

YOUTH RESOURCES

15-18

SESSION 2

COMMUNITY
& GLOBAL
ENGAGEMENT



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ENGAGE LOCALLY & GLOBALLY – SESSION 2



INTRO

In our last session we looked at the heart of why we should engage with our communities and the world on environmental matters – because God deeply cares and moves us to do well. Praying is a central part of our action on this.

Today we're looking at what else we can do in response to environmental injustice, using our voices to bring change for good!

Nowadays, many of us are aware that the ways we are using energy and resources, especially those of us in richer countries.



GAME

Quack-Quack

This game is silly and great, and it's all about using your voice which is the main focus of today's session. Head to number six in this Youthscape article for the instructions:

<https://www.youthscape.co.uk/services/youth-work-news/25-socially-distaned-games-for-your-youth-group>



BIBLE

Read Nehemiah 5:1–12 together

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Nehemiah+5%3A1-12&version=NCV>

- When Nehemiah finds out the poor in his community are being exploited, how does he feel?
- What does he do about it?
- What happens as a result?

Read (some of) the following together:

Micah 6:8 – <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Micah+6%3A8&version=NCV>

Isaiah 58:6–8 – <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isai-ah+58%3A6-8&version=NCV>

Luke 4:16–21 – <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?-search=Luke+4%3A16-21&version=NCV>

Isaiah 1:16–18 – <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isai-ah+1%3A16-18&version=NCV>

Proverbs 31:8–9 – <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Prov-erbs+31%3A8-9&version=NCV>

1 Timothy 2:2 – <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Timo-thy+2%3A2+&version=NCV>

- What do these passages teach us about how God calls us to respond to injustice?
- We know that around the world, those who are already poor and vulnerable are being hit hardest by the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation. From these passages what can we learn about how God calls us to respond?
- Are there elements of this you find easier than others? Why?
 - God invites us to come to him for everything we need! Take a moment to pray about together and ask God for his help on the elements of this you find hardest



Nehemiah is moved by the issues of the poor and he calls to account the people who are causing them to suffer – we can do that too! Here are a few options for how to take action together, choose which you would like to focus on today and go for it.

Youth leader note: you will need to do some preparation to action these ideas in today's session. Option 1 is simplest to action within the session. Options 2 and 3 will need further action in future weeks or at home. Whichever you choose, it's worth telling your young people about all of them to help stir ideas in their minds for further action-taking in the future.

OPTION 1

Join campaigns online

There are loads of great campaigns out there lobbying policy-makers and larger organisations to challenge them to step up on climate action. You can add your name online for many of these petitions. Some have ongoing action you can join in with if you're interested.

Equipment:

Smartphones/tablets/laptops

Instructions:

1. Find a campaign online – you can do this through an organisation you like that takes a stand on climate change, protection of nature or the rights of the vulnerable (see some ideas below)
2. Follow the action – e.g. sign their petition or use their letter template to write to your MP
3. Share about it on your social media and encourage others to join you in the campaign – this raises awareness and every voice amplifies the campaign
4. Pray together about it! 1 Timothy 2:2 says:

*"Pray for rulers and for all
who have authority so that
we can have quiet and
peaceful lives full of worship
and respect for God."*

(NCV)

Organisations taking a stand on climate change:

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

We are Tearfund: <https://wearetearfund.org/takeastand/>

Organisations campaigning for nature:

RSPB: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/campaigning/>

The Woodland Trust: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/protecting-trees-and-woods/campaign-with-us>

Marine Conservation Society: <https://www.mcsuk.org/what-you-can-do/campaigns/>



EXTRA RESOURCES

Take a look at our longer resource on campaigning for more ideas and information:
<https://3ak4be4522es3y5i4l2cwfkx-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/C8-Campaigning.pdf>



OPTION 2

Fundraising is great because it involves both speaking up as you share why and how you are raising money – and this raises awareness about environmental issues. You also raise the money, which helps bring the solution!

Plan a fundraiser you can achieve as a group in the next month out in your local community to raise funds and awareness for a cause that looks after the environment. There are loads of fun ways of doing this, get creative and enjoy.

Equipment:

- Paper and pens for mind-mapping together
- Smartphones / tablets / laptops for researching organisations

Instructions:

- Choose which cause you want to support. There are lots of great charities out there (including A Rocha 😊) working to look after the environment, to support those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and to lobby policy-makers and big organisations to make a change for good.
- Agree together which you might want to support.
 - Are you or your church already involved in a charity you'd like to go deeper with?
 - Is there an issue you as a group feel strongly about and would like to find a charity who is acting in this area?
- Discuss or mind-map ways to fundraise together and vote for your favourite. There are plenty of ideas on our 'Fundraise for us' page: <https://arocha.org.uk/get-involved/fundraise-for-us/>
- Take a team photo and set up a JustGiving or Stewardship Fundraising page saying what you're fundraising for and why. The more personal you make it, the more people will donate
- Share over social media, text, email, word of mouth – everywhere! With all your friends, family, church and all the groups you're in. The wider you share, the more you raise awareness about creation care and the more people who will donate to your chosen charity
- Pray together about it! For God's help as you fundraise, and that the money you raise will have a huge impact.
- Keep in touch with the charity after making a donation to hear how their work is progressing.

OPTION 3

Talk to your MP (or other elected representative)

Youth leader note: this is one of the most effective ways to speak up as a group but is more time intensive. Set aside extra time for this session to plan together or plan in a few follow up dates to action this if you go for this option. If you follow one of the other options today but there are a few young people interested in speaking with their MP, consider arranging a separate follow-up time to action this with a smaller group.

You will find our longer resource about engaging with your elected representatives here: <https://3ak4be4522es3y5i4l2cwfkx-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/C1-Engaging-with-your-elected-representative.pdf>

Going directly to your elected official is one of the most effective ways of speaking up about climate change or concerns about the environment. Get to know them; share your concerns about climate change and the environment with them; ask them to prioritise these issues in policy-making at local, national and even international level. Your local MP has been elected to represent you as their constituents in government – so it's important to let them know what you care about.

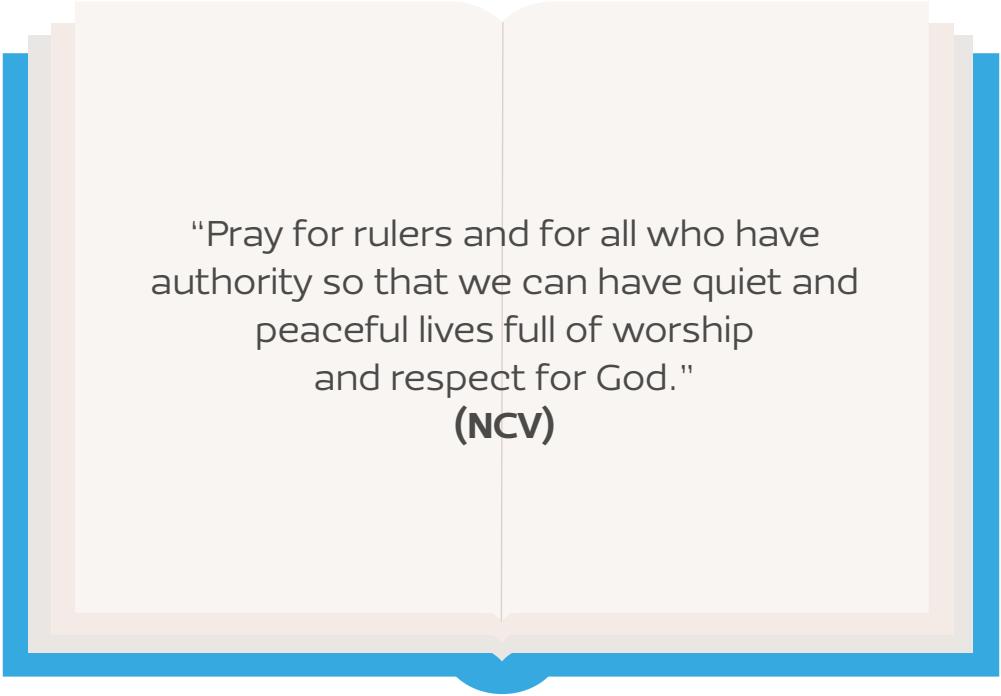
It can be daunting to speak to your MP if you've never spoken to them before – so check out WWF's short video on how to do this to get you going: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OwgoDYzvZ8I> (2.54 mins)

Equipment:

- Big pieces of paper & pens for mind-mapping
- Smartphones/tablets/laptops for researching together

Instructions:

- Find out who your MP is and how they have voted on previous policy matters: <https://www.theyworkforyou.com/>
- Use the Climate Coalition's information to guide you through the planning process <https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/how-to-talk-to-your-mp-about-climate-change>
- Divide this work up across your group and set dates to when you are going to action each step, including when you are hoping to meet your MP
- Get started today or take the work away with you to continue from home
- Pray together about it!



"Pray for rulers and for all who have authority so that we can have quiet and peaceful lives full of worship and respect for God."
(NCV)

Ideas to take home:

Young Christian Climate Network and Hope for The Future (HFTF) both encourage young people in political engagement and have resources to help.

<https://www.yccn.uk/political-engagement>

<https://www.hftf.org.uk/mps>

HFTF, is not exclusively Christian, and runs free training sessions called 'Your Voice Heard: Engage with your MP on Climate Change' which some of the group might like to participate in: <https://www.hftf.org.uk/training>



EXTRA RESOURCES

You might like to include this Bible Project video into your group's session. It's great for exploring themes of justice and righteousness on a community and global level and how these are woven into our story with God: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A14THPoc4-4> (6.17 mins)