

CREATION

AND TAKING CARE OF IT

Confirmation Resource

ENJOYING



FOREWORD

This confirmation course, “Enjoying Creation and Taking Care of It,” teaches young people that the world is God’s creation and is sacred. It is built around five main sessions: Creation, Sin, Salvation (Repentance), Mission and Ministry, and Practical Action.

The course begins by helping candidates understand that God created everything and declared it good, and that human beings are part of creation, called to live in harmony with it. It then explores how sin has damaged our relationship with God, one another, and the environment, highlighting human responsibility for harm done to creation.

The course moves on to salvation through Jesus Christ, teaching that repentance is not only saying sorry but turning back to God and living differently, helping to restore what has been broken. It then emphasises that caring for creation is part of the Church’s mission, rooted in the call to love God and neighbour and to safeguard the earth.

Finally, learners are guided to take practical action by planning and carrying out a project that cares for creation in their local context.

Overall, the course forms candidates to see themselves as part of God’s creation, redeemed by Christ, and called into active responsibility for the care and restoration of the world.

I commend this Confirmation Course as a thoughtful and contextually relevant resource that integrates sound Anglican theology with practical formation in caring for God’s creation. Its clear structure, rooted in Creation, Sin, Salvation, and Mission, offers a holistic approach that is both accessible to young people and faithful to the teaching of the Church. I respectfully recommend its wider implementation, with appropriate evaluation, as a valuable tool for nurturing discipleship and environmental stewardship within our dioceses.

+Edwin George

Bishop Edwin Pockpass

LIAISON BISHOP FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

INTRODUCTION

A resource for Confirmation class on the topic of caring for Creation. This resource covers four themes: Creation, Sin, Salvation and Ministry. Each session will take between 45 minutes to an hour. The sessions are based on the Bible and the APB.

SESSION

ONE CREATION IS GOOD

THEME:

(i) God created everything and it is good. (ii) we are part of God's Creation

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The earth is sacred, I am a created being, we are connected to Creation and our neighbours. God speaks to us through creation.

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Creator God,
You made the heavens and the earth,
and You called it all good.
Help us to see Your handiwork
in the world around us,
and show us how to live in harmony
with all You have made. Amen.

ICEBREAKER

In a circle, let each person introduce themselves and describe the place where they most enjoy creation.
(5 mins- 10 mins)

Notes for the Facilitator:
Don't spend too long on icebreakers (no more than ten mins)

If time allows you can do this Icebreaker. Every one must stand in a line.
If your answer is Summer, step to the LEFT. If your answer is Winter, step to the RIGHT.

- Which Season do you like the most?
- In which season do we eat oranges?
- In which season are you more likely to go outside and enjoy nature?
- Which season do you think is harder for people without homes?
- Which Season ends just before Easter?
- In which season do we get to eat watermelon?

BIBLE READINGS

Introduction and Bible reading (facilitator): We are going to read the story of creation and I want you to tell me the order of how things were created.

Bible search: Divide the children into groups of about four - make sure each group has a bible. They must read Genesis 1: 1-31 and call out what was created first, second, third etc.

Notes for the Facilitator:
Explain to the learners the order of creation and that "it" in Gen 1 keeps repeating - God saw that it was good

Remind them after each day that it says God saw that it was good.

At the end read this list of the days to summarize:

Day 1 - Light; separation of light from darkness → "God saw that the light was good."

Day 2 - Sky; separation of waters above and below

Day 3 - Dry land, seas, and vegetation → "God saw that it was good."

Day 4 - Sun, moon, and stars → "God saw that it was good."

Day 5 - Birds and sea creatures → "God saw that it was good."

Day 6 - Land animals and humankind → "God saw that it was good."

After creating everything: "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good."

Day 7 - God rested (Genesis 2:2-3); the day was blessed and made holy.

CATECHISM (APB 1989)

This is what the Anglican church teaches

We are part of God's creation, made in the image of God

7. One God, Father Almighty Creator of Heaven and earth
8. The universe is good, it is the work of a single loving God who creates, sustains and directs it.
9. The world belongs to the creator, and we are called to enjoy it and to care for it in accordance with God's purposes.

Notes for the Facilitator:
Let them find the pages and follow in the APB page 423 - different children can read the different sections

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who created the earth? Why do you think God created in that order? What did God say after each day of Creation? Why did He say this?
2. Did humans have their own day to be created on? and Why?
3. Why were humans created on that day?
4. Do you think it is important that humans were created on the same day as all the other creatures?

Notes for the Facilitator:
We want them to notice that God created water and plants before animals so that we could survive. And that humans were created on the same day as the other creatures, we do not have our own day

CONCLUSION

Read Genesis 2:7, "formed us from dust" - we are made of the same material as Creation. God breathed. God created everything. We are part of Creation.. Creation is sacred.

CLOSING PRAYER

God of creation,
we praise You for the world around us
its beauty, its life, and its wonder.
Help us care for it as a sacred gift.
Let us walk gently, love deeply, and live thankfully.
Amen.

ACTION FOR THE WEEK

Look around you this week and choose the most beautiful thing you see that God created. If you have access to social media post it with the words: "God saw that it was good". Make a picture or poster of something good that God made

Search! Find a bible verse that speaks about the goodness of God's creation (and share if you can on social media)

Notes for the Facilitator:
Make sure they all write this down so that they can do the task during the week

MEMORY VERSE:

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good."
Genesis1: 31

SESSION TWO SIN

THEME:

Humans have messed up God's creation

LEARNING OUTCOME

God created us to live in peace and unity with Creation (harmony). Sin does not just impact on our relationship with God and our neighbour but also impacts our relationship with Creation.

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Loving Creator,
You made the world full of beauty, life, and goodness.

You called it very good—and You gave us a special place in it.
But we know we haven't always lived the way You want.
We've hurt the earth, ignored the needs of others,
and forgotten that all creation is connected.
Help us to see the ways sin breaks not just our relationship with You,
but with the world around us too.
Open our hearts today to learn, reflect, and grow.
And show us how to be part of Your healing work in creation.
Amen.

Recap of last week's session:

- Ask them to share the images and Bible verses they chose.
- See who has learned the memory verse and praise them!
- Remind them of catechism point 8 (pg. 423) the universe is good and it is the work of a loving God who created it.

ICEBREAKER

Divide into small groups (4-6). Close your eyes and think of your community. Tell the others in the group whether you still see the good in Creation? Ask them to explain why. Share key points back in the big group

BIBLE READING

If possible read in several versions and languages.

Jeremiah 2:7 - *I brought you into a fertile land to eat its fruit and rich produce. But you came and defiled my land and made my inheritance a hated place .*

CATECHISM (APB 1989)

This is what the Anglican church teaches

2. We are free to make choices, to love, to create, to reason and to live in harmony with Creation and with God.
3. Humans have misused their freedom and made wrong choices.
4. Why do we not use our freedom as we should, we rebel against God?
25. Sin distorts our relationship with God, people and creation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. I brought you into a fertile land to eat its fruit and rich produce. What does fertile land look like?
2. Have you ever done something that you knew was harmful to God's creation?
3. What sins have humans done throughout history that have destroyed God's Creation?" But you came and defiled my land and made my inheritance a hated place."

Examples of answers:

1. Soil is rich, full of vegetables and fruit. Beautiful flowers, bees, birds. Clean air, clean running water, trees
2. e.g. Littered, left the tap open, teased or scared an animal just for fun, taken more food than you can eat and just wasted it.
- 3.e.g water pollution, air pollution, noise pollution, deforestation.

4. As young people how do you see your inheritance and future being impacted by the sins?

4. flooding will destroy the land for the future, climate change

CONCLUSION

We have sinned against God, each other and creation. This is causing long term problems which can affect our future.

CLOSING PRAYER

Read the prayer of penitence together and reflect on what you have done and what we have not done to care for the earth. (page 106 APB)

Almighty God, our heavenly Father
In penitence we confess
That we have sinned against you
Through our own fault
In thought, word and deed
And in what we have left undone.

Pause: in the silence think of the things you have done to hurt creation and also the things you should have done and didn't.

For the sake of your Son, Christ our Lord
Forgive us all that is past
And grant that we may serve you
In newness of life
To the glory of your Name.

ACTION FOR THE WEEK

- During the week look at the worst environmental problem in your community.
- If you have access to social media post a picture with the message " We have sinned against God's creation".
- Draw a picture of where humans have sinned against creation.
- Search! Find another bible verse that talks about humans damaging God's Creation.

MEMORY VERSE

I brought you into a fertile land to eat its fruit and rich produce. But you came and defiled my land and made my inheritance a hated place.

Jeremiah 2:7

SESSION

THREE REPENTANCE

THEME:

(i) Jesus died to save the whole world. (ii) We are Called to repent and live differently.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Jesus saved the whole world including creation. He healed our relationships with God, our neighbour and creation.

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Loving God,

You created everything good, but we broke it through sin.

Thank You for sending Jesus to bring healing and hope.

Help us see how salvation is about restoring all creation,
and show us how to live as people of hope and care.

Amen.

Recap of last week's session:

Share the images they saw during the week and the Bible verses

Ask who has learned the memory verse and encourage those who did!

ICEBREAKER

Read this story:

Scenario: Lebo was playing soccer in the yard when he kicked the ball too hard and broke his neighbor's window. He ran over and said, "I'm really sorry!" The neighbor forgave him, but the window was still broken. Later, Lebo told his parents what happened. They helped him save some of his pocket money to help fix the window. He also offered to help his neighbor with small chores to show he was truly sorry. Lebo and friends decided to play in the open field.

Ask these questions:

1. Is it enough just to say sorry when you have done something bad?
2. What positive steps did Lebo take?

Moral of the story: (Facilitator)

Saying sorry is a good first step, but it's even better to show you're sorry by fixing what you can and making things right.

BIBLE READING

Acts 3: 19a - "Repent, then turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

CATECHISM (APB 1989)

44 - You shall love the Lord your God, with all your heart, and with all soul and with all your mind." This is the first and great commandment and the second is like it, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Reflecting on the pictures you have shared at the beginning of the session- how have we hurt our neighbour - both humans and other creatures?
2. What actions of repentance do we need to do for how we have harmed the earth?

CONCLUSION

Repentance is more than feeling sorry — it means turning away from sin and a return to God. True repentance involves recognizing our wrongs, seeking forgiveness, and committing to live differently. It opens the way for healing, restoration, renewed relationship with God and all creation. Through repentance, we not only receive mercy but also grow in grace, becoming more aligned with God's will for our lives and the world.

CLOSING PRAYER

God of New Beginnings,
Thank You for sending Jesus to bring salvation and healing.
Help us be part of Your work to restore all creation.
May we live with hope, love, and purpose,
in Jesus' name,
Amen.

ACTION FOR THE WEEK

Draw a picture of what a new creation looks like for you (a healthy world)

MEMORY VERSE

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" - 2 Corinthians 5: 17

SESSION FOUR MISSION AND MINISTRY

THEME:

The mission of the Church is the mission of Christ.
From the Five marks of Mission which includes
To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

LEARNING OUTCOME

How do we enjoy and take care of creation in our own communities?

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Loving God

You created all that we can see,
and through Christ have restored our relationships with all of creation,
teach us how to take better care of what you have made
and see opportunities to make the world a better place,
for the poor and the foreigner,
for the creatures of the land, sea and air
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

Recap of last week

Share your pictures of what the new creation would look like

Ask who can remember the memory verse.


ICEBREAKER

Play a guessing game

Make a list of environmental actions which will be acted out. The person who guesses correctly get the next action. Depending on the age of the children you can choose an easy or difficult action.

Examples of answers:

Make sure you whisper in the person's ear so that no one else can hear. If they are battling to guess you can give hints

 Easy to Act Out

- Planting a tree
- Recycling a bottle
- Turning off the lights
- Riding a bicycle

- Picking up litter
- Watering plants
- Taking a shorter shower
- Using a reusable bag when you go shopping
- Walking instead of driving
- Turning off the tap while brushing teeth

More Difficult

- Sorting recycling
- Composting food scraps
- Fixing a leaky tap
- Using public transport
- Bringing your own coffee cup
- Hanging clothes to dry
- Building a birdhouse
- Cleaning up a beach
- Eating vegetarian
- Installing solar panels

BIBLE READING

Romans 8: 19-21 - "For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed."

CATECHISM (APB 1989)

66 - Who is the Church? The church is described as the Body of Christ with Christ as the Head and all baptised people are members of the Body.

76 - Church carries out mission through all members

78 - Gods work of reconciliation in the world

82 - The Church is called to work for justice and reconciliation, service to neighbour, and simple lifestyle

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who are the children of God that creation is waiting for?
2. What are the gifts that God has given you?
3. What action is creation waiting for you to do in your community or school?

Examples of answers:

1. We are the children of God and creation is waiting for us and all of Gods people
2. for example - I can sing- make up songs about the environment - i am good at geography I could study environment etc
3. Focus on actions to heal the local community eg clean ups, tree growing etc.

CONCLUSION

The role of the Church is to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world, working to restore relationships between all people and creation. To be peacemakers.

CLOSING PRAYER

Thank You for the gift of this earth.
Guide our hands to protect it,
our voices to speak for it,
and our hearts to love it deeply.
Give us courage to act,
faith to hope,
and strength to keep going.
With You, we care.
With You, we rise.
Amen.

ACTION FOR THE WEEK

Choose one of the actions that was acted out in the ice-breaker and do it this week

MEMORY VERSE

"For the creation is waiting on tiptoe for the children of God to be revealed."
Romans 8: 19-21

SESSION FIVE PLAN A MISSION ACTIVITY

INTRODUCTION

Reflecting on the previous session about how we can care for the earth, what are some practical things we as a confirmation group can do? We first need to think about community problems before we can act.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God,
Thank You for gathering us here today.
As we plan and dream for Your mission,
Fill us with wisdom, unity, and purpose.
Guide our thoughts, inspire our hearts,
And help us to seek Your will in all we do.
May our work today bring hope, justice, and life to all creation.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Examples of answers:

This is the week when the candidates will plan an action for caring for creation. Please make sure that it is achievable!
Bear in mind the resources you need, who must be asked for permission (parental consent) etc

BIBLE READING

Luke 14: 28 - "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?"

Q - Why is it important to plan before building or starting a project?

ACTIVITY

1. As Confirmation Class, what will we do?
2. What are you personally going to do for God's creation?
3. Who is going to do it?
4. When will you do it?
5. Who do you need to get involved?
6. What resources do you need?
7. Where will the resources come from?

CONCLUSION

In conclusion we remember what we have learned. The Earth is God's creation and is sacred. We in sin have broken our relationship with, our neighbour and all of creation, but Jesus came to restore our all relationships and ask us to repent. Jesus has now given us this ministry of restoration. Caring for creation is part of mission.

CLOSING PRAYER

Gracious and loving God,
We thank You for guiding our time of planning and reflection.
Thank You for the vision, ideas, and passion shared in this space.
As we go forth, may Your Spirit continue to lead us—
Giving us wisdom to make faithful decisions,
Courage to act justly,
And compassion to serve Your people and care for Your creation.
Bless the plans we have made today.
May they bear fruit that honors You and brings healing to our communities and all creation.
And remind us always that we are co-workers in Your mission.
We pray all this in the name of Jesus Christ,
Our Savior and Sustainer.
Amen.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

Congratulations! When participants have completed the course and their environmental activity, print the certificate at the end of this document and get your rector and the Diocesan Environmental Coordinator to sign it. Hand out the certificates during a Sunday Service and then send a photo and description to your Diocesan Environmental Coordinator to share.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

THIS CERTIFICATE IS PROUDLY PRESENTED TO :

For completing the **Enjoying Creation and Taking Care of It**
Confirmation Resource and participating/organizing a local
environmental project

DIOCESAN ENVIRONMENTAL
COORDINATOR



Green Anglican
Anglican Church of Southern Africa Environmental Network

RECTOR OF THE PARISH



