



TO COMMUNITY

Session: Laudato Si: The Church and the Environment

(Thanks to the Archdiocesan Justice and Peace Commission for creating this session)

Session Aim: To support young people in exploring the distinctively Christian call to care for the environment.

Objectives:

- To understand the importance of environmental issues through the study of Genesis 1-2 and Laudato Si
- To explore how we can contribute to the prophetic voice of the Church in speaking out about and acting on environmental issues.
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Time	Activity
00	Welcome and Introductions Go around and introduce yourselves (name an interesting fact!)
05	Icebreaker (Please see Icebreaker booklet)
15	Read Genesis Chapters 1 and 2. This can be done individually or as a group. Or find an alternative way of exploring the scripture – You Tube videos etc.
25	Give young people the chance to reflect on the scripture. Young people could consider the possible questions: 1. What word is used by God to describe creation? Do you think we would still use this word to describe creation today? Why/Why not? 2. What instruction does God give to humans? What do you think this meant for the very first human beings? Does it mean the same thing for human beings today? Why/Why not?
35	Look at what the Church says on the subject now. You might use a short video on Laudato Si (The Cafod video is very good and can be found on the Cafod website). Focus on these quotes: “Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded.” Possible questions could include:



	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Do you agree with Pope Francis? In your experience, are young people demanding change? Why/Why not?2. What do you think a better future looks like?3. How could we bring that about? <p>“Education in environmental responsibility can encourage ways of acting which directly and significantly affect the world around us, such as avoiding the use of plastic and paper, reducing water consumption, separating refuse, cooking only what can reasonably be consumed, showing care for other living beings, using public transport or car-pooling, planting trees, turning off unnecessary lights, or any number of other practices.”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. How many of these things do already do?2. Do you think there is anything missing from this list?3. What could you commit yourself (and your family) to doing more of?
55	The Archdiocese of Liverpool is currently working to implement a new environment policy. They are particularly keen to hear from young people on how to encourage others to work to care for creation. Please send any ideas your groups have, or actions you have taken to Jennifer Rowlands (Secretary of the Justice and Peace Commission) on j.rowlands@rcaol.org.uk
1.00	Final Prayer (Please see attached booklet)