



CARE FOR OUR WORLD

SPECIAL DAYS

PREPARATION

- Invite someone from a local environmental organisation, for example a Wildlife Trust, the council's environmental department or the police environmental crime unit to talk to the group about their role and their organisation's priorities
- Prepare to show the video '[Come into our world](#)' feat Chelmsford Songsters by Music & More (4:28)
- Choose an online quiz about the environment from earthday.org
- Select [World Environment Day](#) (WED) resources like stories, a quiz or videos

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

World Environment Day is an opportunity to highlight issues that we need to address urgently. Every year, on 5 June, it is hosted by a different country with events and resources around a central theme.

When you look around your community, your town or village, what do you see? Perhaps over the past years you have noticed that the world we live in is changing. Maybe when you look outside your window you can see evidence of these changes. Many TV programmes and news articles have highlighted the devastating rate that changes are taking place in our world.

In response, many of us are trying to do what they can to protect the world every day. For example: people are recycling more; becoming vegetarians or vegans; using natural products; using reusable water bottles and even ethical toilet paper! Sadly, it is unlikely we will be able to bring back the beautiful world God created, but we can try and reduce the speed at which creation is being destroyed.

ACTIVITIES

TALK

Find out from your visitor how a local environmental group is working to save our planet.

QUIZ

Try an online quiz about the environment from earthday.org



World Environment Day

Share this year's theme and use the [resources](#) - stories/quiz/videos - to expand on the issues.

DISCUSS

So how can we, as individuals, save the planet?

Here are ten things we can all do.

- * Use your voice
- * Be informed
- * Be political
- * Travel responsibly
- * Eat sustainably
- * Reduce your waste
- * Watch what you buy
- * Find ways to donate
- * Make a pledge
- * Volunteer for your world

www.wwf.org.uk

Discuss with your group imaginative ways that they could do these planet-saving ideas.

BIBLE READING/THOUGHT

Do you enjoy watching programmes about the natural world? There have been quite a few recently - *One Planet: Seven Worlds; Kingdom* and *Planet Earth*, and the film *Ocean*, to name just a few. From Chris Packham to David Attenborough, there are many people, conservationists, who are enthused and excited by nature and wildlife, and want to share their passion with us and encourage us to care for our world.

There have been other TV programmes set closer to home like *Hugh's War on Waste* hosted by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall. Hugh is a campaigner on food and environment issues, and it is because of him we can buy 'wonky veg' at the supermarket!

We are not all famous conservationists, but we are all called to take care of our world. Genesis chapter 1 tells us that God created the world for us to enjoy and,



most importantly, to look after! God charges us with being stewards of our world. TV programmes show us how deforestation, pollution and global warming is damaging our world and we can do our part to make things better.

- * We can buy organic and fairly traded products
- * We can support local businesses and buy local produce
- * We can buy ethically made clothing or recycle, upcycle what we have

You may think: 'I am just one person. If I do something, will that really make a difference or change the world?' But as Christians we are called to obey God and his call to be stewards of his world. It is part of our spiritual journey. We take it step by step, looking to him for guidance as we go.

Genesis 1:31 (NLT) says:

 'Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!'

As Scripture tells us, it was very good! We were created to be stewards of the world he created. It is our responsibility to protect it.

Sir Alister Hardy, a marine biologist, once said:

'Just occasionally ... I became so overcome by glory of the natural scene that, for a moment or two, I fell on my knees in prayer.'

REFLECTION

Let's finish by listening to the song 'Come into our world' by Joy Webb. As we listen, take some time to reflect on the words and to pray that God will not only come into our world, but also come into our hearts and prompt us to care for his creation.

♪ 'Come into our world'

[Video](#) feat Chelmsford Songsters by Music & More (4:28)

SONGS

♪ SASB 66 'This is my Father's world'

[Official lyric video](#) by KeithandKristyn Getty (4:35)

[Brass instrumental lyric video](#) by Salvation Army Video Songbook - Kelston Stanford (2:23)

Connect



- ♪ SASB 1001 'Help us build a loving world'
Piano instrumental lyric video by Andy Toby (2:44)
- ♪ SASB 568 'All that I am'
Brass instrumental lyric video by Salvation Army Video Songbook - Kelston Stanford (4:00)
Lyric video by The Salvation Army Tunbridge Wells (4:06)

WEBSITE AND CONTACT DETAILS

- Connect website: www.salvationarmy.org.uk/connect
- Family Ministries website: www.salvationarmy.org.uk/families
- Emails: familyministries@salvationarmy.org.uk
- Facebook: @sarmyfm
- Twitter: @ukifamily
- Instagram: safamily_ministries



Family Ministries

Having faith in the family

Providing intergenerational support, training and resources for

Children | **Adults** | **Everyone**