



Children's activities – for use with primary-age children

Reflection, worship and local action on climate change. <http://www.operationnoah.org/node/114>

Multiple-session programme from A Rocha

For a four- or five-week activity programme with Bible teaching see A Rocha / Eco-Congregation at <http://www.arocha.org/gb-en/10755-DSY.html>:

'The series seeks to combine solid, bible based teaching alongside a practical focus on the environment. The hope is that these sessions allow for teaching and for children to experience practical involvement in caring for their environment creating greater understanding. Every church has a different environment, and leaders should feel free to adapt the material for their individual circumstances. It is designed for children of around 10 years of age, and includes a session plan and handout for each week. The intention is for children to identify:

- *their natural environment*
- *humankind's responsibility for that environment*
- *an understanding that this a natural part of Christian life.'*

Video: Children's video from A Rocha about transforming a west London rubbish dump into a country park (2008) – offers hope and promotes action. Primary / junior secondary age.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=bEH-nmjaD30#!

Eco-Congregation children's resources

Eco-Congregation has a wide array of ideas and activities for children and their website also has links to other groups; there are stories of what churches have done and resource materials. Some of the headings are listed below and these can be found at <http://ew.ecocongregation.org/system/files/m4.pdf>

Things to do: indoor and outdoor activities

- Creating Planet Earth
- Create an environmentally friendly Garden of Eden
- Aluminium can activities
- The church Green-Cross Code
- Wildlife wordsearch
- Rubbish chutes and green ladders (like snakes and ladders)
- Lent and Easter cross
- Care in the churchyard

Other headings

Ideas for Worship / Poems / Creation drama / Songs to sing / A Beasty Bugs Prayer

Links

Eco-Congregation also has many good weblinks to other organisations listed as 'Additional Resources' at the bottom of this page: <http://ew.ecocongregation.org/resources/module4>

Christian Aid 'Crazy Climate' activity http://learn.christianaid.org.uk/Images/crazy_climate_facts_tcm16-26680.pdf

Single-session all-age activity: God's creativity

Can follow a reading from Genesis 1 or 2 or John 1

You will need:

- a handful of play-dough for all those present – this can be homemade
- Wipes or tissues / towels and water to rinse and dry hands at the end of the activity
- CD or other means of playing a suitable song

Leader introduces along following lines:

We'd like you to join in an activity now which allows us to be a little bit creative and to think about God's creativity at the same time. Just imagine God dreaming up all the different animals, plants, rock formations, clouds, colours and everything that was he was going to create.

There's an amazing variety to all the life-forms and each one is beautiful and amazing in its own right. We can't really tell from the story if God imagined everything altogether in one second or if he spent billions of years letting the ideas and creation evolve. But we are told we have been given some of God's creativity so we want you now to have a little go at doing some creating and see what you can dream up and what it feels like to be a creator.

We're going to pass round some play-dough and we want you to have a go at modelling a mammal or an insect or bird or some other animal ... or it could be a plant or a tree ... or anything from the natural world. We're going to have at least 5 minutes so there's no hurry – it's not a race. Remember, when God started time itself didn't even exist.

You can do it in pairs or even in threes if you prefer but I would like you to try to produce the best you can – not because there are any prizes but because that's what we believe God did when he made the world. Try and use all the play-dough so there are no bits left over to make a mess. If you do make a mess we have some wipes, so just put a hand up and someone will help. And if you'd rather just sit still and reflect on the creativity around you that's OK too.

We'll play a song which is all about creativity and you might like to listen to the words as you model away. And I'll give you at least a minute or two's warning when it's time to stop.

You might want to model something you know well from your garden – it could be something you've seen a picture of or it could be something entirely original out of your imagination; it might just be a shape where your hands and fingers take over the design.

Pause for reflection

As you finish you may like to consider the following questions:

- What have you made?
- Has anyone made the same as you?
- How do you feel about the object sitting in your hand?
- How did God feel about the different items in the creation that he made?
- If you could give life to what you have made, how would you feel?
- What did God want for the lives of his creation?

Option to lead into prayers of penitence (remember to brief the person leading intercessions): Take another moment of quiet to enjoy the object in your hand and then ask people (can be adults only) to destroy or damage what they have made. How does God feel about pointless damage to his creation?

Alternative option

Bring objects into church to show to congregation and get children to ask the adults to do more to look after creation. Also ask a child, or two or three, to read a prayer asking God to help us care for his creation.