



Simple ways to start...  
caring for creation  
as a church



# Simple ways to start... learning about creation care

## Adults

### Leaflets:

- A Rocha Australia [Scripture verses about creation](#)
- A Rocha Canada's [A Brief Theology of Creation Care](#)

### Books:

- 'Planetwise', Dave Bookless, Inter-Varsity Press, 2008
- 'The Environment', Dave Gobbett, Good Book Company, 2022
- 'L is for Lifestyle', Ruth Valerio, Inter-Varsity Press, 2019
- 'A Christians Guide to Planet Earth', Betsy Painter, HarperCollins Aus, 2022

### Short films:

- "[Lausanne Global Classroom](#)" videos with discussion questions.
- Four Dave Bookless [videos](#) "All of Life" with discussion questions.
- Katharine Hayhoe explaining our changing climate '[Talking Climate](#)'.

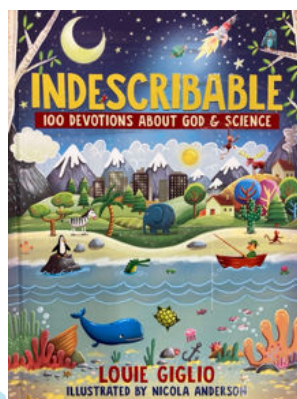
## Children

### Videos:

- Katharine Hayhoe explaining our changing climate '[Global Weirding](#)'.

### Books:

- Range of children's or family daily devotion books (Louis Giglio)
- 'All of Creation' Betsy Painter, 2023 (children's version of 2022 book above)



Scan the QR code for this  
and other resources

# Simple ways to start... teaching about creation care

- Talk for a Sunday morning. Church gathering (YouTube video, Chris Danes, Senior Pastor, Syndal Baptist Church, 2022)



- Three-part small group material (Syndal Baptist Church)



- Season of Creation: Five-part small group or individual resources (A Rocha Australia website)



- Four-part video series by Rev. Dave Bookless, A Rocha International



- "Lausanne Global Classroom" videos to choose from. Great for stimulating discussion



- Check out the A Rocha Resource Hub which gathers curated materials in a range of languages and formats about the interplay between creation care and the Christian faith.



# Simple ways to start... recycling together

- Re-purpose some existing waste bins in your church buildings for recycling. Clearly label what to put in these bins – this will depend on what your local council can recycle and accept in their recycling collection.
- Encourage your small groups, which meet regularly, to collect the 'hard to dispose of' items such as batteries, pens, ink cartridges, blister packs, IT equipment, razors and shaving items. Group members can take it in turns to drop these off at local collection points, or return free to [Terracycle](#). Some local research is needed to find out where the nearest collection centres are – and this information can be made into a flyer.

We like this because:

- we are more likely to recycle these items if we do it together
- there will be less travel to and from collection centres
- we can measure how many groups and people are taking part, and be encouraged by this!



Above: Example of home recycling centre to collect a Small Group's recyclables

Right: Flyer created to record local collection points,

	
Monash Waste Transfer Station (Ferntree Gully Road, Notting Hill)	Soft plastics, IT hardware, batteries, ink cartridges
Officeworks (Springvale Road)	Batteries, Ink cartridges, pens
Chemist Warehouse (The Glen, Mt Waverley)	Blister packs
BUPA Dental (The Glen)	Toothpaste tubes, toothbrushes
Terracycle Free Post	Razors, razor packaging

# Simple ways to start...

## caring for creation as mission

There are many ways to get to know your local area and connect with the community, for example:

- Encourage your church members to get outdoors and let the community see that you care about your local environment. For example, go to local tree planting days organised by your council or join a local "Friends" group that maintains a nature reserve or creek.
- Organise a walk in a local nature reserve (perhaps during the Season of Creation, 1 Sept – 4 Oct each year), and invite a local expert or a council Conservation Officer to guide you and point out particular plants and animals. Having a photography competition is a fun addition, as is afternoon tea!
- Hold a Clean-Up Australia Day (CUAD) event at your church to clean up the local neighbourhood. You can choose to make your CUAD event a public event on the CUAD website. Perhaps have a trial run just for church members in the first year to iron out the logistics.
- Invite the community to events such as a clothes swap\*, where you can also show a short film.
- Take a prayer walk with your small group around the neighbourhood including parks, reserves, and creek trails. You'll be amazed how much you notice when you're not in your car.
- Invite local Christian people who work in the environmental field to outreach events – men's breakfasts, women's events. They can explain how their faith is the motivation for the work they do.

\* The principle of a clothes swap is that you can take as many items of clothing as you have brought with you to "swap". Young people love this!

# Simple ways to start... celebrating the Season of Creation

- Encourage prayers and songs in worship times that help us to join with all of nature in praising God, to lament over our poor treatment of creation, and inspire action out of our adoration of God and love for our neighbour.
- Schedule talks about creation care during this season in church, children and youth meetings and other ministry groups.
- Plan a mini Clean Up Australia Day around your church grounds and neighbourhood.
- Have "Walk to Worship" Sundays where you encourage car-sharing and travel by means other than the private car (perhaps during the Season of Creation, 1 Sept – 4 October each year and more regularly thereafter).
- Take a walking tour around a local nature reserve with a local expert, with afternoon tea to follow.
- Leading up to and during the season, advertise the events and special season in your newsletter, on your website, and on Sundays.

These will all help the Season of Creation to become a regular celebration in your church calendar.

# Simple ways to start...

## integrating creation care into church life

- Include in teaching material: Sunday talks, small group studies, children and youth programs, seniors, etc.
- Get into the habit of including the restoration of all creation when talking about the good news of Jesus.
- Select songs that make reference to God's world.
- Include environmental news items in your prayers.
- Share regular 'Green Tips' from member of your church in your newsletter, showing that a broad range of people are caring for creation in small ways, and encouraging others to try new things.
- Add 'good news' stories to your newsletter to celebrate your churches environmental activities, such as introducing recycling bins.
- Include relevant book reviews in your newsletters.
- Create a webpage about creation care activities at your church and for resources.

# Simple ways to start...

## creation care in your church

– for church members

There are many ways you can start caring for creation and teaching about creation care in your church, some being more formal than others. There is no right and wrong, and different approaches will suit different churches. You may need to try a range of things to see what works and what doesn't. Here are some possible approaches:

- 1 Speak to your Senior Pastor about forming a creation care group. It may help to prepare a short written proposal outlining what you would like to do and how this fits with the your Church's core beliefs and mission statement.
- 2 Offer to lead some Bible studies on creation care in your small group. Practice gratitude for God's creation and include environmental concerns in your prayers.
- 3 Start some creation care activities in your small group such as recycling, a prayer walk, supporting an environmental mission project, and let others in your church know about this.
- 4 Write a review of a creation care book for your church newsletter and advertise conferences where you know creation care will be a topic.
- 5 Suggest inspirational speakers for men's, women's, youth and seniors' ministry events who work in the environmental field and can explain the relevance of their faith to what they do.
- 6 Suggest some creation care material and activities for Sunday school and youth leaders.



# Simple ways to start...

## creation care in your church

– for church leaders

- 1 Identify someone or a group of people who you know to be passionate about the environment to champion creation care in your church. If more than one, they can be your creation care team.
- 2 Clarify expectations, lines of communication, and a key contact on the leadership team for agreeing to initiatives, events and wider communication with the church.
- 3 Contact A Rocha Australia or visit our webpage to find out how we can support your church and share experience and resources.
- 4 Show your commitment early on by:
  - announcing the formation of the team on a Sunday and inviting participants
  - finding space for a sermon on creation care in your Sunday speaking schedule.
- 5 Encourage your leadership team to engage with initiatives and activities proposed by the creation care team and provide communications support to advertise these and raise awareness.
- 6 Share your journey and encourage your denomination and other churches to get on board.
- 7 Include a section in your Annual Report on Creation Care initiatives.

Simple ways to start...  
notes

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 15 sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle dashed, bottom) for writing practice.

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