

Primary assembly/children's talk

Education Sunday 2009

'THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S.' HOW THEN SHALL WE CARE FOR IT?

PowerPoint and music as children enter

PowerPoint available to download. Suggested music:

- Counting Crows/Joni Mitchell – 'Big yellow taxi'
- East 17 – 'Gotta do something'
- Manic Street Preachers – 'If you tolerate this'
- Michael Jackson – 'Earth song'
- Nickelback – 'If everyone cared'
- Queen – 'Is this the world we created?'
- Sting – 'Fragile'

You may want to pick up on the words of the song later in your talk.

Reading: Luke 8:22-25 (New International Version)

One day Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let's go over to the other side of the lake.' So they got into a boat and set out. As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger. The disciples went and woke him, saying, 'Master, Master, we're going to drown!' He got up and rebuked the wind and raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. 'Where is your faith?' he asked his disciples. In fear and amazement they asked one another, 'Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him.'

Ball and bucket demonstration – working together makes a huge difference

You'll need a clear bucket/bowl and 20-30 small balls

- One child collects a ball and puts it in the bucket. Is the bucket full?
- Five children collect a ball each and put it in the bucket. Is the bucket full?
- 20 children collect a ball each and put it in the bucket. Is the bucket full?

Song

Suggested songs:

- From the tiny ant
- God in his love for us, gave us this planet
- Have you heard the raindrops? (Water of life)
- He gave me eyes that I can see
- If I were a butterfly
- My God is so big
- Our God is a great big God
- Think of a world without any flowers
- Who put the colours in the rainbow?

Talk

The story from the Bible showed that Jesus had power over the wind and the sea. Christians believe that Jesus rules over the whole of creation, but that he wants humans to look after it. We may not have Jesus' power to calm storms. We are very small and on our own we can only make a small difference, but by working together we can make a huge difference. If we all do something small we can make a big difference to the world we live in. Remember what happened with the bucket/bowl? When one person put a ball in the bucket/bowl it still seemed empty, but when lots of people put a ball in it soon filled up.

So what can we do?

- Re-use - What could we re-use? (eg carrier bags, clothes)
- Reduce - What can we use less of? (eg paper, cars (walk or use the bus/train), turn lights off, buy less food, buy Fairtrade, buy local food)
- Recycle - What can be recycled? How? (eg glass, paper, aluminium, plastic)

Education Sunday

This Sunday is Education Sunday, when Christians have the opportunity to give thanks for the gift of education. Many of you will be asking – 'But what has that got to with the environment?' Education shouldn't just be about learning for commercial gain (ie getting a good job with lots of money), but about how we learn to look after the world we live in, how we treat each other and how we educate others.

You (children) are very lucky that you have a school that is warm and dry, and the opportunity to learn. But you also need to educate the people around you, your parents, grandparents, friends and neighbours. By each one of you changing one thing you can make sure you maintain a planet for future generations.

Prayer

Dear God, help each one of us to change one thing to make a difference to the world in which we live. Help us to teach the people around us to be better carers for your world. As we think of ourselves as teachers, help us to remember all teachers in our schools, in our country and across the world. Be with all pupils whether rich or poor and help each one of us to really value our education.

We remember those who do not have the opportunities that we do, those that cannot afford to go to school, those that are not allowed to, and those who are unable to. Be with each one of us and help us. Amen.

Music and PowerPoint to close

Based on material from A Rocha UK.



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The Education Sunday 2009 theme was devised by an ecumenical steering group representing the following Christian denominations and organisations: the Association of Christian Teachers, the Baptist Union, the Catholic Church, the Church of England and the National Society, the Methodist Church, The Salvation Army, the Student Christian Movement and the United Reformed Church. Most of the material in this resource was devised, written or recommended in conjunction with A Rocha UK. All worship material in this publication may be freely copied for single-occasion use as part of Christian worship. Any organisations or individuals wishing to reproduce this material in any other circumstances should seek prior permission from the Education Sunday Steering Group, Churches Together in England, 27 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HH.

