

YOUTH RESOURCES

15-18



SESSION
GUIDE

ECO  **CHURCH**
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



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www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk

SESSION GUIDE

Intended use

These Eco-Church Resources are intended for use with Christian youth groups aged 15–18 years old. If your youth group has a broader age range than this, please do choose whichever elements of the sessions for 11–14s and 15–18s suit your group best and adapt as necessary to explore the topics.

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 it to your youth group. The sessions are intentionally interactive and all incorporate an action section at the end which again can be tailored depending on your group.

They are planned for a 45 minutes session. That will vary depending on your group and can be shortened or lengthened for each session as required.

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

Further reading

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



Sessions

There are 7 sessions exploring the 5 different areas of A Rocha's Eco-Church Survey in a youth-friendly way – this means the series should 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 would suggest the following order for this series, but feel free to adapt the order to suit your group if needed:

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

Bible reading & translations

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

If you don't have Bibles you can use as a youth group, encourage young people to bring their own from home or download the YouVersion Bible app on their phones or tablets. We have also included links to Bible Gateway for the Bible study passages in each session.

Take note

Be aware – exploring the 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 more aware of and overwhelmed by the issues we're facing with 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. We remember 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 links

There are many 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.

There are many other Eco Church resources which will be interest:

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

Here are a small selection of other websites you may find useful by way of background:

Understanding the science

Katherine Hayhoe Global Weirding

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi6RkdaEqgRVKi3AzidF4ow> –

Land & Nature

<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.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns>

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

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

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

Lifestyle

<https://www.count-us-in.org/en-gb/>

<https://ruthvalerio.net/>

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.brfonline.org.uk/products/changing-the-climate-applying-the-bible-in-a-climate-emergency>
- <https://www.stpaulsdorking.org.uk/Publisher/File.aspx?ID=236621>
- <https://christianclimateaction.org/resources/>

