

BACKGROUND NOTES FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

About the Theme – Universal Church

Dear Parent/Carer,

Throughout their education, your child is preparing to live and work in a changing, global society. In this topic, they will be learning about global justice issues, and put their faith into action in order to build a just and fair world. Each year group will learn about a different aspect of our **Universal Church**, through scripture, prayer, stories and a range of different activities.

Through the Universal Church topics children will explore key principles of Catholic Social Teaching:

The Dignity of the Human Person

God made each of us, which means each of us is very special. It is not important if you are tall or small, or happy or sad, or if you have many toys or no toys. What is important is that each of us is special because of God's love. And we must treat others in a caring way because they were made by God too.

We Are Called to Live as Family and Community

Jesus knows that people can only be happy if they have families and friends. He tells us that we can let these important people help us. He asks us to help them too.

Rights and Responsibilities

All of God's people need these things: food, work, clothes, a home, a school, and a doctor to help when they are sick. Every single person on earth needs these. Some people have what they need, but many people don't. Jesus wants the people who already have what they need to help these others. Jesus wants us to take care of this.

We Are Called to Stewardship

God made the earth and sky. God made all the people all over the world. God made the spiders and dogs and butterflies and tigers and pandas and all the other animals. God made the tulips, the trees, the tomatoes and all the plants. And, God tells us we must take good care of them. It is an important job.

An Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

You need food, water, a house, your school, a good doctor and a job for the grown-up who takes care of you. So does everybody else on the whole Earth. But there are many people who do not have these things. Jesus wants us to take extra good care of these people.

The Dignity and Rights of Workers

All people work in some way. Their work should be safe and helpful to them because God made them. By our work, we help ourselves and others, and we show our love to God.

Solidarity

All people are God's children. That makes us brothers and sisters. We are connected to each other. It is as if everyone in the world held hands! We can be very different from each other, but we are still one family—God's family.

Promotion of peace

When we fall out with our friends we must say sorry, try to put things right and then try to be even better friends. We must always try to live in peace and get on with everyone. This is not easy but Jesus wants us to keep on trying.

Overview

Key Vocabulary	<u>YEAR 5</u> Stewardship UNIVERSAL CHURCH
care world Earth sustainable stewards stewardship sustainable creation creator created climate preserve ecology integrity harmony	<p>Christians believe that every human being is created in the image of God and has the special gift and challenge of sharing in God’s creation. We ourselves are part of creation, and are dependent upon it: we are made aware that caring for creation is part of caring for ourselves.</p> <p>Children know and understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Caring for the earth• The Church is called to stewardship of Creation <p>See Background Notes for Parents and Carers</p> <p>Week 1: Ask children to consider the things on earth that they care about. Talk about stewardship as <i>looking after something</i>. Ask children to go outside or look out of the window and focus on any things of nature. Ask them to write a poem or draw a picture to represent what they care for on the earth.</p> <p>Week 2: Read Genesis 1: 1-25, if possible with the CAFOD PowerPoint. Explain that the book of Genesis is not a scientific account of how the world began, but a beautiful poem showing the goodness and creative power of God. Read the next part of Genesis 1: 26-31 explain that after God created the earth, God created humans and gave them responsibility to take care of the earth. Ask children to answer the big questions on creation and design a poster promoting a green or ecological lifestyle, filled with actions that people can take to care for the environment.</p> <p>Week 3: Read Psalm 104. Ask the children to reflect on the wonders of creation and our responsibility to steward them and highlight key words and phrases. If possible show the PowerPoint. Read the Key Principle of Catholic Social Teaching – Stewardship of creation. Read A story of good stewardship: The people of the Cabrican in Guatemala. Give the children a selection of statements with good and poor examples of stewardship. Children sort into examples of good stewardship or poor stewardship. For each statement, they write a reason for the choice showing how their beliefs, values and learning influence their actions.</p> <p>Week 4: Look at the key vocabulary for this topic and use it to remember all we have learnt about the world as God’s creation and our responsibility to look after it as good stewards. Celebrate with a simple Act of Worship</p>

Year 5

Year 5 children learn about Stewardship, that we as the Church are called to be stewards of creation.

All of the resources for this topic are available from the CAFOD website

<https://comeandsee.cafod.org.uk/>

This is free to access when you register with an email address. For those unable to access the PowerPoints there are information sheets below. Children may also like to explore KidzZone <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Kidz-Zone>

Week 1: Ask the children to write down:

1. A person/people on earth they care about.
2. A place on earth they care about.
3. Something on the earth they care about.

Talk about the difference between natural and man- made places on earth.

Ask children about an object they really care about. How do they look after it?

Talk about the fact that we all care for things in this world. When we care for something, we have some responsibility for it, and we are **stewards** of it. Ask children what they think the word 'steward' means.

There are stewards at football matches, concerts or even at church. When we *look after something*, this is called **stewardship**. Often, the word stewardship is used to refer to a responsibility to take care of something that is owned by someone else.

Go outside (or if that's not possible look out of the window), be still and take notice of the world you can see. Focus on any things of nature – sky, clouds, birds, trees. Write a poem or draw a picture to represent what they care for on the earth.

Week 2: If possible look at the *Wonders of Creation* PowerPoint on the CAFOD website while reading Genesis 1: 1-25 (see below). The book of Genesis is not meant to be a scientific account of how the world began. It is a beautiful poem which tells us about the goodness and creative power of God. It also helps us to understand the harmony and interrelatedness of all creation. This is called the integrity of creation. People of every time, in every place, have been struck by the beauty of the world and wondered about its beginnings.

How did the world begin? Scientists are always searching to discover more about how the world began. Some spend their whole lives researching and share their results in books, on television and on the internet. They are always discovering more about our beginnings and the beginnings of the world.

Read the next part of Genesis 1: 26-31 (see below), *Made to be like God*, explain that after God created the earth, God created humans. Explain that all people are made in the image and likeness of God and that means that each person has dignity and is to be treated with respect. Creation is not ours to own but it is on loan to us for the time we live on the earth. The text just read, tells us of our responsibility to take care of the earth and everything in it; that is to be good stewards. We must protect and sustain it for future generations.

The challenge we face is to halt this destruction and heal, wherever possible, the damage already done to the planet. Sometimes our actions encourage other people to act too. They see what can be done and join in. This is called leading by example or by witness.

Read the worksheet below and try to answer the questions. Design a poster promoting a green or ecological lifestyle, filled with actions that people can take to care for the environment.

Week 3: Read Psalm 104 (see below). Ask the children to reflect on the wonders of creation and our responsibility to steward them and highlight key words and phrases. If possible show the PowerPoint.

Read the Key Principle of Catholic Social Teaching – Stewardship of creation (see below).

Read A story of good stewardship: The people of the Cabrican in Guatemala (see below) *Look at the selection of statements with good and poor examples of stewardship (see below). Choose a statement and decide whether it is an example of good stewardship or a poor choice. For each statement chosen, write a reason for your decision showing how your beliefs, values and learning influence your actions.*

Week 4: Look at the key vocabulary for this topic and use it to remember all we have learnt about the world as God's creation and our responsibility to look after it as good stewards. Celebrate with a simple Act of Worship (see below).

Week 2 Genesis 1:1-25 *Wonders of Creation*

In the beginning God created the sky and the land.
Everything was dark.
So God said, "Let there be light."
And there was light.
God saw that it was good.
God called the light 'day' and the darkness 'night'.
God said, "Let there be water."
And so it was. God called the dry land 'earth' and the water 'sea'
and God saw that it was good.
God said, "Let the earth be filled with plants and trees." And so it was.
Plants and trees grew on earth full of fruit and vegetables.
God saw that it was good.
God said, "Let there be two great lights in the sky.
A great light to shine in the day,
and a smaller light to shine in the night."
God made the stars too.
God saw that it was good.
God said, "Let the seas be filled with living creatures
and the skies be filled with flying creatures." And so it was.
Great sea creatures and every kind of winged creature filled the seas and skies.
God saw that it was good.
God said, "Let the earth be filled with every kind of living creatures;
wild animals and tame, reptiles that crawl on the earth."
And so it was. God filled the world with every kind of animal and reptile.
God saw that it was good.

- Q What does the text from Genesis tell you about the writer?
- Q What questions do you think the writer asked about the world?
- Q What did the writer want people to know about God?
- Q How do you think the many parts of God's world are in harmony with each other?
- Q What are some of the ways people can look at the world today that the author of Genesis could not and what do you think this means for us? (e.g. from space, knowing the diversity of the world, volcanoes, icebergs, rainforests, deserts.)

Week 2 Genesis 1: 26-31 *Made to be like God*

Then God said: "Let us make people to be like ourselves.

Men and women who can know and love me and know and love one another; and I will give them charge of the fish of the seas, the birds of the sky, and all the animals wild and tame and all the reptiles that crawl upon the earth."

So God created men and women who could love and care for the world and everything in it and could love and care for one another; men and women who could know God and love and serve God.

God blessed them and said to them: "Fill the world with people; look after the world; look after one another; take care of the fish and the birds, the animals and the reptiles, the trees and the flowers and the plants." And so it was.

God saw all creation and indeed it was very good.

Week 2 Big questions on creation

There are many people who are concerned about the harmony and integrity of Creation and want to live a more ecological or green life style.

Ecology, which comes from the Greek word meaning house or home, is about being at home on earth and ensuring the good relationship between created things.

The desire for a more ecological or green life style brings together people, of different religions, races and cultures.

1. Why do you think it is important to show respect for and be stewards of God's creation?
2. Do you think that people respect the environment? Give reasons/examples for your answers.
3. In what ways could you encourage people to show greater respect for and stewardship of the environment and God's creation?
 - a. What actions would you like your household or your school to take, to care for the environment and creation?
 - b. How have people damaged God's creation?

Design a poster promoting a green or ecological lifestyle, filled with actions that people can take to care for the environment.

Week 3 Psalm 104

My God, how great you are!

You give new life to the world.

The springs are full of water; the rivers run down the mountains;
animals have plenty to drink; wild donkeys are thirsty no more.

The birds up in the trees
build their nests and sing their songs.

You pour down life-giving rain; the grass begins to grow; crops spring up; people have plenty
to eat: wine to gladden their hearts; oil to make their faces glow.

All creation is blessed: the trees grow tall; the birds make their nests, the storks build homes
in the highest trees; the wild goats enjoy the mountains; the rabbits hide in the cliffs.

You made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows when to set.

Some animals come out only at night to find the food that you provide.

The sun rises, and they go back to sleep.

Most people work in the day
from morning light until evening dusk.

What wonders you do in the world.

They are far too many to count.

The world is full of your creatures.

And indeed so are the seas.

The ocean holds countless fish; great whales play in it; fine ships pass over the waves.

They all depend on you to feed them when they need it. You provide the food they gather;
your open hand gives them their fill.

Without you they would die.

My God how great you are!

You give new life to the world.

Glory to you forever!

(based on Psalm 104:10-30)

Catholic Social Teaching:

A Key Principle – Stewardship of creation.

The earth and all life on it is God's creation. We are called to take care of it because it is a holy gift from God and the only place we can live. When we make bad or thoughtless use of the earth's resources, many people suffer. When we make poor choices about how we treat other living things (people, animals, plants) we cause life to be less than God intends.

Making wise choices about the care of God's creation is called good stewardship.

Anne E, Neuberger 2005.

Week 3 A story of good stewardship:

The people of the Cabrican in Guatemala are changing the way they live, to protect their local environment.

For generations cutting down trees for firewood and building has been many people's job, but the community realised that if they carried on they wouldn't have any trees left! They needed to think of other jobs that they could do to look after their families, while at the same time respecting the environment and the trees around them.

That's where Radio Balam Estereo steps in. People learn how and why it is important to protect the environment by listening to the radio. It explains everything in the local language, called Mam, and it even teaches people about different jobs so that they don't need to cut down the trees. Now people are learning to weave to support their families.

"I've taught our neighbours and friends to weave and children are learning from their families. Now a lot of people in the community are weaving. The radio encourages people to do this"

Arturo Mendes CAFOD partner

The radio station is also promoting "reforestation", to replace the trees that have already been cut down. Up to 20,000 seedlings can be planted in one year! It's important as a community to replace the trees, as they act as live barriers against mud slides during hurricanes – something the people of Cabrican and Guatemala know only too well after the devastating effects of Hurricane Stan in October 2005.

People have really tuned in to the lessons being shared by Radio Balam Estereo, and it shows. Now whole communities are working together to make changes for a sustainable future.

- Q What does it mean to say that '*poor choices about how we treat other living things cause life to be less than God intends*'?
- Q How are the people of Cabrican helping themselves, others and the environment?
- Q What do you think the consequences will be if we do not care for the world?
- Q How can we make people more aware of the consequences of their choices?
- Q How does the understanding that we are all called to be stewards of creation shape the lives of believers?

We are called to Stewardship

Choose a statement below to discuss.

Decide whether the statement shows good stewardship or not.

Write a reason for your choice – think about how your beliefs, values and what you have learnt about affect your choice.

Repeat with other statements below.

Statements:

Jon gave some of his birthday pocket money to CAFOD.

Jill bought a new pair of shoes, wore them for a week and then decided that she didn't want to wear them anymore.

Kim leaves the tap on when cleaning his teeth, but he has really quick showers.

Joe went to London to go on a march to protect the world against Climate Change.
Joe travelled to London by car (the journey took 4 hours).

Dad fills the kettle full to the top when he is making a cup of tea for himself.

In Miss Jones' class the children write on both sides of the page in their exercise books.

Each week the children take turns to pick up litter from the school playground.

The school council persuaded their teachers to drink Fairtrade tea and coffee.

The local supermarket gives out free plastic bags.

The water pump in Kalisowe, Zambia is powered by solar panels.

In Rwanda plastic bags have been banned.

The gold mining company in Honduras have allowed deadly chemicals used to clean the gold to leak into the water supply and make local people very ill.

At a plastic-bottle recycling centre in East Timor they are looking at ways to recycle and reuse. It only takes one plastic cup to make a pencil and twenty-five plastic bottles can be reused to make a fleece jacket.

The president of a country uses his aid budget to buy limousines for the politicians.

A big office block leaves its lights on all night for security reasons, wasting huge amounts of energy.

Week 4

Act of Worship STEWARDSHIP Year 5

The Church is called to the Stewardship of Creation



You may like to set up a focal table:

**Gathering
Together**

Table with a cloth, a cross and a candle
Bible (if possible) opened at Genesis 1: 1-25
Globe/map of the world
Any work done on the topic

We gather **In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit Amen.**

We will first light a candle to remind us that Jesus, whom Christians call, '*the light of the world*' is with us in a special way.

We have been learning that often, the word 'stewardship' is used to refer to a responsibility to take care of something that is owned by someone else and 'sustainability' means taking into account the impact that our choices will have on other people, future generations and on the earth that nourishes us. We also learned that the Church is called to the stewardship of creation.

Let us pray

Creator God,
in your hands you hold the depths of the earth and the heights of the mountains,
for all creation belongs to you.

Grant us grace to cherish your world and wisdom to nurture its resources.

Save us from the desire to control what is not ours

and the impulse to possess what is not ours

and the impulse to possess what is there to share. Amen.

(Annabel Shilson-Thomas/CAFOD)

**The Word of
God**

If you can access the *Wonders of Creation* PowerPoint on the CAFOD website (cafod.org.uk/comeandsee) you could play that while reading Genesis 1: 1-25. *God's Story 3* page 8 *In the Beginning* showing the slides for each verse and possibly playing some background music.

A reading from the book of Genesis

In the beginning God created the sky and the land. Everything was dark. So God said, "Let there be light." And there was light. God saw that it was good. God called the light 'day' and the darkness 'night'.

God said, "Let there be water." And so it was. God called the dry land 'earth' and the water 'sea' and God saw that it was good.

God said, "Let the earth be filled with plants and trees." And so it was. Plants and trees grew on earth full of fruit and vegetables. God saw that it was good.

God said, "Let there be two great lights in the sky. A great light to shine in the day and a smaller light to shine in the night." God made the stars too. God saw that it was good.

God said, "Let the seas be filled with living creatures and the skies be filled with flying creatures." And so it was. Great sea creatures and every kind of winged creature filled the seas and skies. God saw that it was good.

God said, "Let the earth be filled with every kind of living creatures; wild animals and tame, reptiles that crawl on the earth." And so it was. God filled the world with every kind of animal and reptile.

God saw that it was good.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

**Response to
the Word**

After God created the earth, God created humans.

All people are made in the image and likeness of God and that means that each person has dignity and is to be treated with respect.

Creation is not ours to own but it is on loan to us for the time we live on the earth.

We have been given responsibility to take care of the earth and everything in it; that is to be good stewards.

We must protect and sustain it for future generations.

St Francis cared greatly about God's creation and God's people. St Francis is the patron saint of ecology and so we pray his prayer...

(See Powerpoint Year 5 Stewardship, Reveal 2 on the CAFOD website).

**Most High, all-powerful, all-good Lord,
All praise is Yours, all glory, honour and blessings.
To you alone, Most High, do they belong;
no mortal lips are worthy to pronounce Your Name
We praise You, Lord, for all Your creatures,
especially for Brother Sun,
who is the day through whom You give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour,
of You Most High, he bears your likeness.
We praise You, Lord, for Sister Moon and the stars,
in the heavens you have made them bright, precious and fair.
We praise You, Lord, for Brothers Wind and Air,
fair and stormy, all weather's moods,
by which You cherish all that You have made.
We praise You, Lord, for Sister Water,
so useful, humble, precious and pure.
We praise You, Lord, for Brother Fire,
through whom You light the night.
He is beautiful, playful, robust, and strong.
We praise You, Lord, for Sister Earth,
who sustains us with her fruits, coloured flowers, and herbs.**

**We praise You, Lord, for all those who pardon,
one another for the sake of God's love.
Blessed are those who endure in peace,
by You Most High, they will be crowned.
We praise and bless You, Lord, and give You thanks,
and serve You in all humility.**

Going Forth

Sit quietly for a moment and ask yourself, 'what can I do this week to respect the environment and become a steward of God's creation?'

End the prayer time with the 'Walk Lightly Prayer' from the web site:

Walk Lightly Prayer

Each leaf, each petal,
each grain, each person,
sings your praises,
Creator God.

Each creature on the earth,
all the mountains and great seas
show your glory,
Spirit of love.

And yet the hand of greed
has patented and plundered
your splendour,
has taken and not shared
your gift,
has lived as owner of the earth,
not guest.

And so
the ice is cracked
the rivers dry,
the valleys flooded
and the snowcaps melt.

God our Father, show us
how to step gently,
how to live simply,
how to walk lightly
with respect and love
for all that you have made.

Amen

Linda Jones/CAFOD