

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



WEEK 4: FROM SATURDAY 27 MAY. **GOD'S WORLD, OUR HOME RESTORED**

DAY 1

Bible verse

Hebrews 1: 10-12

Big picture story

God will restore relationships

God created a perfect universe by the power of his Word. He said it was good. Human choices of behaviour have destroyed what was good. Yet He still loves the world He created. He loves us so much that He came looking for us when we hid from him. The creator of the universe came out of timeless existence and contained himself in a human body so that He could speak to us face to face once again. We call him Immanuel, God with us. Our broken relationship can be restored through Christ and hope of eternal life renewed.

His intention is for all of his creation to be redeemed and restored. It is for us to take responsibility for the state He will find the earth He gave us.

Reflection

What do you think it means when it says God's creation was 'very good'? What significance do you think this has for the way in which Christians should treat the gift of the world that God has given them?

Video

Attenborough's: what can I do? www.youtube.com/watch?v=8W0W5JLaEGA (05:05)

Worship

www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQWFzMvCfLE (05:42)

Prayer

Almighty Creator of the universe, thank you for always being there to call me back when I move away from you and your guidelines. Thank you.

DAY 2

Bible verse

Isaiah 40: 21-23, Acts 3: 21, John 17: 24

Big picture story

God will restore the heavens and earth

The Creator of the universe came and lived with us. He chose to dwell in his own creation, subject to the laws of existence that He had created. In so doing, He set the pace for how we should live, concerned for those around us and for his world, and concerned to bring restoration to everything He had created. His plan is to restore the universe to the state of perfect harmony between God, mankind and creation as it was before we messed up. He wants us to see his glory. But we have to accept his redemption plan for ourselves and for his universe and to live in obedience with the laws that He put in place.

Reflection

What does "quality of life" really mean? Would a sustainable lifestyle affect our quality of life? What do we have in our life that we could give up, without seriously jeopardising our quality of life?

Video

Ideas to save our forests and rewild our planet. www.youtube.com/watch?v=lg9Tfc_hNsE (07:45)

Worship

<https://youtu.be/0xwzltqYmII> (04:10)

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

Revelation 5: 13, Mark 4: 38-40

Big picture story

God will restore our world. He raised Jesus!

Jesus commanded creation into being by his word. He stilled a raging storm with his word. He opened the eyes of the blind. He raised the dead. When Jesus was raised from the dead, the power of God over death, decay and destruction was displayed as never before.

We find ourselves living in a decaying world. He made it perfect but we have corrupted it. Yet when He walked on earth, He left us with great hope that He was going to create a new heaven and a new earth that is indestructible. In the same way He will give us new resurrection bodies, He will also recreate the heavens and the earth.

Reflection

How can we develop and promote more ecologically friendly forms of cooking in our communities?

Video

How to save fresh water flow. www.youtube.com/watch?v=pk_Y3g5qJN4 (07:56)

Worship

www.youtube.com/watch?v=PBSYV5Z8cl4 (03:54)

Prayer

Thank you, Jesus, that you have power over creation. Yet you have chosen to leave us as stewards of your world. Help me to be a good steward.



DAY 4

Bible verse

Matthew 24: 30-32, Revelation 4: 11

Big picture story

God will restore his Kingdom

Jesus told his disciples that He was going to leave the earth and return to heaven, that He was making a new heaven and a new earth for us. We do not know when, where and how this will happen. Whatever and wherever, it will be stunningly beautiful.

But is that it? No! In exactly the same way that He wants us to live now in line with the values of his kingdom in how we relate to him and to each other, we are also called to live in harmony with his creation. Let us join with others who are looking for solutions to see that all can live well here.

Reflection

“You can either be overwhelmed by the complexity of the problem or fall in love with the creativity of the solutions.” *Mary Hegler*. How can we promote renewable energy sources in our communities?

Video

David Attenborough’s advice www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3bdUk4qa0Y (04:32)

Worship

www.youtube.com/watch?v=YAdPZ2oJNvw (05:03)

Prayer

Thank you, God that you provided for everyone to have enough to survive. Please help us to do whatever we must to restore balance and fair distribution your provision.

DAY 5

Bible verse

Psalms 126

Big picture story

God will restore community

Just like a tree putting roots down, every person needs roots. We need roots that sink deep into families and communities.

Normally we are much more concerned about what happens in our own communities than what happens elsewhere. We might long for home, and feel joy or sadness when it changes. As responsible citizens, we should feel a similar sense of concern for other people and live with a sense of responsibility towards them.

We must look for stability in our communities, restoring them into healthy, flourishing places.

Reflection

“When love is the way, we will let justice roll down like a mighty stream and righteousness like an ever-flowing brook.” *Bishop Michael Curry*. In what ways can we increase public awareness of our ecological footprints?

Video

A Whale's Tale Children's Story | Hope Works
www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFPoIU5iiYQ
(03:00)

Worship

www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtwlT8JiddM
(04:21)

Prayer

Help me Lord to work with others to find solutions to the challenges the world is facing. Do not allow me to neglect my responsibility for the future.

DAY 6

Bible verse

2 Corinthians 5: 3-6, Ephesians 2: 15

Big picture story

God will restore balance

Throughout history there have been times of flourishing and times of disaster. Since we are made in the image of God, we have creative, intelligent minds that can think and plan for the future and find solutions to problems.

Now like never before in the history of humanity, we have depleted the rich resources of the earth. Many scientists are trying to find solutions to restore the balance of the earth. We cannot wait and see what will happen—the lives of our children depend on how we live now. We need to live responsibly and contain our greed.

Reflection

What creative solutions can you come up with that could help us use resources more sustainably and protect our planet? Who would need to be involved to make these ideas a reality? Are there any first steps you could take with your family or church?

Video

Lions and How to Save Them www.youtube.com/watch?v=YENib6Zthh0 (03:44)

Worship

www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PIVaadNe2w
(04:40)

Prayer

Help me Lord to sink my roots into you and as I do to sink them into my local community. Help me to do what I can to make it a healthy place to live 'and I ask for your help to do that well.

Bible verse

Colossians 1: 19-20

Big picture story**God will restore His Story**

We live in an amazing world that still holds incredible beauty with magnificent creatures living between mountain heights and ocean trenches. But what sort of life will we leave to our children's children? Our actions today have an impact for the generations who will follow. They will write about you. What do you want your story to be?

If you have trusted in Jesus for your redemption and restoration of relationship to God, then you can look forward to a new body and a new heaven and a new earth. You will be completely saved. But what are you leaving for your children? Will they be able to see Jesus (through him all things were created) in what you leave behind?

Reflection

Describe how your upbringing affects your perception of the natural world. How might organisations such as churches help the engagement of more sustainable practices?

Video

God's Story: Re-Creation. www.youtube.com/watch?v=-eZxdYQCoUE (03:45)

Worship

www.youtube.com/watch?v=28sqs5H5hao (06:22)

Prayer

Thank you, Jesus for giving yourself so that I can live with the hope of joining you in paradise. But for now, I choose to leave my part of the world in good shape.

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'**

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

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