

St Mary's Eco Church, Lambeth



Eco-focused Bible storytelling and creative resources for children aged 0-9

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It's important that we all understand the challenges presented to us by climate change. Explore climate change with children up to the age of 8, including babies and toddlers, with our age-appropriate resources.

Please feel free to adapt any of our resources in response to your particular setting. Learning how to adapt is going to be a key skill for all of us!

Celebrating Weather & Introducing Climate Change

Song: 'Help us, God the Maker' Words © Sharon Moughtin

Tune: 'Punchinello' (traditional).

It's clou - dy, it's clou - dy: thank you, God the Ma _ ker! It's clou - dy, it's clou - dy:

thank you for the clouds! _ The floods! _ The floods! _ Help us, God the

Ma _ ker! The floods! _ The floods! Help us see what we can do! ____

You may find it helpful to provide green ribbons/juggling scarves/streamers or something similar for the children to use to show the different weathers. If you prefer you could even use fallen or pruned leaves from local trees for the children to wave in their hands: it's not just us who experience the weather and climate change, trees do too!

If you're using ribbons/leaves or similar, ask two or three children to give them out at this point. You could start by inviting the children to warm up their imaginations by exploring actions for different kinds of weather: rainy, snowy, windy, sunny, cloudy, rainbows, chilly, stormy (thunder and lightning), etc.

When the group is ready:

People have been talking about the weather a LOT at the moment.

Put your hand up if you've heard people talking about the weather! *Raise hand as an example.*

Point around the different raised hands among adults and children.

When appropriate: Let's put our hands down.

Lots of people have been talking about the weather.
And we've seen lots of different weather this summer/in the last few days.
Weather is an amazing thing: especially in our country!

Let's start by saying thank you to God
for all the amazing different kinds of weather in our planet.
It's always good to start with what we can be thankful for!

Let's start off with the weather today.

What's the weather like today?

Invite a child to respond. For example: 'It's cloudy'.

When they have responded, then invite the child to show the weather with their ribbon or similar.

Can you show me 'cloudy'?

Imitate the suggested action. This will become the 'cloudy action'.

This song is so repetitive it doesn't need to be taught line by line. Instead, start singing with the actions and the group will almost certainly gradually begin to join in.

It's cloudy, it's cloudy:
thank you God the Maker!
It's cloudy, it's cloudy:
thank you for the clouds!

And we need an action for 'thank you God the Maker!'

Who can show me an action for thank you with their streamer?

Choose one of the actions and imitate it. This will become the 'thank you action' throughout the rest of the song.

Let's sing our song again, this time with our thank you action!

It's cloudy, it's cloudy: *Cloudy action*
thank you God the Maker! *Thank you action*
It's cloudy, it's cloudy: *Cloudy action*
thank you for the clouds! *Thank you action*

But it's not always *cloudy* outside!

What other weather can it be?

Invite a child to respond with words and by showing the weather with their streamer or similar. Then lead the group in singing with their suggested weather and action. Repeat this with different weathers as you find appropriate. Bear in mind that there is an important second part to the song, with three verses, so you may not wish to explore all the different weathers, especially if there are those with shorter concentration spans present! Examples include:

It's sunny, it's sunny: *Sun action*
thank you God the Maker! *Thank you action*
It's sunny, it's sunny: *Sun action*
thank you for the sun! *Thank you action*

You may like to use this material as a standalone resource. If you are holding multiple eco themed sessions, however, you might like to reprise this song over the sessions in a shorter form as a 'Gathering Song' to warm up imaginations before one of our Bible Storytelling resources.

It's raining, it's raining: *Raining action*
thank you God the Maker! *Thank you action*
It's raining, it's raining: *Raining action*
thank you for the rain! *Thank you action*

It's hailing, it's hailing: *Hail action*
thank you God the Maker! *Thank you action*
It's hailing, it's hailing: *Hail action*
thank you for the hail! *Thank you action*

It's stormy, it's stormy: *Lightening action plus stamping feet*
thank you God the Maker! *Thank you action*
It's stormy, it's stormy: *Lightening action plus stamping feet*
thank you for the storm! *Thank you action*

A rainbow, a rainbow! *Rainbow action*
thank you God the Maker! *Thank you action*
A rainbow, a rainbow! *Rainbow action*
thank you for the rain[bow]! *Thank you action*

It's windy, it's windy: *Wind action*
thank you God the Maker! *Thank you action*
It's windy, it's windy: *Wind action*
thank you for the wind! *Thank you action*

It's snowing, it's snowing: *Snow action*
thank you God the Maker! *Thank you action*
It's snowing, it's snowing: *Snow action*
thank you for the snow! *Thank you action*

*When you've spent time exploring different kinds of weather:
Let's sit down for a moment.*

When the group is ready:

So, our world is full of all sorts of amazing weather!
Weather to celebrate and thank God for!
But at the moment lots of us are talking more and more about the weather.
And sometimes we're looking a bit worried.
Can you show me worried? *Lead the group in showing 'worried' and accept responses.*

People are getting worried, because the weather has been getting more 'extreme'.

If appropriate:

What does extreme mean?

This is a good opportunity to involve one of the older children in taking a lead. Accept a child's response.

'Extreme' is when something happens a bit too much!
The world is full of all sorts of different weather.
Our weather system is amazing.

But the balance has gone wrong! *Uprturned hands moving up and down like balance-scales to show 'balance'*

In some places there's been too much rain! *Look shocked*

Rain is good. *Thumbs up*

We couldn't live without the rain!

But in some places, it's rained too much.

It's rained so much there have been floods.

Floods are when the waters get higher and higher so they start to not be safe.

Show 'higher and higher' against your own body, with hands showing a water level against ankles, then shins, then thighs, and higher.

Can you show me the floods getting higher and higher?

Lead the children in showing 'higher and higher'. This will become the 'floods' action.

There have been floods here in our country.

But even more so in other places – like Germany, China, India, and America.

Let's sing our song again.

This time let's sing:

Saying: 'The floods! The floods! *Floods action*

Help us God the Maker!' *Open arms out to God*

Lead the group in the first half of the song with new words:

The floods! The floods! *Floods action*

Help us God the Maker! *Open arms*

And again, but this time, let's sing 'Help us see what we can do'.

We're going to open ourselves out to God *Open arms out to God*
and ask for help.

Lead the group in the second half of the song with new words:

The floods! The floods! *Floods action*

Help us see what we can do! *Open arms*

Let's sing our prayer about the floods altogether:

The floods! The floods! *Floods action*

Help us God the Maker! *Open arms*

The floods! The floods! *Floods action*

Help us see what we can do! *Open arms*

And there haven't just been too much rain.

In some places it's also been too hot! *Fan face to show heat*

The sun is amazing! *Thumbs up*

We couldn't live without the sun and its light and heat.

But in some places, it's got so hot there have been fires.

Who can show me an action for fires?

Choose one of the children's fire actions and copy it.

This will become the 'fire action'.

The fires! The fires! *Fire action*

Help us God the Maker! *Open arms*

The fires! The fires! *Fire action*

Help us see what we can do! *Open arms*

So at the moment there's lots of talking about the weather.

And about the 'climate'.

Climate is basically groups of weather.

Scientists have been telling us for quite a while that our climate is changing.

But now we're starting to see it with our own EYES in our weather. *Indicate eyes*

And hear about it with our own EARS on the news. *Indicate eyes*

And it's making lots of people worried.

Let's sing our prayer song, this time let's sing

'The Climate! The Climate!' and let's show both the fires and floods as we sing.

The climate! The climate! *Fires and floods action*

Help us, God the Maker! *Open arms*

The climate! The climate! *Fires and floods action*

Help us see what we can do! *Open arms*

Let's sit down for a moment.

When the group is ready:

Our prayer song asks God to 'Help us see what we can do',
because there's so much we can do!

The climate isn't just changing by itself.

The climate is changing because of what WE do!

Because of some of the choices WE make.

It's time for us to stop just feeling worried and TALKING about the weather.

It's time to change the way we behave.

It's time to change the choices we make.

If appropriate, create space for the children to share their own ideas here. Or you may like to introduce some of your own ideas. Possibilities include: recycling, walking/cycling instead of using a car, turning lights off at home, being careful about what we throw away, gardening, not buying lots of plastic toys. St Mary's Eco Church will be coming up with lots of ideas soon: watch this space!

Now here in this group between us

Will be lots of ideas about what we can do to make a difference about climate change!

Let's see if we can come up with three now and then use them for the actions in our song.

Invite a child or adult to share one of their ideas and show an action for it, then lead the group in singing, using that action as you sing.

Let's sing our song again.

This time, let's sing help us DO what we can do.

And let's show *Name's* idea as an action as we sing!

The climate! The climate!
Help us, God the Maker!
The climate! The climate!
Help us do what we can do!
Repeat as appropriate

We'll be exploring more things that we can do over the next few weeks.
But as we come to the end of our song today, let's remember to say thank you to God.
We're worried about the climate at the moment.
That's right and we need to change what we do.
But let's also remember that the different weather in this world is a wonderful thing.
Let's remember to be thankful for it.
Let's end by saying thank to God for the weather that is here today.
So what weather do we have today?
Invite a child to respond with the weather and the action.
And who can remind us what our 'thank you' action was earlier?
Invite a child to respond.
Let's end by singing our 'thank you God the Maker' song one more time.

It's cloudy, it's cloudy: *Cloudy action*
thank you God the Maker! *Thank you action*
It's cloudy, it's cloudy: *Cloudy action*
thank you for the clouds! *Thank you action*
