

KIDS RESOURCES

7-11



BUILDINGS

ECO  **CHURCH**
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



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RECYCLING RUBBISH



GAME

Key:



– Indoor Session



– Outdoor Session

What's in the bag?

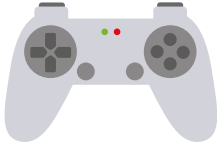
What can you do with each item?

Materials:

- Around 10 items of (clean) rubbish from the church e.g. plastic bottle, crumpled up notices, paper cup, biscuit wrapper, tea bag, bottle from the communion wine, coffee jar etc...
- A large bag to put the rubbish items in.

Instructions:

- Ask a child to put their hand into the bag and find an object.
- Describe what they can feel to the rest of the group.
- Ask the rest of the group for their predictions.
- Ask the child with their hand in the bag for their predictions.
- Pull out the object of rubbish and name it.
- Swap to a new child and repeat until all objects are identified.



GAME

North, South, East West

Instructions:

(Before this game, make sure that you know where the directions are!)

- Tell the children which direction is North and identify the boundary (e.g. fence, tree, wall etc...)
- Work out the other 3 directions with the group and identify the boundaries.
- Call out a direction and all children run to the boundary: last child to get to the boundary is out.
- If the children are finding this too easy, add in north-west, south-east etc...



BIBLE

Introduction

Today we are going to be learning about how our buildings are meant to give glory to God. We will think about how we use our church building and how we can use it in a way which looks after God's creation.

We will be thinking about the waste we create in our everyday lives, and how we can reduce, reuse, repurpose and rethink rubbish in creative ways. Did you know that the natural world does not create waste – everything is broken down and made into something useful for other creatures or plants. (You could also watch this quick video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-D5zxRsjTRM>)



BIBLE CONTINUED

Bible reading: Nehemiah (Summary story of Nehemiah 1 – 13)

Nehemiah lived in Susa, the capital of the Persian empire, and he was a servant to King Artaxerxes, the King of Persia. But Nehemiah was not Persian – he was a Jew and came from Jerusalem, but along with all the people of God, he had been forced out of his home country and taken to Persia. He and all the other Jews were not allowed to return to their homes, but he continued to love God.

One day, as he was preparing food and drink for the King, he heard the news that his beloved city had been destroyed; that the city walls were broken and that the gates had been burnt down. When he heard this, he was really upset. He cried out, "God! Please help us! Your city and our city has been destroyed and we need your help!" When he took the food and drink to the King, the King noticed that he was upset and so Nehemiah told him the sad news. King Artaxerxes was a kind king and said that Nehemiah was allowed to go back to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls. He gave him an army to protect him as well as building materials and a letter that said he was happy for Nehemiah to be doing this. God had answered Nehemiah's prayer wonderfully.

As Nehemiah travelled back to Jerusalem with the army, building materials and his letter, he was full of excitement and hope that he could quickly repair the walls. But when he arrived, all he saw was damage and destruction; he saw the waste of broken bricks and rubbish rocks lying around him; signs of the fighting and wars that had happened before. He felt hopeless because everything looked rubbish.

But, then he thought about God and he knew that God had given him all he needed to do his job: he had the army, the building materials and the letter. And as he looked around again, he saw that the rocks and stones were perfect for repairing the wall: he could reuse the old materials to remake the walls strong again. The excitement grew in him and he knew what he had to do!

Some of the people who lived nearby laughed at him for using the old material and said that it would never work – they said that the walls would not even be able to stop a fox! They even started to bully him and tell lies about him – but Nehemiah did not listen and he used all the rubbish rocks and broken bricks and made them into something new and powerful: a wonderful wall which would protect God's city once again.



BIBLE CONTINUED

Bible discussion

- What did Nehemiah want to do? (rebuild the walls of his city)
- How did God help him? (made the king helpful – giving his protection, resources and seal of approval; gave him creativity and a passion to do the job)
- What did he reuse to make the walls? (the old bricks and rocks)
- Why didn't Nehemiah just get lots of new brick and rock and build the wall out of that? (the old bricks were good enough; they were part of the old city and were part of the history; new bricks would cost money which he didn't have)
- God can take rubbish and broken things and make them into new and wonderful things, lives and people: where have you seen that happen?
- Which of these re- words did Nehemiah do?
 - Reuse (use again)
 - Repurpose (find a new purpose for)
 - Repair (fix something that is broken)
 - Recycle (take something back to its basic parts and remake it)
 - He reused bricks and rocks and repaired the wall



ACTIVITY

Rubbish Examination

We are going to think about the waste which our church creates in its everyday life.

- Together, as a whole group, make a list of the activities which are done in the church building (including scouts, mums and tots, services etc...)
- In pairs, look at one activity and think about what waste is created from it?
- Together, as a whole group, talk about where the waste is put?
- If it doesn't disturb a service, go for a walk around the church and look at the waste collection facilities – are there recycling bins?
- Or watch and discuss a video about landfill and recycling (for suggestions, see extra resources)
- Examine the rubbish from the first game and identify which ones can be recycled.
- Ask the children to think of ways you could reduce waste in your church (e.g. people could bring their own cups, compost tea bags and grass cuttings, make food rather than pre-packaged food etc...)



ACTIVITY CONTINUED

Rubbish Repurposing

Either

Create posters to encourage recycling within the church building.

Materials:

- A4 paper, pencils and pens
- Glue/ Sticky tape
- Pieces of rubbish if you want to make a collage

Instructions:

- Make a whole group list of the materials which can be recycled within your church/ local council. Decide whether you want to make collections of other items which need to be recycled independently (for suggestions, see extra resources)
- Create clearly worked posters so that all church building users know what can be recycled.
- Optional – add pieces of rubbish to the poster to make it into a collage.

Or

Repurpose a piece of rubbish into a new object. You could choose a design for all the children to make (for suggestions, see extra resources) or you could give them free range with a pile of clean rubbish (depending on your time, children and available resources)

Materials:

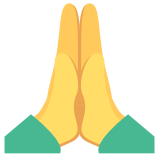
- A range of clean rubbish (ask the leaders and children to collect over the preceding week)
- Scissors
- Glue/ Sticky tape
- Pens and pencils

Instructions:

- Repurpose the clean rubbish into a new object with a new purpose.
- Share the creation with each other explaining the new purpose.
- Create a display for the whole church to enjoy and be inspired.

Or

Start the process of creating a plastic bottle greenhouse or cold frame for use within the church grounds (for suggestions, see extra resources). This is a longer term project but the children could design posters asking for the empty, clean and label-less 2 litre bottles to be donated.



PRAY

Creator God, thank you for your plan of no waste, so that in your created world, all waste is reused, repaired and recycled. We are sorry for when we have created waste and not thought about the effect this has in your world.

Thank you for giving us the gift of creativity which allows us to show something of your character. Thank you for Nehemiah's creativity with taking broken bricks and rubbish rocks and making a strong and powerful wall which showed your power. Please help us to take our everyday waste and create it into something new.

Thank you that you do not waste, and we ask that, even within our own lives, you would take those things which feel broken and rubbish and create them into something new. Amen



WORSHIP

Sung Worship

"Alive" Hillsong: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qEvEVALljNQ>

"Build my Life" ny Pat Barrett: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sf_QxS3uji4c



GOING DEEPER

Rubbish Video suggestions:

- The journey of 3 plastic bottles: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_6xINy-WPpB8&t=131s
- Paper recycling: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=tO5O-3iqbEco&feature=youtu.be>

Independent recycling suggestions:

- Pen recycling: <https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/brigades/bic-uk> – you could become a local collection centre and then deliver to the closest drop-off point.
- Crisp bag recycling: <https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/brigades/crisppack-et> – you could become a local collection centre and then deliver to the closest drop-off point.
- Ink cartridge recycling: <http://www.zerowasterecycling.co.uk/>

Repurposing suggestions:

- Toilet roll into a pen holder: <https://www.cushelle.com/everyday-fun/craft-ideas/how-to-make-an-original-pencil-pot-using-toilet-roll-tubes/>
- Tetrapak Christmas Ornaments: <https://www.ohohdeco.com/recycled-christmas-ornament/> Other ways to repurpose Tetrapak containers: <https://godygo.com/21-great-ways-to-make-use-your-tetra-pak-pack-aging/>
- Milk bottle elephants: <https://mykidcraft.com/milk-bottle-elephants/>
- Plastic bottle animal planters: <https://www.thecrafttrain.com/woodland-animal-plastic-bottle-planters/>
- Plastic bottle skittles: <https://learn.tearfund.org/-/media/learn/resources/footsteps/2019-tearfund-footsteps-107-waste-en-childrens-page.pdf>
- Other ideas: <https://www.campliveoakfl.com/56-best-plastic-bottle-craft-ideas-for-kids/>

Make a plastic bottle greenhouse:

- <http://www.reapscotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/Plastic-Bottle-Greenhouse-Instructions-2004.pdf> – adapt sizes and quantities of bottles to make a coldframe.



ACTIVITY

Activity – Building Sights

We are going to look at our own church building.

Materials:

- Clipboards
- A5 paper & pens

Instructions:

- What features can you see on the outside of the church building which celebrate God? (e.g. Stained glass windows and statues of saints; tower or spire or pinnacle; large door; brick patterns and decorations)
- What did the builders want to show about God? (Telling stories; pointing towards God; welcome to all; beauty)
- What would you do differently if you built it now? (e.g. Solar panels, double-glazed windows plus many others)

Individually, write a description of what can be seen:

- To the North I can see...
- To the South I can see...
- To the East I can see...
- To the West I can see...
- Above me I can see...
- Below me I can see...

Action – Building worship base

We are going to create our own places of worship which give glory to God.

Materials:

- Tarpaulins & ropes
- Sticks, logs (if these are not available on-site)
- Old carpet tiles (available from any carpet shop as they throw out sample books)

Instructions:

- Either as a whole group or in small groups, create a place of worship which gives glory to God within the church ground.
- Use the resources provided and natural materials around (e.g. sticks, logs, trees etc...)
- Think about how it gives glory to God – maybe in its design, its views or its decoration.
- At the end, appreciate the (each) group's new place of worship



PRAY

- Stand or sit in the new place of worship.
- Give thanks to God for the gift of creativity and for all the good things God has given to us: look around you as you pray and name things which give glory to God. Pray that your church will use their creativity to worship God in new ways and in new places.
- Stand next to the normal church building.
- Give thanks to God for the people who built it and for the way they showed God through it. Pray for your church – the building and the people, that all would reflect the character of God and would use the resources they have been given wisely to tell people about God.