

# KIDS RESOURCES

## 7-11



COMMUNITY  
& GLOBAL  
ENGAGEMENT

**ECO**  **CHURCH**  
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



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# CREATE MISSION



## GAME

Key:



- Indoor Session



- Outdoor Session

### Chinese Whispers

#### Instructions:

- Sit in a circle.
- One person whispers an eco-message to their neighbour e.g. "remember to recycle your paper waste"; "walk, cycle or scoot to church"; "care for all God's animals" etc...
- All children pass the message around and then reveal what they think was said when it arrives back at the start.
- Repeat with another child starting a different eco-message.



## GAME

### Rubbish removal

#### Materials:

- 2 balls of scrunched up paper for each child

#### Instructions:

- The children stand in a circle, about 3m diameter.
- Each child is given 2 scrunched up paper balls.
- One child is chosen to be "the cleaner" and stands in the middle of the circle.
- The scrunched up paper balls are thrown into the circle and the cleaner has to throw the balls out of the circle to keep the area clean.
- The ball throwers have to collect the balls and throw them back into the circle.
- If the cleaner creates a completely clean circle within the 2 minute time limit, they have won.
- *Adaptations: different size circle; different amount to paper balls; different numbers of cleaners (to encourage teamwork); different time limit.*



# BIBLE

## **Introduction**

Today we are going to be learning about how sharing and working together is God's plan for us. We will learn how this keeps our world healthy and helps people to live well too. We will see what happens when we are greedy and look at how we can live life so that we share with people all around the world.

## **Bible readings and discussion – Jesus' Final Instructions (Matthew 28: 16–20 & Mark 16: 14–20 & Acts 1–2)**

*Jesus had come back to life and he met up his followers many times. The last time his eleven closest friends talked with him was at a picnic on a mountain side: they were completely wowed and amazed by him and told him that he was wonderful and that they loved him. However, a couple of them still found it hard to believe that Jesus had come back from the dead, so Jesus sat with them and said, "I have all the power in heaven and earth – God has given this to me. You need to believe this."*

- **Do you find this easy to believe?**

*Jesus was filled with love for his friends and he trusted completely so he then gave them an instruction: "I want you to go into Jerusalem, to all of Judea, to all nations, and the whole of creation. I want you to tell everyone the good news about my love for them. I want you to help people come to know me and tell them everything that I have told you. I want you to pray for healing and to pray for my kingdom to come to wherever you are. This might seem hard to understand, but remember that I am always with you"*

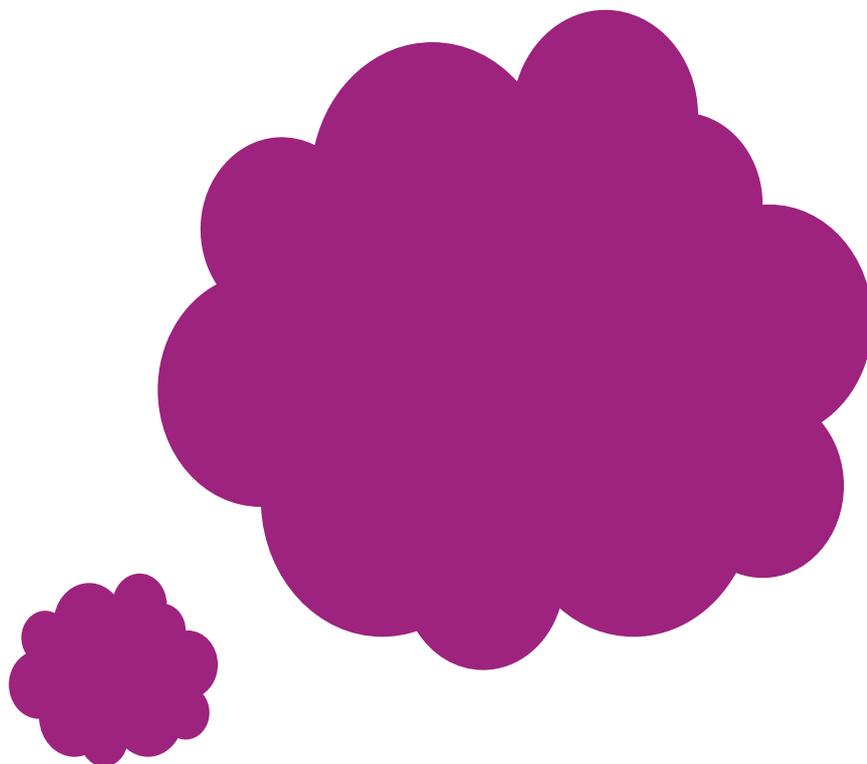
- **What do you think it means to tell the good news to people and all nations?** (sharing the news that God loves all people and that Jesus died and rose again to repair the relationship between God, people and all creation)
- **What do you think it means to tell the good news to all creation?** (demonstrating the news that God loves all creation and that Jesus died and rose again to repair the relationship between God, people and all creation)
- **Why might people and all nations need healing?** (wars; poverty; damaging powers; people being treated badly)
- **Why might creation need healing?** (land, sea and air being damaged; wildlife being damaged and killed; pollution; climate change)
- **What would it look like for God's kingdom to come to people and all nations?** (peace; everyone sharing as needed; people treating each other with love and respect)
- **What would it look like for God's kingdom to come to all creation?** (all creation flourishing and being the best it can be; people showing respect for all wildlife and the whole environment)



## BIBLE CONTINUED

After Jesus said this, he returned to heaven and his friends were even more amazed with all they had seen and heard. They went back to Jerusalem talking about all they had heard and all of them felt full of joy. Shortly afterwards, they were given the gift of the Holy Spirit to help them tell the whole world about God's goodness and love.

- **Jesus spoke to his friends whilst they were altogether – why do you think he does that?** (They were meant to do this together and not alone)
- **What does that mean for how we care for the world as our group / church?** (We all need to work together: adults and children, leaders and members)
- **What other groups could we work with?** (Think about groups who are local or who use the church facilities e.g. Scouts, mums and tots, local school, knitting groups etc...)





# ACTIVITY

## Zones of Influence

Jesus told his friends to go to Jerusalem, all Judea and the whole world: for them this was their local area, their nation and the whole world. We are going to think about what that looks like for us as we care for God's creation.

### Materials:

- A2 paper with 3 concentric circles drawn on it and labelled Local (in the centre) Nation (in the middle) World (around the edge)
- Printed statement cards

### Instructions:

- Identify what the words "Local, Nation and World" mean for your group.
- Place a statement in front of the group and ask them to discuss in pairs or small groups if it will affect their local area, their nation or the whole world.
- Feedback and place the statement in the relevant zone (some of the statements might affect more than 1 zone so place over the zone boundaries)
  - pick up litter (local)
  - walk, cycle scoot (local, nation & world)
  - put on a jumper instead of turning up heating (world)
  - eat food grown locally (local, nation & world)
  - recycle waste (local, nation & world)
  - don't fly more than once a year (local, nation & world)
  - have 4 minute showers (world)
  - petition for change (local & nation – depending on who you contact)
  - grow your own food (local, nation & world)
  - eat less meat (world)
  - plant more trees (local, nation & world)
  - talk about climate change to everyone (local, nation & world)
- What do you notice about a lot of the actions? (a lot of the actions can spread to affect the whole world)
- How are these actions part of the mission Jesus left for us? (they are all bringing good news to all of creation; they also show people everywhere that God cares for creation and all people)



## ACTIVITY CONTINUED

### Climate petition

#### Materials:

- Paper and pens
- An issue pre-thought about to petition for e.g.
  - local changes to transport/ wildlife area/ litter problems – write to your councillor;
  - national changes to renewable energy/ more rewilding/ better public transport – write to your MP;
  - more action on Climate change – write to the Prime Minister/ Minister for the environment;
  - reduce plastic – write to a company/ supermarket.

#### Instructions:

- Talk about the issue you are going to write about.
- Give the children a starting sentence to give them a way into the letter.
- Ask the children to write with passion, including pictures if they want, about the problem they see and the changes they want to happen.
- Put all the letters into an envelope with a leader's cover letter and a leader's address, and post them to the relevant leader – be ready to read the reply to the group.
- The Eco Church resource for adults has some tips on how to engage with an elected representative which may be helpful to read: <https://3ak-4be4522es3y5i4l2cwfkx-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/C1-Engaging-with-your-elected-representative.pdf>



# PRAY

Paul tells us that the most important action we can do is to pray: "The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know. Pray especially for rulers and their governments to rule well so we can go quietly about our business of living simply, remembering God in all we do. This is the way our Saviour God wants us to live." (1 Timothy 2: 1-3 adapted from The Message version). We are going to pray for our local, national and worldwide leaders and ask for God to make them strong to care for His world.

## Materials:

- Named photos of leaders: local (group, church, council, school head teachers), national (MP, Prime Minister, Archbishop/national church leader) and world (G7 leaders, COP leaders, large companies)

## Instructions:

- Hand out the photos of the leaders to the children.
- Each child prays for the leader: Creator God, please help [insert name] to care for your world and be strong to make the changes they need to.
- Swap the photo with another child and repeat the prayer.
- Repeat this a few times so that the children have the opportunity to pray for a number of leaders.



# WORSHIP

## Sung Worship

"God of Science" by Rend Collective: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jalnpoW-7pQ>

"We will go" by Watoto Childrens Choir: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tCEGD-kdXOcM>



## EXTRA RESOURCES

### Zones of Influence Statements:

Pick up litter.

Walk, cycle or scoot.

Put on a jumper instead of turning up heating.

Eat food grown locally.

Recycle waste.

Don't fly more than once a year.

Have 3 minute showers.



## EXTRA RESOURCES

### Rainbow Colour Chart

Petition for change.

Grow your own food.

Talk about climate change  
to everyone.

Eat less meat

Plant more trees.

Don't fly more than once a year.



## ACTIVITY

### Litter problems

One way we can care for the land in our local area is to pick up litter.

- What is litter? (rubbish in the wrong place)
- Where do we see it in our local area? (think about church land plus your local community)
- What are the problems with litter for People? Animals? The land? (People: looks disgusting; increased crime as area looks uncared for; dangers of disease from vermin and bacteria. Animals: caught in the litter; eating food packaging; eating unhealthy food; taking plastic for nesting materials. Land: pollution in land and water; plastic breaking down into micro-plastics and damaging soil; smells)
- Why might it happen? (people are lazy/ don't care/ don't think; bins are too full or there are no bins; thrown out of cars)
- How would doing a litter pick show something of God to the people in our local area? (showing care for people, animals and the land; celebrating the local area and allowing it to be best that it can be)
- Ask the children to run around the area and do a quick bin check: Are there enough bins? Are they full/empty?



**ACTIVITY CONTINUED  
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## Litter pick

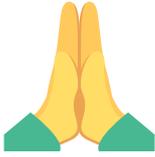
Before the litter pick, ensure that a leader has walked around the area and checked that there are no major health and safety issues (needles, broken glass, burnt chemicals etc...)

### Materials:

- Risk Assessment (see extra resources)
- Litter Pickers – aim for 1 per 3 children (for suggestions, see extra resources)
- Plastic bags – 1 per 3. (You could have 2 bags: 1 for landfill and 1 for recycling if you are feeling organised!)
- Hi-viz jackets – at least 1 per 3
- First Aid Kit
- Optional: plastic gloves to protect hands

### Instructions:

- Ensure all leaders have read the risk assessment.
- Give a clear Health and Safety talk:
  - Do not pick up anything with your bare hands.
  - Use the litter picker to pick up litter.
  - Keep the litter pickers below waist level – they are not guns or to be waved around.
  - Move the leaves with your litter picker – not your hands.
  - Do not pick up anything sharp at all.
  - Do not touch anything produced by an animal.
  - Ask your adult if you are not sure.
  - Don't rub your mouth or eyes whilst wearing gloves.
  - All litter collected must be put into your plastic bag – not your pocket or hand.
  - Stay with your group at all times.
  - Watch out for collecting litter under bushes – branches and brambles can go into your eyes or scratch your body.
  - Do not collect litter from the road.
  - One person in every group wears a Hi-Viz jacket.
  - Tell them which leader has the First Aid kit if needed.
- Organise the children into groups of 3 or 6 with an adult for each group.
- Ensure they have the correct equipment: litter pickers, plastic bags, hi-viz jacket (optional plastic gloves)
- Allocate an area for each group to work within and send them off with a time limit.
- Gather all the plastic bags together at the end to be binned / recycled.
  - What sort of rubbish did you collect?
  - What surprised you?
  - Did you think of any solutions to our litter problem as you did the litter pick? (record any suggestions to be dealt with by the church/ local community/ council.



## PRAY

Stand around the pile of litter which has been collected.

**Creator God,**

**Sorry for the rubbish litter mess that had been made in our area.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to work together to clear it up.**

**Help us to find solutions to stop it happening again.**

**Please let our local community see your love in action through the litter pick we have done today.**

**Amen**



## GOING DEEPER

### **Litter Picking Equipment:**

Often local councils or schools have equipment you can borrow or litter Pickers can be purchased via shopping platforms on-line. Visit the "Keep Britain Tidy" website: <https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/> and shop: <https://shop.keepbritaintidy.org/>

### **Litter Picking Risk Assessment:**

Generic Risk Assessment from Eco Schools and Keep Britain Tidy: <https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Generic-risk-assessment-for-Litter-Picking.pdf>