

Creation Care Small Groups

Participants' Guide



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Creation Care Course introduction



Welcome to our 8 week Creation Care small group study series to consider God's creation of the universe as a reflection of His glory. We are delighted that you are sharing this journey with us. Together we will exercise curiosity and discuss God's heart for His creation in relation to us, and how we respond to the current climate emergency. While doing so, we keep our eyes fixed on a God of justice, through prayer and practical application as we live out our faith.

If you are feeling a little apprehensive about this topic as it is new to you, or seems overwhelming, then you will not be alone! Existing knowledge and experiences of the global climate crisis and its impacts on creation will vary across and within our groups. Maybe you are interested in the course because you care deeply about living sustainably but are still taking early steps in your faith journey. These are both great reasons to join – we will all be learning lots about living more sustainably to care for our environment, which was made from God's love for us and for our joy!

The science behind the climate crisis

Creation Care series follows the 2021 release of the latest [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report \(IPCC\)](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_SPM.pdf) https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_SPM.pdf. The report reminds us of the danger of climate irreversibility and gives a stark warning that we must act now, at scale and with significant decisive emission reductions if we are going to slow down the trajectory of the climate crisis.



Session preparation and structure

Each week we will be creating space to get to know other church community members who are interested in this subject and deepen our knowledge from expert videos and Bible passages.

You are invited to read the book 'Saying Yes to Life' by Ruth Valerio as a supportive background framework, however it is not compulsory, and you will still be able to follow the course content. Each week your group leader will advise about specific preparation for your meeting with suggested Bible verses and videos links.

Our suggested actions and ambitions to be better creation custodians at home and at work are a mixture of short, medium and longer term ideas and we would love to hear your own tips too.

We can all start praying today for policy makers working to define climate related legislation and leaders making global commitments – pray for ambition, action and breakthrough. May God give them courage and wisdom to think beyond short term political objectives and consider long term care for God's creation.



This unique moment in history is all about breaking boundaries. We know we have already broken, or are about to break, many of the planetary boundaries that keep us safe.

Christina Figueres

Notes _____



Optional preparation reading:

'Saying Yes to Life' book by Ruth Valerio; Introduction

Our first week will be an introduction to the overarching themes in the Creation Care series. In these first two weeks this is a time to gather an understanding of our baseline knowledge within the group and get to know each other, as we introduce the core theme of God as the creator and why we need to care for creation now more than ever.

Getting started:

- Group introductions and ice breaker (only for those meeting in small groups this week)
- Consider your existing knowledge and how you feel about the climate crisis
- Reflect on what you are hoping to take away from the creation care series

Bible reading selected from:

Psalm 24: 1, Genesis 1: 1-2, John 1: 1-4, Leviticus 25: 1-7,
Colossians 1: 15-20

Optional video viewing:

Your group may watch these in advance of meeting to allow more discussion time.

1. Katharine Heyhoe: [Film one: What the Bible says about the natural world - Tearfund](https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/christianity-and-climate-change-film-series/film-1)
<https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/christianity-and-climate-change-film-series/film-1>
2. Tenants Session 1 – [What is creation for? How is Jesus at the centre of creation?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3M_Kb6N5Hg)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3M_Kb6N5Hg
3. Tenants Session 2 - [What is the problem? Why is this a Christian issue?](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNgYCSA53VIEMEmWkiGLgQ)
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNgYCSA53VIEMEmWkiGLgQ>



Video discussion and questions:

This week's videos will explore how the physical matters to God and how he shows this.

How climate change impacts humanity and to ask how we feel responsible.

Your leader may also email you some specific questions to consider in advance of the session.

Reflection and prayer:

Take time to talk with God in terms of where you are on your personal sustainability journey.

Weekly action and ambition:

This week the recommended action is to focus and commit regular personal and group prayer on the climate emergency leaders influencing key global action plans and financial commitments. Also pray and ask for guidance on how to use your unique gifts and purpose towards caring for creation.

You may want to look at:

- [Pray and Fast for the Climate](https://prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk/)
<https://prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk/>
- Tearfund also has lots of resources and guides to support [Prayer for the climate - Tearfund](https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/reboot-campaign/prayer-for-the-climate)
<https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/reboot-campaign/prayer-for-the-climate>
- Or make a pledge to pray here [Climate Prayer Chain - Christian Aid](https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/prayer-chain)
<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/prayer-chain>



Never has science around the world been so abundant to meet the challenges that we have.

Emmanuel Macron, President of France



week **1**

Let there be light

week **1**



Optional preparation reading:

'Saying Yes to Life' book, Chapter 1

As followers of Christ, this week we will be thinking about how we can be beacons of light in the darkness of the climate crisis conversations. We consider the message from Paul in Ephesians 5: 8-9 as he calls us to 'live as children of light for the fruit of the light consists of all goodness, righteousness and truth'. We will consider how the messages we share can bring hope and optimism. We will also think about the role of and global access to electricity, how we can be more responsible with our energy use at home, at work and at church. A lot to reflect on this week!

Welcome to week 1 – opening questions:

- How are we feeling after the introduction week for the series?

- Do you have friends or family living in a country that is significantly impacted by climate change already?

- How has this impacted their community?



week **1**

Let there be light

week **1**



Bible reading selected from:

Genesis 1: 1-5, John 1: 1-5, Psalm 27: 1, Psalm 33: 5, 20-22, 6-9

Optional video viewing:

Your group may watch these in advance of meeting to allow more discussion time.

1. Ruth Valerio in conversation with Christina Figueres:
[Saying Yes To Life Resources](https://spckpublishing.co.uk/saying-yes-resources)
<https://spckpublishing.co.uk/saying-yes-resources>
2. Katharine Heyhoe Film two:
[Climate change is a poverty issue - Tearfund](https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/christianity-and-climate-change-film-series/film-2)
<https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/christianity-and-climate-change-film-series/film-2>
3. Katharine Heyhoe Film six:
[Grateful for fossil fuels but time to move on - Tearfund](https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/christianity-and-climate-change-film-series/film-6)
<https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/christianity-and-climate-change-film-series/film-6>
4. Tenants Session 3: [Do not fear - what can I do? Ruth Valerio](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNgYCSA53LVIEMEmWkiGL9Q)
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNgYCSA53LVIEMEmWkiGL9Q>

Video discussion and questions:

The discussion this week explores both the benefits of God's gift of energy and shines light on the wider impacts of energy related climate change such as poverty, justice, race and inequality.

Your leader may also email you some specific questions to consider in advance of the session.

Reflection and prayer:

We take time to pray and express gratitude for the abundance of energy that we have in our lives in the UK and ask for guidance for how we can be more respectful and effective with energy use.



The shift to a cleaner energy economy won't happen overnight, and it will require tough choices along the way. But the debate is settled. Climate change is a fact.

Barack Obama

What can I do to impact energy use?

short
term

I can do this tomorrow!

- ✓ Pray for God to open our eyes and shine his light into places where we can bring his light both in our homes and in the world
- ✓ Make a list of 5 ways to save energy at home such as:
 - ✓ Only use the tumble dryer in emergency
 - ✓ Only use the washing machine for full loads
 - ✓ Put jumpers on before the central heating
 - ✓ Make good use of the oven whilst it is on – use the shelf below to bake that bread now rather than turn it on again an hour later!
- ✓ Influence simple change at work - switch off devices that you usually leave on standby such a monitors or switching to more efficient light bulbs
- ✓ Learn more – try these other videos from Katharine Heyhoe [Developing countries need fossil fuels to reach the standard of living we enjoy, right?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h687bvUB5jl) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h687bvUB5jl> or [Is Carbon Dioxide Really a Pollutant? Global Weirding](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wfq72W3RP_o) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wfq72W3RP_o

medium
term

I can look at this in the next 3 months!

- ✓ Reduce car usage, save petrol and money by driving more slowly, walking and cycling more for shorter distances. Asking a work colleague to car share and enjoy the company!

- ✓ Fast from driving on the next church fasting week
- ✓ Investigate a renewable energy supplier for your home energy – it may surprise you how easy it is. There are some helpful objective guides online such as [Tearfund - Big Clean Switch](https://bigcleanswitch.org/tearfund) <https://bigcleanswitch.org/tearfund> and [How To Choose The Best Energy Company - Which?](https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/energy-companies/article/energy-companies/how-to-choose-the-best-energy-company-aOpXtz2wore4F) <https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/energy-companies/article/energy-companies/how-to-choose-the-best-energy-company-aOpXtz2wore4F>
- ✓ Commit to learning more – check out the resources on saying-yes-resources
- ✓ Contact the local MP about the local actions taken or planned to reduce emissions
- ✓ Consider giving to a Christian charity that is engaged in helping the world's poorest to avoid consequences of climate change such as Tearfund or Christian Aid
- ✓ Get involved in the Climate Coalition www.theclimatecoalition.org
- ✓ Purchase the L is for Lifestyle book by Ruth Valerio to discover ways of living that do not cost the earth



long term

This needs more prayer and planning...

- ✓ Review your list of 5 ways to save energy and replace any that you have fulfilled with new ways
- ✓ Start researching about moving to an electric car next time you change your car – cost, charging points at home and at work
- ✓ Research solar panels for your home to provide your own energy
- ✓ Research switching to an air source heat pump next time you change your boiler
- ✓ Consider less flying or stopping flying altogether – could you take the train or sail on your next holiday? Can you work colleagues continue with more online meetings rather than face to face?



week 2

Let the waters be separated

week 2



Optional preparation reading:

'Saying Yes to Life' book, Chapter 2

In this session our theme is the power of water, created by God as a valuable resource for all – both in the spiritual and in the physical sense in our lives. We look at the impacts of climate change on water supply and the quality of water. We consider our levels of respect for and relationship with this vital resource.

Welcome back to week 2 – opening questions:

- Any good news stories in terms of actions taken already or plans made since we have started the Creation Care series?

- Are we finding this topic tricky and how can we help each other?

Bible reading selected from:

Genesis 1: 6-8, Psalm 42: 1-2, Psalm 65: 9-13, Ezekiel 36: 25-27, John 4: 10-15

Optional video viewing:

Your group may watch these in advance of meeting to allow more discussion time.

- Ruth interviews Thabo Makgoba, Archbishop of Cape Town
[Saying Yes To Life Resources](https://spckpublishing.co.uk/saying-yes-resources)
<https://spckpublishing.co.uk/saying-yes-resources>
- Katharine Heyhoe Film seven:
[Climate change is a threat multiplier - Tearfund](https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/christianity-and-climate-change-film-series/film-7)
<https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/christianity-and-climate-change-film-series/film-7>



week **2**

Let the waters be separated

week **2**



Video discussion and questions:

Our discussion this week includes looking at the many ways water impacts our lives and we consider our respect for water as God's gift to us. Our themes include considering if we sin by wasting and polluting water and looking at how we can protect water provision better as a church and in our own lives.

Your leader may also email you some specific questions to consider in advance of the session.

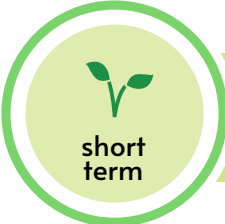
Reflection and prayer:

Closing with gratitude to Jesus, the water of life, and requests for renewed motivation to conserve water as part of God's creation.



Climate change does not respect borders; it does not respect who you are – rich and poor, small and big. Therefore, this is what we call 'global challenges,' which require global solidarity.

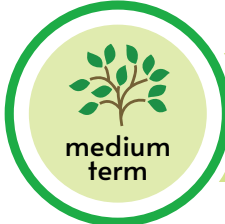
Ban Ki-moon



short term

I can do this today!

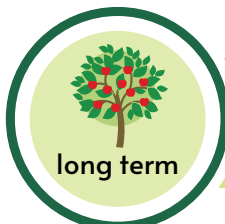
- ✓ Make a note of every time you use water today, ask all the family to join. Review the list and seek easy steps you can take to reduce the quantity of water you use individually and as a family
- ✓ Each time you use water – turn on a tap, flush the toilet, etc pray for those who do not have easy access to clean water
- ✓ Become aware of your 'virtual water' usage www.waterfootprint.org
- ✓ Steam your vegetables over an existing saucepan on the cooker rather than use another pan of water. They will taste better too!
- ✓ Shower more, bath less and time your shower - do you really need to sing all those songs before you even start washing?
- ✓ Leave a bucket or two out to catch rainwater for the garden
- ✓ You will love this one – clean your car less – think of even more exciting things you could do with the time or use the money you spent at a car wash to give to water related charity



medium term

Medium Term – I will start on this next week and work on it!

- ✓ Transition to more eco-friendly cleaning products that are made using less water
- ✓ Check out charities that are working to improve clean water supply to the world's most needy such as Unicef, WaterAid, Toilet Twinning (www.toilettwining.org) you may want to make a one-off or a regular donation
- ✓ Consider a water butt at home to preserve the rainwater for garden use
- ✓ Think about reducing meat consumption and/or dairy consumption – huge amounts of water are needed for sustaining the animals that we eat. Meat free Mondays are a great way to start.



long term

New Year Resolution!

- ✓ Get writing! Time to pen that letter or email to a company or an MP to ask that they act on water
- ✓ Water is required to produce textiles. Being more responsible with the amount of new clothing you purchase, buying fewer new items. Think about saving water, emissions and money by buying second hand or just consuming less?
- ✓ Do you have a water cooler in the office, at church? Think about drinking water and raising money for [Christian Aid: Aquaid projects](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/private-sector-partnerships/aquaid) <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/private-sector-partnerships/aquaid>



week 3

Let the land produce vegetation

week 3



Optional preparation reading: 'Saying Yes to Life' book, Chapter 3

Our session this week focusses on the blessings of God in the form of rich growth around the world enabling all his creatures to live in fullness. We look at how our actions are impacting the natural environment and explore our role as stewards of the land created by God.

Welcome back to week 3 – opening questions:

- Have we noticed that we are suddenly more alert and aware of articles in the media about the climate crisis since we began the course?

- Are we finding our views or habits changing as we learn more?

Bible reading selected from:

Genesis 1: 9-13, Psalm 24: 1, John 15: 1, Psalm 1, Jeremiah 17: 7-8

Optional video viewing:

Your group may watch these in advance of meeting to allow more discussion time.

1. [Saying Yes To Life Resources](https://spckpublishing.co.uk/saying-yes-resources) – Ruth Valerio in conversation with Bernadette Kabonesa, Snr Research Technician, Ugandan National Agricultural Research Organisation
<https://spckpublishing.co.uk/saying-yes-resources>
2. [Film three: How to persuade others to care about climate change - Tearfund](https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/christianity-and-climate-change-film-series/film-3) - Katharine Heyhoe
<https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/christianity-and-climate-change-film-series/film-3>



Video discussion and questions:

We consider in Genesis 1 the waters being gathered and drawn back revealing dry ground, land and seas are brought into being as separate entities within creation. A marvellous vision appears in our mind as life emerges on land in the form of plants, trees and seeds, to bear fruit and provide for us in abundance. In the book, Ruth describes how we feel compelled to protect and look after things that we have created ourselves – our works of art that we love. We ask ourselves if we do the same for God's creation – His land? We open the topic of waste, over-consumption and how we can reduce waste.

Your leader may also email you some specific questions to consider in advance of the session.

Reflection and prayer:


Close by reflecting on Psalm 1 asking God to root you deeply in Him, through the rhythms and practices in your life, to bear fruits at the right time.



short term

This is easy!

- ✓ Take a walk in nature, be observant and appreciative of the trees and vegetation. Maybe count the tree species? Smell the fragrances of creation.
- ✓ Assess the plant based products used at home. Can you reduce reliance on dairy and meat products?
- ✓ Review [Palm Oil | Ethical Consumer](https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/palm-oil) <https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/palm-oil> to help you understand which brands are kinder to nature
- ✓ Start assessing your waste at home – how much are you sending to landfill? Can you increase ways of reuse and upcycling, putting gifts from God in the picture?
- ✓ Give your time by joining a local litter picking project – a great opportunity to start those conversations about Jesus at the same time – explain about our creation care series
- ✓ Commit to taking your reusable coffee cup to church each time you visit and when you are out and about in town

 This is not the time and place for dreams. This is the time to wake up. This is a moment in history where we need to be wide awake.

Greta Thunberg



medium term

I will start on this next week and work on it!

- ✓ Start buying organic – maybe just one product as a starting point and then expand as your budget allows
- ✓ Increase plant based food intake to vary your diet and improve your health while helping nature
- ✓ Check out [Terracycle](https://www.terracycle.com) <https://www.terracycle.com> - you will be amazed at the household items that you can recycle through local schemes
- ✓ Maybe you would like to learn about carbon offsetting projects that are run by Christians across the globe? [About Us | Climate Stewards](https://www.climatestewards.org/about-us/) <https://www.climatestewards.org/about-us/>



long term

This needs more consideration

- ✓ Is it time to get that allotment that you have been thinking about for some time? Start researching about growing more produce for yourself and to share with friends and family.
- ✓ Commit to composting!
- ✓ Seek out ethically produced products such as Fairtrade options to ensure that the suppliers of your produce pay the workers fairly and that workers have rights
- ✓ Can you give to Tearfund's [Bin Twinning](https://www.bintwinning.org/) <https://www.bintwinning.org/> initiative and donate £45 to 'twin' your bin and fund a community project that's preventing disease, poverty and protecting the land?
- ✓ Can you volunteer for conservation with an organisation such as [Volunteering Opportunities \(arocha.org.uk\)](http://www.volunteeringopportunities.org.uk) or www.rewildingbritain.org.uk



week

4

Let there be lights in the vault of the sky

week

4



Optional preparation reading: 'Saying Yes to Life' book, Chapter 4

We look at the rhythms given to the world, of light and darkness, through the creation of the sun, moon, stars and vast amazingness of the universe. This leads us to consider the link between creation and redemption through Jesus. We ask ourselves in the study this week more about how we care for creation, in light of our readiness for Jesus' return and the new heaven and new earth.

Welcome back to week 4 – opening questions:

- How are we finding the course as we reach the halfway mark?

- Are we responding differently to the topic of sustainability since we started this small group study and preach series? If so, how?

Bible reading selected from:

Genesis 1: 14-19, Acts 2: 20, Colossians 1: 19-20, Psalm 147: 4, Psalm 19: 1-6

Optional video viewing:

Your group may watch these in advance of meeting to allow more discussion time.

- [Saying Yes To Life Resources](https://spckpublishing.co.uk/saying-yes-resources) <https://spckpublishing.co.uk/saying-yes-resources> – Ruth Valerio with Professor Sir Martin Rees, Astronomer, former Master of Trinity College, Cambridge and President of the Royal Society
- [Film five: Speaking to other Christians about climate change - Tearfund](https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/christianity-and-climate-change-film-series/film-5) <https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/christianity-and-climate-change-film-series/film-5> - Katharine Heyhoe



week

4

Let there be lights in the vault of the sky

week

4



Video discussion and questions:

We ask how this week's topic supports our biblical understanding of a 'new heaven' and a 'new earth', how we are called as God's creatures to care for His creation, and the links between 'new and renew'. We also consider whether guilt plays a part in how we respond to climate change.

Your leader may also email you some specific questions to consider in advance of the session.

Reflection and prayer:


We close reflecting on the actions we have committed to do so far in the series and ask for support and guidance in areas that we are finding tricky.

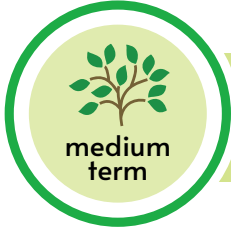


short term

Some quick wins!

- ✓ Pray about your giving rhythm and approach; ask for guidance about how your financial resources can best support the future of creation. Maybe a more regular pattern would help your budget and planning for our care of creation?
- ✓ Consider if your budget could be more controlled? Do you feel you are spending on items that you do not really need and it is hard to stop? If so, maybe talk to your local CAP team to get help and advice on how to control your money and help you avoid creating more waste. Signing up with CAP is the first step.
- ✓ Draw up a list of people you know are passionate about the environment or passionate about Christ however are not 'joining the dots'. Is it time to set up a coffee with them to open the conversation?
- ✓ Purchase that book from the resources guide that you have been meaning to do for a few weeks now – Dave Bookless's Planetwise is recommended if you want more on eschatology

 The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything.
Albert Einstein



medium term

A little more effort needed

- ✓ Do you have existing qualifications or experience in the sustainability industry? Could you give some time to your church team as you consider how to take learnings forward and embed them into church strategy after the 8 week series?
- ✓ Think about how you can bring more focus to this topic at work. If you are working for a smaller organisation that does not have the time or resource for a dedicated sustainability team then maybe a few passionate individuals can create a focus group and make it fun. Start small with a nature-based photography competition or a plant based recipe club to draw in interested members.



long term

For me and for the church community?

- ✓ Are you on the worship team and can you integrate the breadth of creation into our worship beyond the Creation Care series?
- ✓ Understand if your money is being invested for good or for harm. Maybe start with one area such as your pension and talk to a financial advisor or your workplace pension advisor about ethical choices and green funds that you may want to consider for that pension.
- ✓ If you have wider investment pots, then maybe look at those next working through your portfolio



week 5

Let the waters teem with living creatures and let the birds fly

week 5



Optional preparation reading:

'Saying Yes to Life' book, Chapter 5

This week we discuss how we can respond to some big issues facing us linked to the depletion of our wildlife, especially sea creatures and birds. God created and loves animals. Do we always care for them as we should?

Welcome back to week 5 – opening questions:

- How has the series opened discussions at home with our children or among younger friends and family?

- How are we doing taking our reusable coffee cups to church and when we meet friends for coffee in town?

Bible reading selected from:

Genesis 1: 20-25, Jeremiah 4: 23-25, Isaiah 40: 28-31, Matthew 23: 37

Optional video viewing:

Your group may watch these in advance of meeting to allow more discussion time.

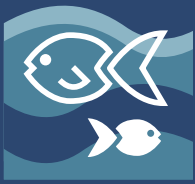
- [Saying Yes To Life Resources](https://spckpublishing.co.uk/saying-yes-resources) <https://spckpublishing.co.uk/saying-yes-resources> – Ruth Valerio in conversation with Professor Meric Srokosz from the National Oceanography Centre
- [Film four: What we can do as a church - Tearfund](https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/christianity-and-climate-change-film-series/film-4) <https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/christianity-and-climate-change-film-series/film-4> – Katharine Heyhoe
- [Blue Planet II Plastic Pollution Awareness 2018 - short version](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLx4fVsYdTI) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLx4fVsYdTI> – David Attenborough



week 5

Let the waters teem with living creatures and let the birds fly

week 5



Video discussion and questions:

Our discussion this week will take us into how human action is impacting sea life and we consider how we can respond to this. We also think about how we can encourage more members to act in community to talk more about climate change and to take action to tackle climate change.

Your leader may also email you some specific questions to consider in advance of the session.

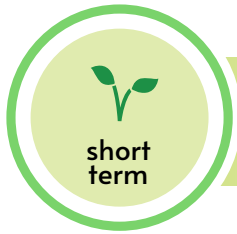
Reflection and prayer:

Close by reflecting on how we can support our youth teams and the younger members of our families and church to learn more about caring for God's creatures in the sky and the seas.



There is no question that climate change is happening; the only arguable point is what part humans are playing in it.

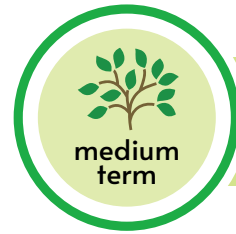
David Attenborough



short term

'To Do' List

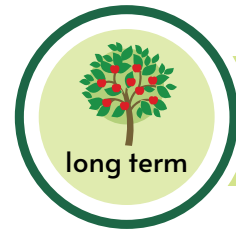
- ✓ Pray and ask God to fill you with compassion and vision for your personal life changes
- ✓ Find the home waste audit you did a couple of weeks ago – how much was single use plastic? List items that create plastic waste and rethink purchasing decisions to reduce or avoid them in future e.g. eliminating plastic dispensers, switching to soap from handwash.
- ✓ Set up an inter-generational conversation between friends and family who lived on wartime rations and before plastic was relied upon to understand 'how they created much less waste?'
- ✓ Sign the [Rubbish Campaign petition - Tearfund](https://www.tearfund.org/forms/rubbish-campaign-petition) <https://www.tearfund.org/forms/rubbish-campaign-petition>
- ✓ Talk to the wider family about how to have a single use plastic (SUP) free Christmas
- ✓ Is the fish and seafood that you purchase responsibly sourced? Look for fish that has the Marine Stewardship Councils blue fish label, to certify sustainable fisheries.



medium term

'To Do Later' List

- ✓ Read [The burning issue of the plastic crisis - Tearfund](https://www.tearfund.org/stories/2020/04/the-burning-issue-of-the-plastic-crisis) <https://www.tearfund.org/stories/2020/04/the-burning-issue-of-the-plastic-crisis>
- ✓ Join or set up a beach clean-up – a regular event as part of the worship activities?
- ✓ Ask your supermarket about stocking more responsibly sourced fish with the MSC blue label
- ✓ Buy less single use plastic - check on the package for recycling options before you purchase
- ✓ Invest in reusable beeswax food covers to replace cling film
- ✓ In case you missed this in Week 4; check out [Terracycle](https://www.terracycle.com) <https://www.terracycle.com> for local or free return schemes
- ✓ Look at ways to make your garden more bird friendly!
- ✓ Find projects to track and protect endangered plants and bird species.



long term

'To think about' List

- ✓ Maybe set up the [Zooniverse](#) app on your smartphone
- ✓ Pray and ask God to fill you with vision and prophetic words for ways for your church community to get more deeply involved in the care for creation
- ✓ Enhance your knowledge of climate change and justice or poverty reduction, e.g. sign up to The Guardian newspaper's weekly environment email or to regular newsletters from A Rocha or the World Bank website for up to date information.



week 6

Let the land produce living creatures and let us make humankind in our image

week 6



Optional preparation reading:

'Saying Yes to Life' book, Chapter 6

This week we contemplate how humanity is the species chosen by God to bear his image, and we are tasked with respecting and caring for each other and wider creation. We explore how we differ from animals and wildlife, and the importance of biodiversity and the preservation of each distinct species.

Welcome back to week 6 – opening questions:

- How many of us have pets and how do they impact our lives?

- How many of us are already vegetarian or vegan as a lifestyle choice?

Bible reading selected from:

Genesis 1: 24-31, Psalm 8: 6, Psalm 139: 14, Exodus 15: 1-18, 1 Cor 11: 17-22

Optional video viewing:

Your group may watch these in advance of meeting to allow more discussion time.

- [Saying Yes To Life Resources](https://spckpublishing.co.uk/saying-yes-resources)
<https://spckpublishing.co.uk/saying-yes-resources> – Ruth Valerio in conversation with Archbishop Justin Welby
- [Film eight: There can be a better future - Tearfund](https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/christianity-and-climate-change-film-series/film-8)
<https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/christianity-and-climate-change-film-series/film-8> – Katharine Heyhoe
- [How the pandemic impacts climate change](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62lzyebP1_o)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62lzyebP1_o – Katharine Heyhoe



week 6

Let the land produce living creatures and let us make humankind in our image

week 6



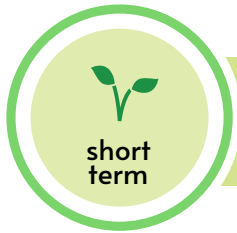
Video discussion and questions:

There is a lot to talk about this week! Our conversations may analyse how the experience of COVID and lockdown impacted our thoughts about caring for creation. We may also dig deeper into the area of equality and justice for all humankind in the eyes of our creator. There is also an opportunity to talk about our diet choices and possibly making some changes.

Your leader may also email you some specific questions to consider in advance of the session.

Reflection and prayer:

We thank God for the abundance and critical role of biodiversity in our lives.



short term

I have got this!

- ✓ Make your garden more wildlife friendly – learn how to attract hedgehogs
- ✓ Plan things you can do for wildlife at home – plant some bee and butterfly attracting plants in your garden – even if they are for next year!
- ✓ Pray for wisdom about ways you can reflect God's image in your own life in relation to other people in the wider world
- ✓ Read the *Plant based diet; A Christian option* by Mia Smith to help you look at the theological background to the ethical questions around plant based diets. Maybe start meat free Mondays...



medium term

I thought I had got this but I need a little more prayer and reflection...

- ✓ Pray about how you can amend your dietary habits to look at eating less meat, and more organic and sustainably sourced produce – maybe just start with free range eggs
- ✓ Research ways of reducing use of pesticides in the garden
- ✓ Act on the climate crisis through the prayer and action to tackle injustice related to the climate emergency [Reboot – act on the climate crisis – Tearfund](https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/reboot-campaign) <https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/reboot-campaign>



long term

I will get to this!

- ✓ Changing diet for me is a longer term commitment however I will continue to pray for guidance and discernment in choices
- ✓ If this topic area that has really ignited your interest then perhaps familiarise yourself with the [Final Report - The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/final-report-the-economics-of-biodiversity-the-dasgupta-review) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/final-report-the-economics-of-biodiversity-the-dasgupta-review>
This independent review calls for changes in how we think, act and measure economic success to protect and enhance our prosperity and the natural world. Grounded in a deep understanding of ecosystem processes and how they are affected by economic activity, the new framework presented by the Review sets out how we should account for Nature in economics and decision-making. There is an abridged version / headline message version.



People of conscience need to break their ties with corporations financing the injustice of climate change.

Desmond Tutu



week

7

The seventh day: conclusion

week

7



Optional preparation reading:

'Saying Yes to Life' book, Conclusion chapter

We have reflected on a great deal of information as we have considered how we care for God's creation and this can feel overwhelming. Just as God rested on the seventh day, we ourselves need to sometimes stand back, reflect and pray for guidance about how we can best use our resources and gifts before we act towards this purpose. This week we will therefore take a reflective approach.

Tearfund suggest a longer term strategy for individuals following a **Pray, Act, Give** approach. We **pray** to a God who we know listens and answers, we **act** and 'make bold changes in the way we live, consuming less and consuming better', and we are also encouraged to **give** using resources to change people's lives around the world in the areas where God has stirred our hearts. Through the action planner we have offered a variety of suggestions for each of these for your personal consideration.

Welcome back to week 7 – opening questions

- How are we feeling as we end on this small group series?

- Any stories of how making small steps has been beneficial at home or at work?



week 7

The seventh day: Conclusion

week 7



Bible reading selected from:

Genesis 2: 1-3, Ephesians 1: 13-14,

Leviticus 25 – The Sabbath / Year of the Jubilee.

Optional video viewing:

Your group may watch these in advance of meeting to allow more discussion time.

1. [Katharine Heyhoe Film nine: It is not too late - Tearfund](https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/christianity-and-climate-change-film-series/film-9)
<https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/christianity-and-climate-change-film-series/film-9>
2. [Tenants Session 4 Speak Up with Justin Thaker - Does God do politics?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eR8odenwFF4)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eR8odenwFF4>

Video discussion and questions:

As we close this series, we contemplate the fact that we cannot unknow what we now know and discuss how we feel about using the lessons that we have learned and make lifestyle changes.

We also reflect on improvements we can make as a church community and think about longer term actions available to us. It will be interesting to see which areas of action have inspired each of us.

Your leader may also email you some specific questions to consider in advance of the session.

Reflection and prayer:

We close in prayers of thanksgiving for the knowledge that we have now, and for wisdom and guidance for our personal strategies and collective strategies to follow in Jesus' footsteps and care for God's creation through a just transition.



Resurrection churches, resurrection lives. This is the calling that is on us as we look at all that God has made and say yes to life.

Ruth Valerio



Creation Care Resources

for continued learning



Factsheet:

- [Climate factsheet](https://www.tearfund.org/-/media/files/action-resources/the-world-rebooted/climate_factsheet.pdf) https://www.tearfund.org/-/media/files/action-resources/the-world-rebooted/climate_factsheet.pdf

Prayer support:

- [Prayer for the climate - Tearfund](https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/reboot-campaign/prayer-for-the-climate) <https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/reboot-campaign/prayer-for-the-climate>
- <http://www.prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk/>

Videos:

- [Paris Agreement](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5THr3bFj8Z4) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5THr3bFj8Z4>
- Katharine Heyhoe:
 - [Developing countries need fossil fuels to reach the standard of living we enjoy, right?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h687bvUB5jl) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h687bvUB5jl>
 - [Is Carbon Dioxide Really a Pollutant? | Global Weirding](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wfq72W3RP_o) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wfq72W3RP_o
 - [The pandemic's effect on climate change](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62lzyebP1_o) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62lzyebP1_o

- David Attenborough:
 - [BBC iPlayer - Climate Change - The Facts](https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m00049b1/climate-change-the-facts) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m00049b1/climate-change-the-facts>
 - [BBC iPlayer - Blue Planet II - Series 1: 1. One Ocean](https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p04thmv7/blue-planet-ii-series-1-1-one-ocean) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p04thmv7/blue-planet-ii-series-1-1-one-ocean>
 - [Blue Planet II Plastic Pollution Awareness 2018](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLx4fVsYdTI) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLx4fVsYdTI>
 - [BBC iPlayer - Extinction: The Facts](https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000mn4n/extinction-the-facts) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000mn4n/extinction-the-facts>
- Tearfund recommended climate themed videos:
 - Four short videos looking at [Creation care in Haiti](https://www.tearfund.org/stories/2020/03/haiti-video-1---the-problem-of-waste/) <https://www.tearfund.org/stories/2020/03/haiti-video-1---the-problem-of-waste/>
 - Videos from Burning Down the House: [Moved by Faith](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cY1-cMzLZm8) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cY1-cMzLZm8>
 - [Dear Leaders](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLzkvDhqPVA) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLzkvDhqPVA>
 - [Temperature increase film](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_LSY0uoFexw) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_LSY0uoFexw
 - [Turning the Tide of Climate Change](https://vimeo.com/462660499) – a case study based in Ethiopia <https://vimeo.com/462660499>
 - [The Restoration Story](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AthRqGldmc8) about climate focus on Tanzania (gospel linked) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AthRqGldmc8>
 - [The World has a Rubbish Problem](https://www.tearfund.org/-/media/files/action-resources/rubbish-campaign-resources/rubinas-rubbish-problem.mp4) <https://www.tearfund.org/-/media/files/action-resources/rubbish-campaign-resources/rubinas-rubbish-problem.mp4>



Reports:

- [The burning issue of the plastic crisis - Tearfund](https://www.tearfund.org/stories/2020/04/the-burning-issue-of-the-plastic-crisis) <https://www.tearfund.org/stories/2020/04/the-burning-issue-of-the-plastic-crisis>
- [Final Report - The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/final-report-the-economics-of-biodiversity-the-dasgupta-review) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/final-report-the-economics-of-biodiversity-the-dasgupta-review>
- [IPCC Report August 2021 - Summary for Policymakers](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_SPM.pdf) https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_SPM.pdf

Useful Links and organisations:

- [What is a COP? - UN Climate Change Conference \(COP26\) at the SEC – Glasgow 2021](https://ukcop26.org/uk-presidency/what-is-a-cop/sec) <https://ukcop26.org/uk-presidency/what-is-a-cop/sec>
- [UN Sustainable Development Goals](https://sdgs.un.org/goals) <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>
- [Ruth Valerio's website for Green Living](https://ruthvalerio.net/green-living/) <https://ruthvalerio.net/green-living/>
- [A Rocha website for Wild Christian Living](https://arocha.org.uk/wildchristian/) <https://arocha.org.uk/wildchristian/>
- [Tearfund Magazine on environmental justice issues](https://weare.tearfund.org/magazine/?cli_action=1578577571.673) https://weare.tearfund.org/magazine/?cli_action=1578577571.673
- [Katherine Heyhoe website - US Climate Scientist](http://www.katharinehayhoe.com/) <http://www.katharinehayhoe.com/>
- <https://www.outrageandoptimism.org/>
Christina Figueras, Paul Dickinson and Tom Rivett-Carnac
- [The Earthbound Report – Good lives on our one planet](https://earthbound.report/) <https://earthbound.report/>
- [What is climate change? - Met Office](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/climate-change/what-is-climate-change) <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/climate-change/what-is-climate-change>

Action:

- [Relay Home | YCCN](https://www.yccn.uk/) – Young Christians Climate Network <https://www.yccn.uk/>
- [Christian Climate Action – Direct action, public witness for the climate](https://christianclimateaction.org/) <https://christianclimateaction.org/>
- [Home - Extinction Rebellion UK](https://extinctionrebellion.uk/) <https://extinctionrebellion.uk/>

Books:

- Ruth Valerio: *'Saying YES to life'*
- Ruth Valerio: *'L is for Lifestyle'*
- David Bookless: *Planetwise*
- Mia Smith: *Plant based diet; A Christian option*
- Christina Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac: *The Future we Choose*
- David Wallace-Wells: *The Uninhabitable Earth*
- Jeremy Williams: *Climate Change is Racist*
- Christians from Extinction Rebellion: *Time to Act*



WTC Theology Recommended booklist:

- Bauckham, Richard. *Living with Other Creatures: Green Exegesis and Theology*. Baylor University Press, 2011 - a theology book which helps make sense of the role we have in relation to the rest of creation.
- Berry, R.J., ed. *Environmental Stewardship*. T&T Clark, 2006.
- *The Care of Creation: Focusing Concern and Action*. IVP, 2000.
- Capon, Robert Farrar. *The Supper of the Lamb: A Culinary Reflection*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1989 - a hilarious, theological, celebration of food.
- Clough, David. *On Animals: Systematic Theology: 1*. T&T Clark International, 2012. Davis, Ellen. *Scripture, Culture and Agriculture*. Cambridge: CUP, 2008 - a fascinating look at how agrarian thinking and practice are present and encouraged throughout the Bible.
- Gorringer, Tim. *Harvest: Food, Farming and the Churches*. SPCK, 2006 - short and to the point, a great theologian challenging the church to support local farmers and food economies.
- Northcott, Michael S. *The Environment and Christian Ethics*. Cambridge: CUP, 2008 - a bit more dense for those interested in ethics.
- Patel, Raj. *Stuffed and Starved: Markets, Power and the Hidden Battle for the World Food System*. Portobello Books, 2013 - a scathing critique of the injustice in the global food system.
- Pollan, Michael. *Omnivores Dilemma: The Search for a Perfect Meal in a Fast-Food World*. Bloomsbury, 2009 - a fascinating look behind the scenes of the industrial food system in the US.
- Pope Francis' Encyclical, *Laudate Si*.
- Schmemmann, Alexander. *For the Life of the World*. St Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2010 - deep theology focussed on the Eucharist and its implications for the whole creation.
- Tudge, Colin. *So Shall we Reap: What's Gone Wrong with the World's Food – and How to Fix it*. Penguin, 2004 - a non-Christian author drawing on Biblical ideas to argue that instead of acting short termistically to merely 'feed the 9 billion by 2050' in the cheapest possible ways, there are many ways we can create sustainable food economies that will nourish the world's population thousands of years from now - "the future belongs to the gourmet".
- Wirzba, Norman. *Food and Faith: A Theology of Eating*. Cambridge: CUP, 2007 - this book should be the 'go to' book for Christians thinking about food.
- Wright, Tom. *Surprised by Hope*. SPCK, 2008 - a brilliant book which helps us to understand the gospels' implications for all creation, including eschatology.
- Most of Wendell Berry's work. A good collection of his finest agrarian essays is called *The Art of the Commonplace*.

