

Explore It

FOR LEADERS

SEPTEMBER
SESSION 02

THE SALVATION ARMY - IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND PROJECTS

Matthew 25:35-40

Today we are going to think about the impact that climate change has on some of the world's most vulnerable people, and how The Salvation Army is working with them to help overcome some of the challenges they are facing.

Start It

Play this short quiz with the children – but instead of writing answers down, invite the group to wave their arms to answer 'True' or stand up and spin around to answer 'False' (or choose your own actions as a group).

1. Most scientists agree that climate change is real and is caused by human activity.
True. 97-98 per cent of scientists agree, and one study in 2019 even said that 100 per cent agreed.
 2. Wasting less food is a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
True. If, as a planet, we stopped wasting food altogether, we'd eliminate eight per cent of our total emissions.
 3. In Genesis 2:15 it says: 'The Lord God told the people to trample the earth and use its resources however they choose.'
False. It actually says: 'The Lord God put mankind in the garden of Eden to care for it and work it.'
 4. We don't need to worry about climate change yet.
False. The impacts of climate change are being felt today, but there is still time to avoid the worst effects if we act now.
 5. Climate change is predicted to greatly affect our natural resources (such as water) that people depend on.
True.
- 🗨 **Say:** Climate change is already having a massive impact on people's lives around the world. While it does affect everyone, it is the world's poorest and most vulnerable who will experience the impacts most severely.
 - 🗨 **Say:** For example:
 - ➔ People struggling to access clean water will be more severely affected by droughts.
 - ➔ People living in poverty will be less likely to recover from weather-related events such as hurricanes, floods or wildfires, which destroy their homes and ways of earning money.
 - ➔ People on lower incomes tend to live in areas with higher air pollution and less access to decent healthcare so are more vulnerable to becoming seriously ill from the effects of climate change.
 - 🗨 **Say:** Climate change is a big problem that is affecting the Earth and everyone who lives here.

Sing It

God cares about all his people and wants us to care about them too.

'He's got the whole world in his hands' by The Salvation Army International Development UK (1min 57secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QyGH-iWWHr4>

It is good to help people practically when we see them suffering, as well as challenging the systems that keep them trapped in a cycle of poverty.

In the Bible, Proverbs 31:8-9 says: 'Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. Defend the rights of all those who have nothing. Speak up and judge fairly. Defend the rights of the poor and needy' (ICB).

Ask: How might we speak up for people and defend the rights of the poor and needy?

Tell It

🗨️ **Say:** Climate change is a justice issue. But one of the greatest injustices is that, while it affects all people everywhere, it is those who contribute least to global carbon emissions – like those experiencing material poverty, children and future generations – that are most affected.

Ask:

- ➔ Have you considered climate change as a justice issue before?
- ➔ Who should do something about climate change?

Read Matthew 25:34-40

'Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was ill and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

'Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison and go to visit you?"

'The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Ask: What do you think this passage has to do with climate change?

🗨️ **Say:** Climate change is leading to more people...

- ➔ becoming hungry as they struggle to grow enough food,
- ➔ becoming thirsty as long-term droughts are stopping people from accessing safe drinking water,
- ➔ losing their homes from extreme weather events or fires, and
- ➔ becoming sick as the air becomes less healthy to breathe.

🗨️ **Say:** God asked us to love our neighbour (Leviticus 19:18). But that doesn't just mean the people living next door! It means everyone - people you love, and people you don't even know. The passage above suggests that when we help someone who is hungry, thirsty or forced out of their home, it is a way of showing our love for Jesus.

🗨️ **Say:** What can we do to love our neighbours who are most vulnerable to climate change?

Action It

- **Say:** For farmers in Zimbabwe, a good harvest means they can feed their families, have extra crops to sell for income and pay for education, healthcare and other costs. However, weather has become unpredictable and more extreme as a result of climate change. This means that the methods that farmers have been using to grow crops for generations, have begun failing them.
- **Say:** The Salvation Army is working with farmers by running training sessions in simple and sustainable farming techniques. As crop yields increase and confidence grows, families can know that the future they hope for is more secure.

Video

Screen share: *Janet's Story – Feeding Hope* by The Salvation Army International Development UK (2mins 08secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTMOBGNBv9gfg9IZuop7NeQ>

- **Say:** We can support projects which are helping farmers around the world like Janet. Three things we can do to help are:

- **Tell people.** We can raise awareness about the issue of climate change and how it is making life harder for the world's most vulnerable people. Talk to your friends and family about it.
- **Fundraise.** We can raise money to support The Salvation Army's international projects. There are lots of things we can do: host a quiz and charge an entrance fee, run a cake sale at school or church, do a sponsored run/dance/silence.

Spend a few minutes thinking up some other fundraising ideas that your group could do together or individually. Create a Jamboard so the group can add their own ideas as you discuss, or use the whiteboard function so everyone can see all the ideas.

- **Pray.** Prayer is one of the most powerful things we can do. As we connect to God through prayer, we can get a better understanding of him and how he wants us to live our lives. Be sure to listen in prayer, because God may tell you something he wants you to do.

Pray It

Our prayer today is based on the song 'Head, shoulders, knees and toes' with each body part giving us a different focus of our prayer. Go through the prayers below and then sing the song together:

**Head, shoulders, knees and toes ...
Eyes and ears and mouth and nose,
Head, shoulders, knees and toes.**

Head: God, help me to think of you, to think of being kind.

Shoulders: God, help me with the worries that I carry. I know I can bring them to you and place them on your shoulders. There are no worries, problems or feelings that are too heavy for you.

Knees: God, help me to remember to kneel and pray; not just for myself, family and friends but for all of creation.

Toes: God, help me to walk with you every day. With your help, I pray that I will walk towards what is good and away from what is bad.

Eyes: God, help me to look at good things and not bad things. Help me to see the good things you have given us. Help me to see the good in others.

Ears: God, help me to listen so I can hear from you and help me to hear what others might need from me.

Mouth: God, help me to speak what is good and truthful. Help me to sing your praises. Help me to use my words to encourage others.

Nose: God, thank you for making me and breathing life into me. Thank you for all your creation.

Explore It

IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to share with your group, for them to do at home.

FOR ME



Bake

Find out about typical Zimbabwean foods. For example, sadza can be eaten at every meal. It is made from maize flour (cornmeal) and can be simple like porridge at breakfast, or more solid when served with meat or vegetables for lunch and in the evening. Peanuts, avocados, butternut squash, cucumbers and beans are some of the vegetables that are commonly eaten.

Find a recipe for some Zimbabwean food and make a meal with/for your family or friends in your corps or church.

Recipe ideas: <https://www.zimbokitchen.com>

TOGETHER



Pray

You may or may not already say 'Grace' before your meals together as a family. Either way, this week say Grace before eating. Pray specifically for people around the world who work hard to overcome the challenges of climate change to grow enough food for their families (such as the farmers that The Salvation Army works with in Zimbabwe).

Some prayer pointers:

- ➔ Give thanks for the provision of daily food.
- ➔ Pray that all people will have knowledge about and access to affordable, nutritious food.
- ➔ Pray that all nations will unite to reduce the environmental damage to land, water and air which is a result of changing climate.
- ➔ Pray for innovations and the will to reduce food waste.
- ➔ Pray for Salvation Army officers and project staff who work with farmers to overcome hunger and malnutrition.