant problem in our world today. The actions and lifestyle of the richer nations (including ours) are having a detrimental impact on communities in desperate poverty. When people hear about children sold into trafficking or tricked into trafficking, it's often hard to believe, but when presented with a choice between a life of toil, poor crops and no food, or a life promised with lots of money and a good job – what would you choose? Or a parent who is forced to sell their oldest child because the rains didn't come again this year and there's not enough money to feed all their children. They sell one child to save all the rest from dying of hunger. We live in a difficult and broken world but it is not hopeless.

Climate change is not a natural disaster, it is man-made and as such, we can reduce our impact and start to have a more positive influence on the planet. All this can be achieved through our daily habits and through us embracing our God-given role as stewards of the planet. We can do something about this.

Leaders' notes

Add stories and context to make this relevant to your particular group. You might find these on news sites or the Tearfund website.

What does the Bible say?

 Bible study  10mins

Introduction:

Our first calling as people of God was to look after the planet. Have we forgotten our calling?

Passages:

- Genesis 2: 15 - 22 [↗ Bible Gateway](#)

Questions:

1. God gave the human race a role, what is it? Do we still have that same role today?
2. God gave them boundaries of how much they could consume in the Garden of Eden. Do we have boundaries on this earth of how much we can consume?
3. Climate change has impact on the planet and also impacts people and their lives. What do you think Christians should do in response?

Conclusion:

It is an important part of our discipleship to remember our calling to care for creation.

Response

 Activity  5mins

Object of the activity:

There are a lot of actions we can take to tackle climate change and contribute to seeing the dangers of hunger, disease and trafficking reduced. One of these actions is to speak up to the government. Your group can add their voices to the hundreds of people signing this petition and make your wishes known to government.

This is a request to Amber Rudd (our brand new Climate secretary) to represent the Christian community in the UK to change laws that contribute significantly to climate changing.


You will need:

- Laptop / tablet with the petition link ready for people to sign.
- The petition which can be found here: <http://rhythms.org/action/nct-petition/>

Steps / rules:

1. Ask each of your group to sign the petition on the web page

Prayer

P Paragraph  5mins

Text:

Give time to help you group pray. You might want to use the prayer below as a starting point:

Lord, make us people who respond to your world in whatever way we can. Would we see your beauty and creativity in the planet around us. Help us to take daily actions that are a positive impact on the planet and mean that we get to contribute to your restoration of the world and people in it. We pray for those who suffer the impacts of climate change, those who are hungry, those who are trafficked and those who are forced to drink dirty water. Give us a passion to see the world a better place and help us take everyday actions to help us become more like you. Amen.



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