

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Colossians 1:15-20 The importance of Christ

Thinking about climate change can be challenging and upsetting. It's a big problem, and as a result of poor decisions that humans have made, the natural world is struggling. But there is hope. We love and serve a God of hope, and he sent his son Jesus to reconnect all things to him. We have hope through Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

Each child will need:

- Used paper, water, plastic wrap or parchment paper, bowl, small seeds, paper towels or cloth

You will need:

- A tray of random items for the memory game or the PowerPoint slides for a virtual version – see Start It section
- Used paper, water, plastic wrap or parchment paper, bowl, small seeds, paper towels or cloth – see Action It section

Start It

Play a few turns of the memory game. Use a tray of real objects or screenshare <https://boys-brigade.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Virtual-Sessions-Resource-Tray-Memory-Game.pdf>

Sing It

'Get your hopes up' by Bright Ones (3mins 43 secs) <https://youtu.be/NH9mzerEqyw>

Tell It

Read Colossians 1:15-20 (*ICB*) to the group. Ask the children to stand up and sit down (or another action that you decide between yourselves) when they hear the words 'all things'.

'No one has seen God, but Jesus is exactly like him. Christ ranks higher than all the things that have been made. Through his power **all things** were made – things in Heaven and on Earth, things seen and unseen, all powers, authorities, lords, and rulers. **All things** were made through Christ and for Christ. Christ was there before anything was made. And **all things** continue because of him. He is the head of the body. (The body is the church.) Everything comes from him. And he is the first one who was raised from death. So in **all things** Jesus is most important. God was pleased for all of himself to live in Christ. And through Christ, God decided to bring **all things** back to himself again – things on Earth and things in Heaven. God made peace by using the blood of Christ's death on the cross.'

🗨 **Say:** We can learn three things about Jesus from this passage. These verses tell us that:

- Jesus is the creator – everything was made through Jesus and for Jesus.
- Jesus is the sustainer – Jesus holds all things together.
- Jesus is saviour – Jesus came to Earth to reconcile and reconnect with creation.

Discuss

- Do any of these characteristics of Jesus surprise you?
- Have you ever thought about Jesus being the creator of the world?
- How can doing more to care for creation help us to connect more with God?
- 🗨 **Say:** Humans have a special responsibility to care for creation, which means we get to be part of the reconciliation and restoration of the planet.
- 🗨 **Say:** Jesus didn't come just to reconnect people with God, he came to reconnect and restore ALL things! When Jesus came to Earth, he began the process of restoring the world and making all things new.
- 🗨 **Say:** With Jesus, every living thing can be reunited with God. All of the brokenness in the world, as a result of humanity's selfishness, can be restored.
- 🗨 **Say:** This journey of reconciliation is something we can take part in. We can tell people about Jesus so that they can get to know him too, and we can help people reconnect with the rest of creation and care for it the way God intended.

Action It

Seed paper

Show the children how to make seed paper.

<https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/how-to-make-seed-paper-2905562>

This activity is a great way to reuse something old and turn it into something that is both beautiful and useful. The children could plant their seed paper in their own plant pot or garden, and tend it until it grows – an experience of caring for creation in a small yet real way. Alternatively, they could write on their seed paper and give it to someone else to enjoy. They can share what they have been thinking about in these sessions, and use it as an opportunity to talk about the issue of climate change.

- 🗨 **Say:** It is a hopeful act to plant seeds. We may have learnt about growing plants, or have experience of doing so, but with every seed that lands in the soil, it also sows the hope that it will grow into a healthy plant.

Pray It

Invite the group to close their eyes and relax; they could lie on the floor if they like.

Play an instrumental version of 'Great is thy faithfulness' (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jddSJPn72yE>) and read the prayer based on the words of this song (SASB 26).

Encourage them to remain quiet once you have finished reading, as the rest of the song plays, and reflect on what it means that we can have hope in Jesus.

**Lord God,
Thank you that your faithfulness never ends.
You are the same, every day of our lives.
You are compassionate and you will never leave us.
You have always been there and always will be.
Every day we can see something new in your creation.
Every day we can learn something new about you.
You created us and you provide for us.
The whole of nature praises you for your endless love and mercy.
Thank you for your forgiveness in the times that we make mistakes.
Thank you that you are our heavenly Father and friend.
Help us always to reach out to you, when we're happy and when we're struggling.
You are our strength today.
You are our bright hope for tomorrow.
We love you.
Amen.**

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IDEAS

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

FOR ME



Read

Each morning this week, when you wake up, read a Bible verse about hope and make it your prayer for that day.

1. 'All you who put your hope in the Lord be strong and brave.' Psalm 31:24
2. 'Lord, show your love to us as we put our hope in you.' Psalm 33:22
3. 'My hope is in you. So may goodness and honesty guard me.' Psalm 25:21
4. 'Be joyful because you have hope. Be patient when trouble comes. Pray at all times.' Romans 12:12
5. 'Love patiently accepts all things. It always trusts, always hopes, and always continues strong.' 1 Corinthians 13:7
6. 'The law of Moses could not make anything perfect. But now a better hope has been given to us [Jesus]. And with this hope we can come near to God.' Hebrews 7:19
7. 'I pray that the God who gives hope will fill [me] with much joy and peace while [I] trust in him. Then [my] hope will overflow by the power of the Holy Spirit.' Romans 15:13

(Verses from *ICB*)

TOGETHER



Watch

Watch the *Our Planet* documentary on Netflix and marvel at God's creation. If you don't have a Netflix account, watch the following clips on the Our Planet website together: <https://www.ourplanet.com/en/>

- ➡ How to save our planet
- ➡ Five steps to help save our planet