



Resources for Schools

PHASE: SECONDARY

Does our behaviour really matter? – Climate Justice





KEY CONCEPT/MESSAGE:

Climate Justice: We don't just care because one day it might affect us, we care because it is already affecting thousands around the world.

BIBLE PASSAGE OF THE WEEK:

¹³“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5 verses 13-16



There are many great resources to help pupils engage with the issues of climate change and climate justice. In this resource we have used material produced by two Christian charities working in this field Christian Aid and Tearfund. It is well worth exploring their websites in more detail [UK charity fighting global poverty - Christian Aid](#) [Tearfund](#)

Many other charities are available.

Gathering

Watch again the Tearfund film 'moved by faith' ([104](#)) [MOVED BY FAITH | WE ARE TEARFUND - YouTube](#)

Reflect on this line: 'This is our responsibility; This is our worship'.

- What does it say to the church?
- What does it say to you?



Engagement

Think about the qualities of Salt



There are literally 1000s of ways salt can be used, here are some unexpected ones:

- Make coffee less bitter!
- Deodorize your trainers!
- Make your nails stronger!
- Create non drip candles!
- Whiten your teeth!

Salt removes stains, sanitises, and disinfects, puts out fires, relieves burns and stings, fertilises, and helps things grow, is a natural pesticide. It can do so much to help people in so many small ways.

Why do you think Jesus called on his followers to be 'The salt of the earth?' It was a call to do something!

Watch the [July meditation - Christian Aid](#) and then read the first reflection on Salt adapted from the Christian Aid website

You are the salt of the earth, he said.

You are the salt of this earth that has been bruised by our overuse of resources and our harmful lifestyle, leaving parts of it uninhabitable from drought, flooding and disaster.

You are the salt of this earth whose mothers and daughters and sisters have been oppressed and mistreated.

You are the salt of this earth that can no longer provide a safe home for over 65 million people who are displaced around the world.

You are the salt of this earth that was once created to be home for all, but now is owned and controlled by a small percentage of the wealthy and privileged.

You are the salt of the earth, he said. Healing salt, cleansing salt. You are the salt that helps others live with the full flavour of life. You are the salt that keeps the fire of life alight. You are the salt that will make the world taste better for everyone who lives in it.

Which part of this reflection particularly stands out to you? Why? What do you think you might be able to do about it?

For many Christians being salt in this world is summed up in this verse:

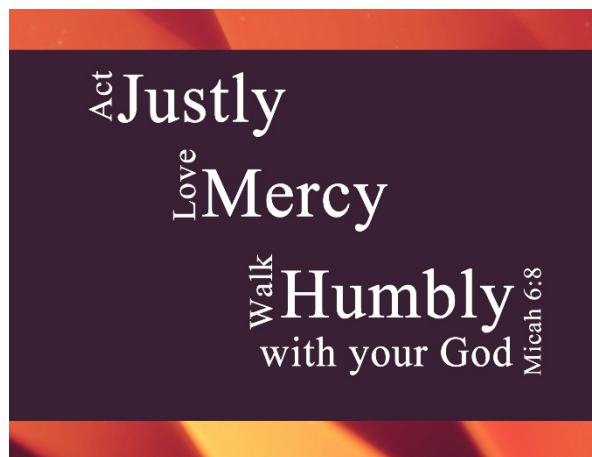
*God has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8*

Christian Aid is a charity that supports all people to put this into practice.

To act justly: might mean to campaign against the injustice of Climate change. [MP Briefing: climate and debt 2021 - Christian Aid](#)

To love mercy: might mean to take actions to provide practical help to those suffering because of lifestyle decisions we have taken that have historically contributed to the to the problem.

To walk humbly: might mean to confess their part in contributing to the problem and to pray for change. [Prayer Chain creative ideas - Christian Aid](#)



Response



In June 2021, the UK is hosting a meeting in Cornwall of the G7, an organisation of the world's richest countries. This year people cannot be there to demonstrate and make their feelings known to world leaders but that doesn't mean young people aren't making their voices heard.

Christian Aid are encouraging people to 'Send a postcard to Boris' [G7 climate finance postcard action - Christian Aid](#)

Watch this song written by Sir Tim Rice and performed by Truro Cathedral Choir [\(104\) 'Gee Seven' by Sir Tim Rice and Peter Hobbs for 'Sing2G7' with Truro Cathedral Choristers - YouTube](#) This link is to a News item that explains the project [\(104\) ITV NEWS on Sing2G7 - YouTube](#)

Could you school perform a version of the Gee Seven song and post it online to raise awareness in the weeks leading up and after the G7 conference? [Sing2G7! Bringing Children's Voices Everywhere To The Heart of G7!](#) There are many activities to explore climate change on their website.

Sending

Watch the meditation from Christian Aid [July meditation - Christian Aid](#)

Then read the second part of the reflection used earlier.

Don't lose your saltiness, he warns. For if you do you will be trampled on under foot.

You are the salt of the earth,
stay salty.
You are the light of the world,
let it shine.
Matthew 5:13-16

Don't lose your flavour, he warns. For if you do, you'll become bland and complacent with the status quo that keeps the rich in power and the poor in poverty.

Don't lose your sharpness, he warns. For if you do, your sight will become soft and your eyes will become blind to the oppression that happen around you.

Don't lose your abrasiveness, he warns. For if you do, you'll only be like a small plaster on a large wound, unable to heal fully the problems that are bringing suffering on the world.

Consider how you might work together to keep one another 'salty' in staying alert to the needs of the planet and the communities most affected by climate change. Can you make a collective pledge for how you will stay committed to this?

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

(practical ways to help us explore faith and develop spiritually at home together)

EXPERIENCES that can help us ENCOUNTER:

Jesus said in Matthew 6 verse 21 'For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'

Watch this meditation from Christian Aid and consider what how where you place your treasure and spend your money might be part of the problem of climate change and the issue of climate justice.

[October meditation - Christian Aid](#)

Climate change disproportionately effects those living in the global south. Individually or in groups read these Personal perspectives on social and environmental justice from Black church leaders. [Our Prophetic Journey Towards Climate Justice.pdf \(christianaid.org.uk\)](#) Summarise what they are saying and reflect back to the rest of your group. Discuss the issues raised.

ACTIVITIES that can develop PRACTICES-HABITS:

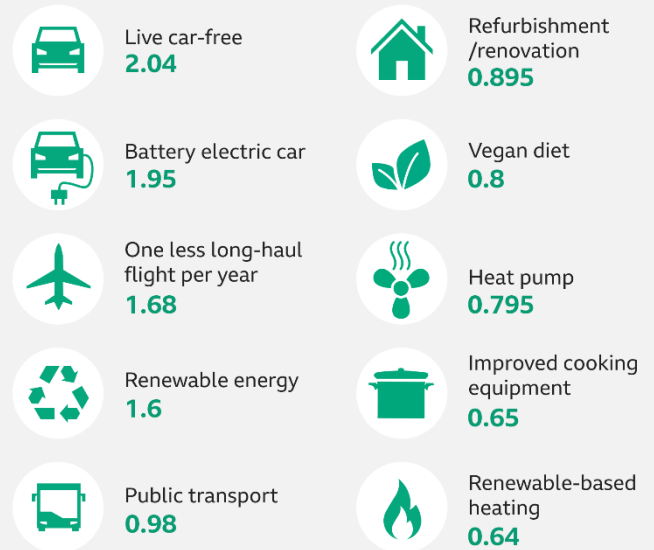
This list of actions you could take to reduce your carbon footprint was produced for an article on the BBC website in 2020. Look at this list.

Rank from 1 -10 (with one being the easiest) in terms of what you could do.

Share your list with others and consider how you might support one another with these actions.

Top options for reducing your carbon footprint

Average reduction per person per year in tonnes of CO2 equivalent



Source: Centre for Research into Energy Demand Solutions

BBC

PRAYERS that can help us REFLECT:

Use the EXAMEN prayer to reflect on our climate justice. It has 5 steps, so you might like to count them on your fingers.

1. GIVE THANKS for your favourite parts of creation. These might be animals, birds, people, or places.
2. ASK FOR HELP to make personal choices that are good for the climate.
3. REFLECT on your day and think about times when you have enjoyed using, or eating, a natural resource, where did it come from? Who was involved in getting it to you?
4. SAY SORRY for the lifestyle choices you and your peers have made that may have contributed to climate change.
5. DECIDE on one change that you will make tomorrow that is better for the climate.

CONVERSATIONS which CONNECT COMMUNITIES:

Although everyone can do small things to help with the climate crisis it will also need communities to come together and take action. This is happening and this is the hope for the future. These two videos reflect communities coming together.

Watch this song reflecting on the possibility of the power of political change.

[\(104\) OneRepublic - Truth To Power \(Lyric Video\) - YouTube](#)



Christians believe that God has 'the whole world in his hands'. Watch this updated version of the song using voices from around the world and reflect on the possibility hope and healing of this world if we work together.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPIfoAfjY5k>

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP – OUR APPROACH

INVITATIONAL

Everyone is welcome to take part in collective worship, as much or as little as they or their parents and carers are comfortable with. This means we use invitational language and consider carefully our choice of words and songs. Children are invited to pray but are not compelled or expected to do so; they always have a choice. We invite them to pray or reflect in whatever way they would usually as a family, if that is part of their home experience.

INCLUSIVE

Acts of worship need to be inclusive of all. Therefore, we choose topics and ideas that are shared by different faiths and worldviews. When we present Christian teaching, we make it clear that this is 'what Christians believe', saying things like:

'I wonder why this story might be important to Christians?'

'The story today comes from the Bible (the holy book of Christians), which teaches that ...'

Our worship should be accessible for children and young people with a range of different backgrounds, and so we take care that activities do not require expensive resources. We also offer a variety of activities, so that children and young people with differing needs can all find something they can engage with.

INSPIRING

We aim for our acts of worship to inspire those engaging with them. How might it engage their emotions, enabling a sense of peace, comfort, hope or motivation? How might it inspire them into action, into thinking differently and considering their behaviour or actions? How might it inspire them to reflect on their faith or beliefs, and on the faith or beliefs of others?