

KIDS RESOURCES

4-7



SESSION
GUIDE

ECO  **CHURCH**
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



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SESSION GUIDE

Intended use of these sessions

These Eco Church resources are intended for use with Sunday School groups aged 4 –7 years old.

The 5 sessions explore the 5 different areas of A Rocha's Eco-Church Survey in a way which is accessible to 4–7 year olds. Each resource is based on a common theme with options for indoor or outdoor sessions. The ideas can be swapped and changed to fit your location, season and the interests of the children.

We hope these sessions are a really helpful tool to explore a Biblical perspective of creation care with children. They will help you discuss the blessing we have to partner with God to care for His world and enable it to flourish. They also touch on the problems of climate change and environmental degradation.

Please see the appendix for a summary of the sessions.

Timings

The sessions are based on an hour with timings suggested as follows, although they can be adjusted to fit your individual situation:

Game – 10 minutes

Introduction – 5 minutes

Bible Story including discussion – 15 minutes

Activity – 10 minutes

Action – 15 minutes

Prayer / Worship – 5 minutes

Bible stories & translations

The stories have been paraphrased to enable them to be easily accessible to 4–7 year olds. You may prefer to use a version which the children in your group are already familiar with.

Take note

Be aware that looking at the topics about the environment and climate change can be really emotional for some children. They can easily become overwhelmed by the issues we're facing around environmental degradation. Be aware of your children and adapt your session accordingly.

Encourage the children that in Jesus we have hope and he will restore all things. In these sessions we aim to be both challenged and encouraged: learning both that creation care is an important part of our daily walk of discipleship, and that God equips and empowers us to bring change for good in this area.

Further helpful resources

There are many wonderful ideas which will help children engage with creation care: here are a selection of books and websites which will help you to develop your activities beyond the sessions provided.

Outdoor Children's Worship:

- "Wild Worship" by Rachel Summers (2019) Kevin Mayhew
- "Wild Advent" by Rachel Summers (2018) Kevin Mayhew
- "Wild Lent" by Rachel Summers (2017) Kevin Mayhew

Outdoor Family Worship:

- "Outdoor Church" by Sally Welch (2016) The Bible Reading Fellowship
- "Creative Ideas for Wild Church" by Mary Jackson & Juno Hollyhock (2016) Canterbury Press Norwich
- "Worship in the Woods" by Sara & Sam Hargreaves & Jeremy Williams (2021) Music and Worship Foundation
- Messy Church: <https://www.messychurch.org.uk/>

Worship ideas:

- Engage Worship: <https://engageworship.org/ideas>

Rural Church ideas:

- "Rural Church, Rural Children" by Rona Orme (2007) Church House Publishing
- "Seasonal Worship from the Countryside" by the Staffordshire Seven (2003) SPCK

Land & Nature

- Caring for God's Acre: <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/resources/education-pack/>
- Nature Detectives from Woodland Trust: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/act/your-school/>
- RSPB: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/nature-on-your-doorstep/>

Water:

- Waterwise: <https://www.waterwise.org.uk/kids-pack/>


Climate Change and Poverty Campaigns





- Tearfund: <https://learn.tearfund.org/en/resources/all-resources?Resource%20type=Childrens%20zone&page=1>
- Christian Aid: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/schools/primary-teaching-resources>
- Christian Aid all age service: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-04/Climate%20justice%20all-age%20talk.pdf>

General Children's Eco Resources:

- "Planet Protectors: 52 ways to look after God's Planet" by Paul Kerensa and Ruth Valerio (2021) SPCK
- "Science Geek Christy and her Eco-Logbook" by Petra Crofton (2021) Lion Hudson
- "Changing the Climate" by Debbie, David and Jamie Hawker (2021) Bible Reading Fellowship
- Little Adventures, Big Connections - "Taking Sunday School Outside" with Jared Goodykoontz: <https://greenteacher.com/product/little-adventures-big-connections-pre-sale/>
- Creation Care Alliance: <https://creationcarealliance.org/children-and-youth/>
- Sustainable St Albans: <https://sustainablestalbans.org/get-started/sustainable-lockdown/>



Session Title	Location	Bible Passage	Game	Activity	Action	Resources and Preparation
1. Worship & Teaching 'Creation'		Genesis 1-2.2	Animal hide and seek	Creation drama	Creation collage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 pictures or models of different animals for each child to find A3 or A2 paper with a large heart drawn onto it Selection of wildlife and nature magazines and calendars Scissors and glue
		Genesis 1-2.2	Quick creation spot	Mini-beast hunt	Mini-beast modelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mini-beast ID guides
2. Land 'Looking after Creation'		Genesis 2:4-3:24	Job charades	Creative creature	Creation care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Task cards A4 paper per child Pens and pencils Printouts of destruction pictures A3 paper with bubble writing pre-written Poster paint, brushes and water
		Genesis 2:4-3:24	Find it	Flower and leaf hunt	Seed planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cotton for hapa zone Seeds (vegetable or flower) Peat-free compost and a selection of plant pots
3. Buildings 'Building for Creation'		Matthew 7:24-27	Tower building	Statement sort	Creation care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A large variety of cardboard boxes Printed set of statement bricks Spare statement "bricks" Scissors, sticky tape Glue A6 or A5 paper
		Matthew 7:24-27	Simon says	Habitat hunt	Wildlife homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ID guides Clipboards and paper pens and pencils

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4. Community & Global Engagement 'Sharing Creation'		2 Samuel 12	Balloon bounce	Fairtrade farmers	Banana creations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 or 3 blown up balloons • 10 large coins cut out from cardboard • 1 large banana cut out from cardboard • 2 Fairtrade bananas per child (or Fairtrade chocolate) • Plates and child friendly knives • Other ingredients depending upon recipe
		2 Samuel 12	Leaf thief!	Perfect picnic	Perfect picnic pick-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blankets • Food (fruit, biscuits, crisps) and drink (cartons): Make sure there will be food left over • Reusable plates and cups • Spare jumpers / sun hats / raincoats • Suncream • Bags / boxes to sort waste
5. Lifestyle 'Living in Creation'		Luke 10: 25-37	Job charades	Modern good Samaritan	Travelling well	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A4 paper • Pens and pencils
		Luke 10: 25-37	Find it	Travel talk	Local walk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preplan and risk assess a 20-30 minute walk in your local area