

PREPARE FOR THE WORLD WEEKEND OF PRAYER, 3-4 JUNE 2023

A weekly resource to share: study, reflect, worship and pray. Choose 1 or 2 of the numbered sections for a weekly study or take one each day.

For children use some of the many activities suggested in the main prayer resource: go to www.worldweekendofprayer.com



**God's world:
our home**

World Weekend of Prayer | 3-4 June 2023

WEEK 2: FROM SATURDAY 13 MAY. **OUR HOME GETS BROKEN**

DAY 1

Bible verse

Genesis 2:15

Big picture story

But we said... Climate Change

We are being affected by climate change. More people are going hungry, extreme weather events are severe and communities are being displaced. People are being pushed back into poverty and the damage to creation is worse. Years of overexploitation and excessive resource use impact God's world.

As we consider the scale of the crisis, we must keep our eyes fixed on the God of justice, who loves creation and brings restoration and peace to all who seek him. He has given us work to do for 6 days every week. He wants us to take care of his world and steward it better. Our work is a part of our worship: we will give an account to him on his return.

Reflection

What can you start doing differently today? What should you stop doing today? What can we do together to restore creation? What responsibility do we have to future generations?

Video

David Attenborough (an agnostic) gives a message of hope for solutions to help save our home. www.youtube.com/watch?v=64R2MYUt394 (01:59)

Worship

www.youtube.com/watch?v=fR6HqrVTnbc (04:54)

Prayer

Lord forgive us! You made a good world. You made everything perfect. We have upset your world because of our carelessness and greed. Help us to look after the world to protect it for years to come.

DAY 2

Bible verse

John 4:7-15

Big picture story

But we said... Pollution of the atmosphere and seas

We rely on the air around us for every breath that we take, but we have pumped smoke, fumes, toxic chemicals into the air. The ozone layer which protects us from the sun's harmful rays has thinned, the earth is warming. The seas are heavily polluted. We have to take action now to stop further deterioration. The oceans are filling it with muck, poison and plastic. We have also heavily polluted our rivers. Jesus reminds us that He can give us living water. He can satisfy our spiritual needs and our physical needs.

Reflection

Again, what can you start doing differently today? What should you stop doing today? What can we do together to restore creation? How does a belief in Jesus effect our understanding of these issues?

Video

Meet Sālote, a seven-year-old witness from the frontlines of climate change www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLAfhMOIWqI (03:45)

Worship

www.youtube.com/watch?v=_qBYITC5ROs (03:09)

Prayer

Creator God, you asked us to look after the oceans, yet we have filled them with our waste. Forgive us for our carelessness and ignorance. Help us to do better.

DAY 3

Bible verse

Jeremiah 4: 23-28

Big picture story

But we said... Deforestation and soil erosion

God provided everything we need for food. Forests are the lungs of the earth, absorbing carbon dioxide and turning it into oxygen. Now CO² levels are increasing. We are losing 10 billion trees every year.¹ The world's rainforests have been reduced by half. The top driver for deforestation is for meat production. 70% of soya² production, another driver, is used as animal feed. Oil palm plantations, particularly in Southeast Asia, are sweeping away rainforests. Mineral extraction is also a factor. We are losing birds, mammals, and insects and medicines along with the huge reservoir of nutrients that the trees held. Soils then wash away forever.

Reflection

What can you start doing differently today? What should you stop doing today? What can we do together to restore creation? Gandhi said, "There's enough on this planet for everyone's needs but not for everyone's greed." What do you think about that?

Video

How to Save Our Jungles www.youtube.com/watch?v=sGp032ahjJE (08:24)

Worship

www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_6j9SjNLdo (08:20)

Prayer

Father forgive us for destroying the food, land, soils and medicine and resources you have given us without thinking enough about the future.

¹ Source: Global Forest Watch.

² FAO

DAY 4

Bible verse

Isaiah 34:1-4

Big picture story

But we said... Global warming

Mankind is burning fossil fuels, cutting down forests and farming more and more livestock. This adds significant amounts of greenhouse gases to those naturally occurring in the atmosphere. The earth's atmosphere has already increased by 1°C since 1880.³ It is up to us to change now to prevent further increases. Further extremes of weather will likely develop.

Lockdowns across the world showed that we can change if we have to. Skies cleared over cities as car, train and air travel fell back. We must play our part today to reverse excessive use of the earth's resources.

Reflection

What can you start doing differently today? What should you stop doing today? What can we do together to restore creation? What does this quotation mean to you today? "Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does." *William James*

Video

Activists Greta Thunberg and George Monbiot: www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Q0xUXo2zEY&t=69s (03:40)

Worship

O Lord The Clouds Are Gathering www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xfv9OI59_7o (05:07)

Prayer

Lord, you made the sun to keep us warm and give us life. We have damaged the delicate balance by our own behaviours. Please help us to change.

³ NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies

DAY 5

Bible verse

Isaiah 40: 12, Haggai 2: 5-7

Big picture story

But we said... Plastics

We are filling the world and the oceans with plastics. When we carelessly buy and throw away plastics, it gets buried in landfills, washed into rivers, and out into the ocean. Marine life is getting caught up in plastic or eating it and dying because of it. If marine life survives plastic, they might be caught up in a net as a catch of fish. In many parts of the world fishermen are still using ruthless techniques that scoop up everything and then waste most of it. We must change our actions to help protect the oceans and adopt better techniques.

Reflection

What can you start doing differently today? What should you stop doing today? What can we do together to restore creation? What does this quotation mean to you today? "Let him who would move the world first move himself."
Socrates

Video

Dolphins Playing with Plastic Bags www.youtube.com/watch?v=xGfIsMMTbL4 (02:14)

Worship

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xfv9OI59_7o (05:07)

Prayer

Lord, forgive me for being so wasteful. Forgive me for living carelessly and not thinking about the consequences for people and the planet. Please help me to learn more about the world around me and to find ways to help protect the plan.



DAY 6

Bible verse

Genesis 3: 17-19

Big picture story

But we said... Habitat loss and species extinction

Since the 1950s, on average, wild animal populations have halved. 96% of the mass of all mammals on earth is made up of our human bodies and those of the animals we raise to eat. Wild mammals from mice to elephants and whales account for just 4%. ⁴ Insect numbers have declined by a quarter in 30 years. Half of the fertile land on earth is now farmed. 70% of the mass of birds on the planet today are domesticated, the vast majority chickens. We eat 50 billion of them every year. We are destroying habitat and losing species.

Reflection

What can you start doing differently today? What should you stop doing today? What can we do together to restore creation? What does this quotation mean to you today? "Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself."
Tolstoy

Video

Biodiversity Explained. www.youtube.com/watch?v=0nH3SDhcqXo (10:34)

Worship

<https://soundcloud.com/lchase-1/let-us-sing-as-we-go> (02:50)

Prayer

Lord, you made all things beautiful. The incredible variety of living creatures amazes me. Please help me to do what I can to preserve your creation

⁴ WWF and FAO

Bible verse

Hebrews 4: 9-14

Big picture story**But we said...Overgrazing and over cropping**

God knew that we needed to rest and that we needed to let the land rest. He made a command that we would rest one day in seven. He established a rhythm of rest for the Israelites where they were to leave the land to rest for one year in seven. But many of us have hardened ourselves to working without resting, driven by a desire for more or the need to feed more mouths. Too often we don't rest, the land doesn't rest, and even animals are not given time to rest. Over cropping the land might give immediate increased returns, but in time can exhaust the land. In the same way, if we work without rest, we too become exhausted. We must assess what we are doing and what we need to do differently to follow God's rhythm for life.

Reflection

What can you start doing differently today? What should you stop doing today? What can we do together to restore creation? What does this quotation mean to you today? "No generation has a freehold on this Earth. All we have is a life tenancy – with a full repairing lease." *Margaret Thatcher*

Video

Enjoy this snapshot of God's amazing creation
www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8aFchFu8QM
 (02:46)

Worship

www.youtube.com/watch?v=FA4Vayl8G74
 (07:02)

Prayer

*Almighty Creator God, you are so powerful.
 Thank you that you made the world and you made me.*

**STILL TO COME...**

**WEEK 3 – from Saturday 20 May
 'Jesus rebuilds'**

**WEEK 4 – from Saturday 27 May
 'God's world, our home
 restored'**

IF YOU'VE MISSED IT...

**WEEK 1 – from Saturday 6 May
 'God creates the world'**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This resource is adapted from the 28-day prayer guide by the Viva Partner Network in Uganda, CRANE, "Paradise Created, Lost, Redeemed and Restored: Stewarding our world," 2021 edited by Mim Friday.

Illustrations by children from around the world