

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 3: FROM SATURDAY 20 MAY. **JESUS REBUILDS**

DAY 1

Bible verse

John 10: 30; John 1: 1-5; Psalm 102: 25-26

Big picture story

Then Jesus said...I and the Father are One

We believe that God spoke the universe into being with the power of His Word. Jesus said He was one with the father, and John 1 says that He is The Word. Genesis 1:2 says the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. So when we spoil the planet through neglect, carelessness, or ignorance, we put ourselves out of line with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Romans 8:19-22 says that creation has been subject to frustration and is waiting for release from bondage. We too need to find release from the bondage of our selfishness. A part of our journey back to God demands taking more responsibility for the earth He gave us to steward.

Reflection

Change will not come if we wait for some other person, or if we wait for some other time." *Barack Obama*. Use the parable of the servants in Matthew 25:19-23 to discuss how you think a Christian might show responsible stewardship today.

Video

Attenborough's view on how to save our planet www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Puv0Pss33M (08:27)

Worship

www.youtube.com/watch?v=7GGJ8cyYNzQ (05:31)

Prayer

Merciful God, please forgive me for all the times I have wasted food and paper and precious things. Help me, Jesus, to value all that you have given: to rebuild.

DAY 2

Bible verse

Psalm 103

Big picture story

Then Jesus said...I will give you living water

The earth's water supply on land and in the atmosphere above is perfectly balanced to sustain life on earth. We will only survive without water for about 3 days. So it is critical that we all take steps to tackle pollution of our streams, rivers, lakes, oceans and skies. We need to preserve our wetlands as they act like a cleaning agent. We can do this by disposing of trash carefully and using biodegradable products. Jesus said that He gives us living water that means we will never be thirsty again. He is saying that He can satisfy our deepest needs.

Reflection

Discuss the ways in which you see misuse of planet earth in your community and what you can do about it.

Video

Climate change IPCC report on BBC News. www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdJmyhqEITc (09:59)

Worship

www.youtube.com/watch?v=XKLWd4njQnw (04:29)

Prayer

Loving God, thank you for giving us water to live and for giving yourself so that we can be satisfied in life when we live the way you intended

DAY 3

Bible verse

Psalms 96: 11-13, Psalm 24: 1-2

Big picture story

Then Jesus said... I am the true vine

We need trees and plants to absorb Carbon Dioxide and produce oxygen. Without this exchange of gases, temperatures increase and oxygen decreases. That is not sustainable for life.

We need to stop deforestation. We need to replant trees and manage forests sustainably. We need to reduce the amount of resources we are consuming. We can try more innovations like living walls that will help to create green spaces in cities.

Jesus says He is the true vine and that we are branches. We need to stay attached to him to grow and survive. We need creativity inspired by God.

Reflection

“The way to change the world is through individual responsibility and taking local action in your own community.” *Jeff Bridges* What can we do with our rubbish?

Video

The urban green https://youtu.be/7kfpgS_XcQ8 (04:08)

Worship

www.youtube.com/watch?v=rlqqoylVKBw (05:15)

Prayer

Lord God, you have given us amazing minds that can solve problems and create amazing things. Help me to look after the green spaces in my community

DAY 4

Bible verse

Isaiah 40: 25-27

Big picture story

Then Jesus said... I am the light of the world

We need light and energy to survive. If we were nearer the sun we would burn up. If we were further away, we would freeze. We are the perfect distance from the sun. We are using too much energy and too many resources. We have seen countries battling with extreme weather conditions that cause floods, fires and thick smog. But we can clean the air. The lockdowns gave many cities clean air again. We must reduce our driving and use cleaner cars. Jesus says that He is the light of the world. When we follow him, we will see the best way to live.

Reflection

“God commanded the earliest human inhabitants of the Garden of Eden to ‘till it and keep it’. To keep it; not to abuse it, not to destroy it.” *Desmond Tutu* Discuss how we get from one place to another, especially long distances, and how we could do things differently.

Video

How to save energy <https://youtu.be/y9e9z2KoGnI> (03:39)

Worship

www.youtube.com/watch?v=nflw6WoaA8I (04:31)

Prayer

Thank you Lord that I have oxygen to breath. Thank you for keeping me alive. Please help me to keep the air as clean as I can today and always.



DAY 5

Bible verse

Psalm 98

Big picture story

Then Jesus said... I am the bread of life

We have over-fished the seas, rivers and lakes. We have spoiled the seas with our plastics. When God told us to be fruitful and fill the earth and subdue it, He did not mean overrun and ruin it. Subdue means to bring something under control. God gave us a world to work in, to maintain a garden. We are tasked to be good stewards of the world and to maintain it. The problem is that we have all wanted more and more. We need to say sorry for our greed and recognise that we have all we need. Jesus promised that He was the bread of life and offers us eternal life.

Reflection

"If you want to change the world, pick up your pen and write." *Martin Luther* Discuss what we do in our homes with our televisions, our phones and other things, and how we could do things differently.

Video

Stop Plastic Pollution in Our Oceans for good www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yomf5pBN8dY (04:35)

Worship

www.youtube.com/watch?v=SG_IXFEO8yE (04:43)

Prayer

Living God, help me to be creative like you. Help me to make a home for things that matter and find better ways to dispose of unusable things.

DAY 6

Bible verse

Isaiah 43: 15, Isaiah 57: 16

Big picture story

Then Jesus said...I am the Resurrection & the Life

Mankind's demands on the natural world have caused a massive loss of natural habitats for all sorts of animals. This is causing more species to reach the point of extinction. We even hunt beautiful wild animals for sport. Yet God expected us to maintain the earth, not to destroy what He had made.

Jesus said that He is the resurrection and the life. This gives us hope for today and for eternity. He can help us to find fulfilment now with what we have. He can also help us to give hope back to others and to find hope for everlasting life in him.

Reflection

"You must be the change you want to see in the world." *Mahatma Gandhi*. Discuss what we do when we need to build more homes, and how we could do things differently.

Video

Continuation of civilisation needs better world leaders. www.youtube.com/watch?v=b6Vh-g0oZ9w (02:06)

Worship

www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWB6wadcLHQ (5:02)

Prayer

Thank you Lord for all the good food you have provided for me. Thank you for the variety of tastes and smells. Help me not to waste food.

Bible verse

Joel 2: 12

Big picture story**Then Jesus said...I am the Way, Truth & the Life**

In order to protect the planet and restore biodiversity, we need to manage farm inputs better, improve crop rotation, and let the land rest fallow. Working animals should also be allowed to rest. We can reduce the amount we use, reuse things many times and recycle things so that they can be used again for something else. There are many simple things we can do to let the planet recover. Jesus said that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life and that to know the Father, we go through Jesus. As we come back to the God who created us and live by his rhythms, we find rest and peace.

Reflection

"Listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor, who suffer the most." *Pope Francis*. Which misuses you have identified this week that are the most serious? Why do you think this is? What can you do about this in your home?

Video

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
www.youtube.com/watch?v=RMx3bcTlxqY
 (05:25)

Worship

www.youtube.com/watch?v=zAE-R3WdFTw
 (04:43)

Prayer

Thank you, God for giving us a day off every week. Help me to rest and to learn to let my animals and land rest as well.

STILL TO COME...

**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’**

**WEEK 2 – from Saturday 13 May
 ‘Our home gets broken’**

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