

# KIDS RESOURCES

## 7-11



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 7-11 years old.

The 5 sessions explore the 5 different areas of A Rocha's Eco-Church Survey in a way which is accessible to 7 – 11 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**

Some of the stories have been paraphrased to enable them to be easily accessible to 7-11 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/>

**Plastic:**

- Anglican Alliance: <https://anglicanalliance.org/oceans-of-plastic/>

**Money:**

- Messy Church and the Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility: <https://www.messychurch.org.uk/resource/messy-money>







**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  'All Creation Praises God'		Psalm 148	Guess the animal sound	Creative creation reflections	Creative statments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Props for reading the psalm</li> <li>• A4 paper</li> <li>• Pens and pencils</li> </ul>
		Psalm 148	Find a tree	Tree hunt	Natural celebration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Props for reading the psalm</li> <li>• Tree ID guides</li> <li>• Clipboards and paper</li> <li>• Pens</li> <li>• Camera</li> </ul>
2. Buildings  'Recycling Rubbish'		Nehemiah 1-13	What's in the bag?	Rubbish examination	Rubbish repurposing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean church rubbish</li> <li>• A large bag</li> <li>• A4 paper</li> <li>• Pencils and Pens</li> <li>• Glue/ Sticky tape</li> <li>• Scissors</li> <li>• Rubbish saved over the previous week – specific to a design or 'free-range'</li> </ul>
		Nehemiah 1-13	North, South, East and West	Building sights	Building worship base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clipboards</li> <li>• A5 paper &amp; pens</li> <li>• Tarpaulins &amp; ropes</li> <li>• Sticks, logs</li> <li>• Old carpet tiles</li> </ul>
3. Land  'All Land Praises God'		Psalm 96	Guess the country	Climate change	Climate pledges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large branch from a tree or a large drawing of a tree outline with bare branches</li> <li>• A5 size leaf shapes – 2 for each child</li> <li>• Pens and pencils</li> <li>• Large print out of the ideas</li> <li>• Pens and pencils</li> </ul>
		Psalm 96	Find a rainbow	Habitat hunt	Habitat mapping and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rainbow colour chart</li> <li>• Create an A3 map of the church grounds</li> <li>• Range of ID guides</li> <li>• Clipboards and paper</li> <li>• Pens and pencils* Pre-plan the creation of wildlife homes: location; resources; pre-building etc...</li> </ul>

Session Title	Location	Bible Passage	Game	Activity	Action	Resources and Preparation
4. Lifestyle 'Living Well in Creation'		Matt 6: 25-34	Guess the logo	Mindful drawing and reflection	Simply new from old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Photographs of wildflowers and birds</li> <li>A4 paper per child</li> <li>Pencils and colouring pens/ pencils</li> <li>Quiet background instrumental music</li> <li>Printouts of the 2 key statements</li> <li>Old T-shirts</li> <li>Material strength scissors</li> </ul>
		Matt 6: 25-34	Balance	Food travel	Food planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long ropes</li> <li>Items of food packaging</li> <li>Plan 7 designated locations around the site for the 7 continents</li> <li>A variety of vegetable or herb seeds</li> <li>Peat-free compost</li> <li>Reused Plastic plant pots</li> <li>Labels made out of a cut up plastic bottle</li> <li>Permanent marker</li> </ul>
5. Community & Global Engagement 'Creation Mission'		Jesus' final instructions in Matthew 28: 16-20; Mark 16: 14-20	Chinese Whispers	Zones of Influence	Climate petition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A2 paper with 3 labelled concentric circles</li> <li>Printed statement cards</li> <li>A4 paper</li> <li>Pens and pencils</li> <li>Named photos of leaders</li> </ul>
		and Acts 1-2	Rubbish removal	Litter problems	Litter pick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scrunched up paper</li> <li>Plan a litter pick route and create a Risk Assessment</li> <li>Litter pickers</li> </ul>