

RESOURCES FOR SMALL GROUPS



Worship and Teaching



BENEFACT TRUST

www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk



Worship and Teaching

Resources for small groups

Why?

We face a huge environmental crisis. As Christians, we need a biblical framework to help us respond to crises and to continue our walk of faith with perseverance and resilience as we process difficult challenges ourselves and seek to give Christ-centred hope to those around us.

Small groups are places where we can unpack our questions, explore biblical teaching in more detail and share our experiences and encouragement. They may be study groups or perhaps action-focused groups, where working in community is more effective than alone. Groups help us walk an unknown journey in the safety of caring friends who are also seeking to live out a calling as disciples of Christ, with love for others and justice for creation.

How?

Your church may wish to prepare its own studies around this theme in a way which is appropriate to your context. However, if you want to take advantage of publicly available resources (which can of course be customised), here are a few suggestions:

Bible studies

'*Joy in Enough. The Plenty! Course*' is a timely course covering the way our economic and social systems influence our behaviour which is damaging to the environment and the climate, and to humankind. Produced by Green Christian, the issues are discussed in a scriptural context, and participants are encouraged to think about what the Bible encourages us to do differently:

joyinenough.org/resources/plenty/



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The Bible Reading Fellowship produced two bible-based books in 2021 to unpack bible pages and show their relevance to environmentalism:

- '*A Christian Guide to Environmental Issues*' by Margot and Martin Hodson. This accessible guide includes ethical reflections, Bible studies focusing on a different biblical doctrine for each chapter, and eco-tips to enable practical response:
brfonline.org.uk/products/a-christian-guide-to-environmental-issues
- '*Changing the Climate: Applying the Bible in a climate emergency*' by Debbie, David and Jamie Hawker. Each study connects the passage with climate action, poses questions and suggests practical steps that can be taken:
brfonline.org.uk/products/changing-the-climate-applying-the-bible-in-a-climate-emergency

'*Tenants of the King*' is a Bible-based, Jesus-centred resource from Operation Noah. Through interactive group sessions, video interviews with leading Christian thinkers and insightful Bible commentary, this four-part study will help you and your church to reflect on the challenges of a changing climate, and how Christians can respond with hope to one of today's greatest challenges:
operationnoah.org/resources/tenants-of-the-king-study-guide/

'*Doxology*' offers a study guide designed to be used for both personal reflection and small group discussion, with questions provided at the end of each chapter. Each of the thirteen chapters is connected to a song on the accompanying album with a related scripture reading, and explores the relationship of worship and creation care from a biblical perspective:
resoundworship.org/store/product/doxecology-study-guide

St Paul's, Dorking, prepared a six-session Bible study series covering topics relevant to Eco Church:
stpaulsdorking.org.uk/Publisher/File.aspx?ID=236621



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Tearfund collaborated with Katharine Hayhoe, an internationally known Christian climate scientist, to create a nine-part study. In each episode, Katharine responds to climate questions from leaders and members of churches in Scotland:

tearfund.org/campaigns/christianity-and-climate-change-film-series

Take action as a small group

Some Christian organisations have a focus on scripturally driven action and will have local groups you can join in with:

- Green Christian: greenchristian.org.uk/about/local-groups/
- Christian Climate Action: christianclimateaction.org/get-involved/regional-groups/

Longer reads and other resources

Twelve Christian organisations concerned about the climate emergency have developed a tool kit to lead your church or small group on a journey to climate action, following the structure of 'prepare', 'declare', and 'impact': climateemergencytoolkit.com/

Operation Noah who are faith-motivated, science-informed and faith-inspired, list a much wider range of resources for churches and church leaders:

operationnoah.org/category/resources/church-resources/

Grove Books aims to stimulate and equip the Christian community by providing clear and concise comment on contemporary issues that is based on biblical principles, engages with best practice, and offers practical application. These short resources are useful background reading and are available in paperback or digital format: grovebooks.co.uk/