

Sunday School activities

Involve younger members of your congregation this Lent with these thought-provoking and simple ideas.

Activity 1: Our changing climate

This session will get the group thinking about how our climate is changing, and how communities around the world are affected.

You can begin the session by talking about the weather. Ask the group to explain how the weather changes over the year – get them to describe the seasons, and ask which is their favourite.

Explain that climate is the pattern of weather conditions over many years. Climate is like nature's clock. People rely on it to know when to grow food, or prepare for cold weather or heavy rain.

You can explain that over recent years, the climate has been changing. Temperatures are rising, and now there is too much rain in some places, and in others, too little. Unfortunately, human activity has played a role in the changing climate, and it's the poorest people – who are least responsible – who are being hit hardest.

Ask the group to think about the consequences of a changing climate. How would too much rain affect people? Or too little?

Explain that around the world, 1 in 10 people don't have clean water close to home. Our changing climate is making life even more difficult for these people. For example, without enough rain, their rivers and wells can run dry and they can't grow food. Or if there has been too much rain, floods can pollute water sources.

Explain that this Lent, your church is raising money for WaterAid, who are bringing reliable, clean water to people hit hardest by our changing climate.



Jars of
Change

Lent Appeal
2021



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In countries strongly impacted by our changing climate, like Bangladesh, floods and droughts make clean water even less accessible.

Activity

Get the group to think of things they can do with their family to protect the environment. Can they choose one thing they could give up over Lent, or a new habit they could start? For example, using reusable bags, cycling or walking instead of driving, eating seasonal fruit and vegetables, using reusable water bottles.



WaterAid

Activity 2: Life without clean water

This session will get the group thinking about the lives of people most affected by our changing climate, and the importance of clean water.

Start your session by introducing Mouri (you'll find her story online at wateraid.org/uk/lent). Explain that when Cyclone Aila hit Bangladesh, it tore through Mouri's community. Her home was destroyed, the land where she grew crops was ruined, and her source of clean water was contaminated by floods. Now Mouri relies on a dirty pond for all her water. Her family are sick all the time but she has no other choice.

You can explain that the country where Mouri lives – Bangladesh – is greatly affected by our changing climate. Weather is becoming more extreme, and floods, storms, and cyclones are more common.

Ask the group to think about how families might be affected by not having clean water. How would it impact health? Going to school and getting an education?

You can then talk about how WaterAid is working in Bangladesh, to bring reliable water supplies to poor communities affected by our changing climate. The solutions they use are built to last, and can withstand floods, droughts and other severe weather.

Explain to the group that this Lent, your church is joining WaterAid's Jars of Change Appeal, so that families like Mouri's can get clean water. The idea is simple – you give something up for Lent, collect the money you save, and then donate it to WaterAid. Every penny you save will be used to give clean, reliable water to people like Mouri.



Activity

Design and decorate a jar sleeve for your jar at home, and think about something you could give up with your family over Lent.

You will need:

- ◆ Paper
- ◆ Colouring pens, and any other decorating materials you have



Mouri lives in coastal Bangladesh.



Mouri's community used to have clean water before Cyclone Aila hit. Now she has no choice but to collect water from a dirty pond.