

Explore It FOR LEADERS



SMALL ACTIONS CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

Genesis 2:15; 1 Timothy 4:12

Lots of things that humans do are having a negative impact on the planet. Use this session to explore some different practical elements of creation care. For example, recycling, litter, global warming, plastic pollution, reusable products, conserving energy.

Children have powerful voices and can make big things happen. You could talk to the children about Felix Finkbeiner, who was only nine years old when he started a tree-planting campaign at his school in Germany. Today, aged 24, his organisation plants trees all over the world and educates young people about climate change.

Each child will need:

→ Pens/pencils and paper

You will need:

→ A prizes (optional) – see Start It section

Start It

If you decided to have a design-your-own Creation Champions logo or badge competition, then share the children's designs and give out any prizes.

🗨 **Say:** Today we are looking at the way that our small actions can make a huge difference when it comes to looking after God's creation. Throughout creation there are lots of examples of animals working together. Their small actions make a huge difference to those around them. Watch the clip and answer the questions.

Video

Symbiotic Animal Relationships - Animals for Kids - Educational Video by Animal Fun Facts (3 mins 44 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EscV2IAzJb4>

Ask:

1. What is it called when two animal species live together and both benefit from it?
2. What do the oxpecker birds do to help the hoofed animals?
3. Where do the cattle egret birds like to sit?
4. How do the cattle egret birds help the hoofed animals?
5. What does the boxer crab do to defend itself? Who helps?
6. Who does the moray eel call on for help with a spring clean?
7. How do the pistol shrimp and the goby fish work as a team?
8. How do ants protect the lice?
9. What are the three main benefits of symbiosis?
10. What did you discover about God's creatures working together?

Sing It

Today we'll be thinking about how our small actions can make a big difference to God's creation, but first let's focus about just how big our amazing God is.

'Great big God' (2 mins 53 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4EjbUwxRes>

Tell It

🗨️ **Say:** In the book of Genesis it says:

'The Lord God put the man in the Garden of Eden to take care of it and to look after it.'

— Genesis 2:15 (CEV)

🗨️ **Say:** Think back to our discussions in the last session.

Ask:

→ In what ways are we taking care of our planet and looking after it?

→ What could we do better?

🗨️ **Say:** Lots of things that humans do are having a negative impact on the planet. Today we are going to look at some of the practical ways that we can be God's Creation Champions.

🗨️ **Say:** One of your 'Explore It for Me' activities looked at different ways that we can look after our planet.

Screenshare: <https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/science/nature/how-to-save-the-planet/>

Discuss

Look through the article together and discuss the different ideas for looking after the planet.

→ Have the children tried any of these ideas?

→ Are there any they would like to try?

→ Are there any new ideas that the children hadn't thought of before? If so, what are they?

→ Are there any of these ideas that could be tried out in the church context?

Ask: What top tips have you picked up to help you become God's Creation Champion?

Action It

Ask: Have you ever heard of Felix Finkbeiner?

🗨️ **Say:** Felix Finkbeiner started making a difference for the planet at the age of nine. Watch the clip to find out more about his story.

Video

Be Fearless: Felix Finkbeiner and Plant-for-the-Planet by casefoundation(3 mins 35 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UldKAg3frs4>

🗨️ **Say:** Felix Finkbeiner was just nine years old when he decided to do something to make a difference for our planet.

Ask:

→ What do you think of Felix's story?

→ How does it inspire you to make a difference in your own community?

→ What do you feel is standing in your way?

🗨️ **Say:** No matter what age you are, God wants you to play your part in looking after his creation.

1 Timothy 4:12 (ICB) says:

'You are young, but do not let anyone treat you as if you were not important. Be an example to show the believers how they should live. Show them with your words, with the way you live, with your love, with your faith, and with your pure life.'

Ask: How does this verse encourage you to be fearless and play your role as God's Creation Champion?

🗨 **Say:** Over the last few sessions we've thought of lots of different ways that we can look after our planet. Sometimes looking after our planet means speaking up when we see a way for things to get better.

Ask: What small action could you take that could potentially make a big difference to the way we care for God's creation?

🗨 **Say:** To bring this part of the session to a close we are going to continue memorising Psalm 8. Each week we will look at a different part of the Psalm.

Video

You can either use the video clip or, if you prefer, you could learn the actions and teach them to the group.

Psalm 8:3-8 – Bible verses to memorize for kids with actions (Week 3) by In the Gap Kids (4 mins 27 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JBtAkJouuaM>

Pray It

🗨 **Say:**

Dear Jesus,

Sometimes we feel so small and the problems the world is facing seem so big. Thank you that you are here with us and that you are our great, big God. Help us to remember that you created us to look after the world you created. Help us to be brave and use our small voices to make a big difference.

Amen.

Explore It

Remember to send home the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.