

YOUTH RESOURCES

11-14



SESSION
GUIDE

ECO  **CHURCH**
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



ALLCHURCHES TRUST LIMITED®
OWNERS OF ECCLESIASTICAL INSURANCE GROUP

www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk

SESSION GUIDE

Intended use

These Eco-Church Resources are intended for use with Christian youth groups aged 11–14 years old.

They are 'pick and go' sessions so you can use the content to run an entire youth session, or you can select elements to use and tailor to your youth group. The sessions are intentionally interactive. All incorporate an action section at the end which can be tailored depending on your group.

We hope they are a really helpful tool to explore a Biblical perspective of creation care with your youth group. They will help you discuss the problems of climate change, environmental degradation and how we are called to join in with God's restorative work on these fronts.

You will notice 'Go Deeper' sections in many of the sessions – these are an optional extra element to incorporate into the session, into a future youth group time or perhaps to suggest the youth take home with them.

Sessions

There are 5 sessions exploring the 5 different areas of A Rocha's Eco-Church Survey in a youth-friendly way – this means the series will fit within half of a term.

The sessions will take approximately one and a half hours from start to finish. This will vary depending on your group size, and timings can be adjusted along with which sections you use and where you spend more or less time.

We suggest the following order for this series, but feel free to adapt the order to suit your group if needed:

1. Land
2. Buildings
3. Worship & Teaching
4. Lifestyle
5. Community & Global Engagement

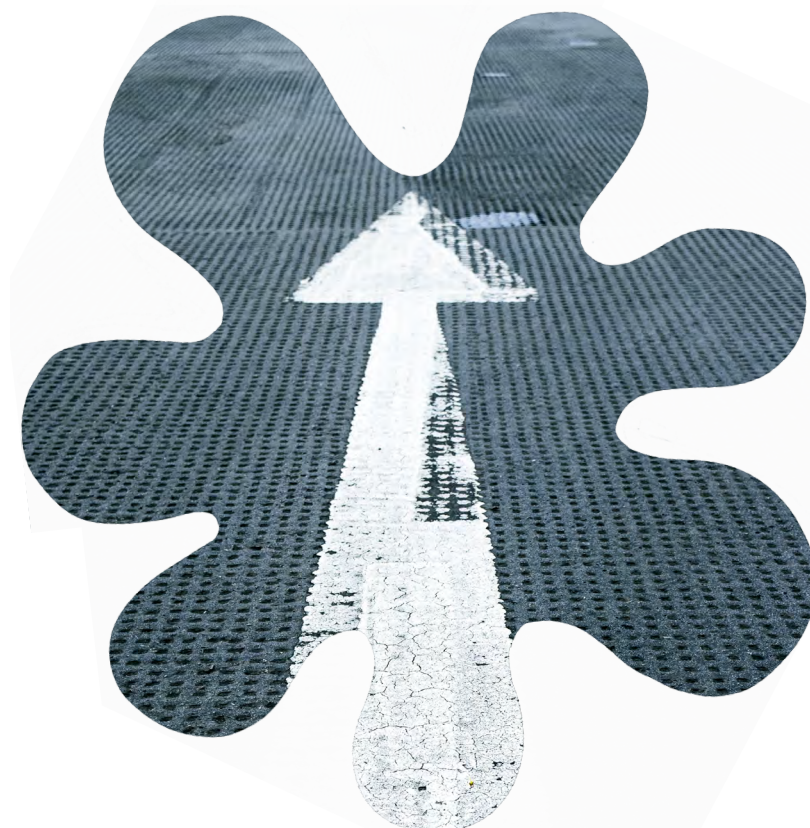
Bible translations

There are a few different Bible translations used throughout these sessions – the New Century Version (NCV) is used the majority of the time as it is the version chosen by the widely used Youth Bible with slightly more accessible language. However, please use whichever Bible translation you tend to read with your youth group.

Take note

Be aware – exploring the topic topics about the environment and climate change can be really emotional for some people. We're all at different places in our journey of thoughts, feelings and actions on the issues but young people can sometimes be very aware of, and overwhelmed by, the issues we're facing around environmental degradation. Take note at the beginning of these sessions of the different places your young people may be coming from and adapt your time together accordingly.

In Jesus we have hope and he will restore all things – so we aim in these sessions to be both challenged and encouraged 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 links

There are links to useful resources and organisations throughout these sessions, but there are many more out there! Our encouragement would be to continue exploring these topics with your group in the future, so here are some suggested resources to help your young people continue to engage in creation care.

You may be able to use or adapt content in the other Eco Church resources:

<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/resources/>

Land & Nature

<https://arocha.org.uk/wildchristian/>

<https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/beethechange/>

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2019/03/wildflowers-for-bees/>

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/how-you-can-help-birds/>

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions>

<https://www.wwf.org.uk/what-can-i-do>

Climate Change & Poverty Actions & Campaigns

<https://arocha.org.uk/>

<https://wearetearfund.org/>

<https://www.tearfund.org/get-involved/take-action>

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns>

<https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/take-action/>

<https://www.climateemergencytoolkit.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi6RkdaEggRVKi3AzidF4ow> – Katherine Hayhoe Global Weirding

<https://www.yccn.uk/home>

Lifestyle

<https://ruthvalerio.net/>

<https://www.eden.co.uk/i-is-for-lifestyle/>

Pray for the world

<https://www.24-7prayer.com/>

<https://prayerspacesinschools.com/product-category/prayer-activity/>

Small group resources

<https://www.resoundworship.org/store/product/doxecology-study-guide> – in association with Resound Worship's album 'Doxecology', songs from which are used throughout these sessions

<https://operationnoah.org/resources/tenants-of-the-king-study-guide/>

'Changing the Climate: Applying the Bible in a climate emergency' by Debbie Hawker David Hawker, Jamie Hawker – Practical Bible-based material to use in families and churches: <https://www.stpaulsdorking.org.uk/Publisher/File.aspx?ID=236621>

<https://christianclimateaction.org/resources/>