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AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

# Youth Materials

[www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk](http://www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk)

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think



Many young people are 'passionately concerned' to see changes in the way we treat our world, says Martyn Lings. But how often do you hear a sermon on why God wants us to care for creation?

In a key chapter of the practical guide *Young People And Mission* (Church House Publishing ISBN 9780715140604), Martyn explores the link between young people's concern about environmental change and their faith.

'Young people are often more concerned than the Church in general about the environment,' he writes. 'To enable them to link their faith with their concern for creation, leaders need to understand why the environment matters so much and how faith connects to it.'

He encourages youth leaders to inform their young people that 'if everyone changed their lifestyle a little, the impact would be huge'. Youth groups should also be taught that when carrying out environmentally friendly action, 'we are truly serving and worshipping God'.

## YOUNG PEOPLE AND MISSION

[www.chpublishing.co.uk/  
books/9780715140604/young-people-and-  
mission](http://www.chpublishing.co.uk/books/9780715140604/young-people-and-mission)

do



weblink



To help young people think through the issues involved in creation care, use these handy discussion starters by Martyn Lings, who has worked with A Rocha:

- 1 We know that God loves us, but is he really bothered about a robin? Does he really care about what happens to the rest of the earth?
- 2 Jesus told us to love God and love our neighbours, but why should we worry about caring for creation?
- 3 Ask your group what they make of the following quotation: 'I agree that Jesus came to save us, but I don't remember reading that the rest of creation is going to be saved, too. Does the Bible say anything about whether the earth will be redeemed as well?'
- 4 As Christians we are followers of Christ, but he didn't go around planting trees and composting, so why should we?
- 5 Why has the Church done so little in the past to conserve the environment?
- 6 Are people more important to God than the rest of creation?

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## Bring the big issues into your worship space

Christian Aid's Sofa Sessions series presents a ready-to-use guide for youth groups, looking at such fundamental questions as – what is climate change, is climate change really happening, and are we really the cause of it?

## Talk about tackling climate change in your group

We are living as if we had three planets when we only have one. Share with your youth group this article with the attention-grabbing headline, 'I Don't Care About Climate Change', from Tearfund's Rhythms initiative.

## Keep your youth leaders informed about the environment

'Reducing our carbon footprint is not just a technical scientific necessity,' said Desmond Tutu, 'it has also emerged as the human rights challenge of our time.' He is quoted in Tearfund's online community Rhythms.

## Use real-life stories, activities and ideas to help youth engage with the issue

A youth leaders' pack from Christian Aid looks at how rich countries are contributing the most to climate change while poor countries suffer its worst effects. It includes real-life stories, activities and ideas for prayer and action, and comes with sheets of stickers for young people.

## Help your young people to grasp the role they can play

A series of three Bible studies from Christian Aid uncovers the reality of climate change and our role as 'a prophetic generation of hope-bringers'.

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### SOFA SESSIONS

[www.christianaid.org.uk/images/sofa-sessions-climate-change.pdf](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/images/sofa-sessions-climate-change.pdf)

### I DON'T CARE ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

[rhythms.org/article/dont-care-climate-change](http://rhythms.org/article/dont-care-climate-change)

### TEARFUND'S RHYTHMS

[rhythms.org/article/just-inconvenient-truth](http://rhythms.org/article/just-inconvenient-truth)

### CHRISTIAN AID RESOURCES

[learn.christianaid.org.uk/Images/feeling\\_the\\_heat\\_youth\\_leader\\_booklet\\_tcm16-29470.pdf](http://learn.christianaid.org.uk/Images/feeling_the_heat_youth_leader_booklet_tcm16-29470.pdf)

BROKEN LINK REPORTED

### CHRISTIAN AID BIBLE STUDIES

[www.christianaidcollective.org/sites/default/files/Christian%20Aid%20Collective%20Climate%20Change%20Bible%20Study.pdf](http://www.christianaidcollective.org/sites/default/files/Christian%20Aid%20Collective%20Climate%20Change%20Bible%20Study.pdf)