

*Youthscape*

tearfund

**YOUTH  
SESSION  
CLIMATE  
JUSTICE**

# INTRO

## **'Our house is on fire.'**

The urgent words of climate activist, Greta Thunberg. We are in a climate emergency – global temperatures are rising and it's having a devastating impact on people living in poverty. As extreme temperatures rise and destructive weather patterns become more unpredictable, God is calling us to take a stand and join his plan for restoration. But we have to act now.

# VIDEO: CLIMATE 101

Before we campaign for climate justice, we have to understand the issue. Check out this video from Bill Nye the Science Guy to find out more.

## **Discuss:**

- Did any information in the video surprise you?
- Now that you know more about the climate crisis, how does it make you feel?

# GAME: A CLIMATE QUIZ

Based on the above video ask the following questions. If you're using Zoom to meet you may like to split your group into teams and run it like an online quiz, or have a go at doing it over kahoot.

1. True or false: the climate has always been changing.
2. Out of the last 13 years, how many have been the hottest on record.
3. What colour was Bill Nye the Science Guy's bow tie?
4. What do 97% of scientists say has caused the increase in the Earth's temperature?
5. What are we burning that increases the amount of greenhouse gases?
6. What do greenhouse gases trap?
7. What provides 50% of the Earth's oxygen?
8. How much has the ocean increased in its acidity: 10%, 30% or 50%?
9. What were 3 of the things mentioned that you can do to help stop climate change?
10. What vegetable was the icon when talking about eating more local veg?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EtW2rrLHs08&feature=youtu.be>

<https://kahoot.com>

1. True
2. 10
3. Blue and orange
4. Human activity
5. Fossil fuels
6. Heat from the sun
7. Oceans
8. 30%
9. Recycle and reuse, walk or use public transport, turn off electronics when you're not using them, eat less meat, eat more locally grown fruit and vegetables, spread the word.
10. Carrot

# BIBLE STUDY: WE ARE CREATION

**Read Genesis 2:4-9 and 3:14-19**

Split into two groups (you may like to use Zoom breakout rooms) and get each group to focus on one of the passages above. Write the questions in the group chat for everyone to see. Encourage everyone to read through their passage, then discuss in their groups and note down where they find answers to the questions in the text. Once they've finished, get each group to read their passage aloud and share their answers to the questions to the other group.

- In what ways are we one with the rest of creation?
- In what ways are we separate from the rest of creation?
- In what ways do we and the rest of creation impact each other?

# CASE STUDY: THE IMPACT OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

We've read about God's original vision for creation, but what happens when we don't play our part in it? The climate emergency isn't just a list of statistics, it's impacting people's lives today. Meet Sylvia on this video.

We are in a time when many people are waking up to the reality that racism impacts people of colour across the world, including in the UK. We don't have to choose which of these things to care about, because they are linked. Climate change affects black and brown communities more than white communities, so addressing climate injustice and racial injustice have to go hand in hand.

These issues might feel overwhelming, but as Sylvia's story shows, by coming together we can overcome climate change. We don't have to settle for a world where climate injustice is the norm. Instead, we can find alternative ways to live and reduce the damage we're doing to

<https://vimeo.com/212783250>

# TAKE ACTION

Invite the young people to take action via We Are Tearfund's interactive quiz. A downloadable version can be found in the first session of the Together Groups resource. Once young people have their results, discuss which of these actions they might do as a result.

## **Advocate:**

Pick a vegetable that you can grow at home – inside, outside, in a window box, in a greenhouse, in an allotment, in an urban roof garden. Use whatever space you have! Learn when it's best to plant the seed and when it will be ready to harvest. Find out how to look after your vegetable as it grows. And enjoy some homegrown veggies when they are ready!

As you look after your vegetable plant, why not use this time to pray for our creation and to thank God for providing for us through his earth.

## **Activist:**

Take part in a Digital Climate strike! You can find out more here.

## **Maker:**

Celebrate the beauty of creation! Host an online exhibition for your friends and family, with pieces that are all about celebrating creation.

## **Mobiliser:**

Use your influence - gather people together for an online climate quiz, research the facts and let people know about key climate issues all during a fun quiz.

<https://weare.tearfund.org/groups/>

<https://www.instagram.com/fff.digital/>