

Children and family talk for 29th August 2021 - climate crisis

Hello everyone, today's children and family talk is a little different as we are concentrating on the climate crisis. Let's begin by talking to God:

Forgiving and ever-loving God

We come to you now with sadness, knowing that our planet is in trouble.

*Help us not to be afraid, help us to take action that will make a difference. If this is what you want Lord, **Amen.***

Today we are reading from

Romans 8:18-25. Here Paul is writing to the Christian believers in Rome. They were going through some difficult times, but Paul wanted to reassure them that God had a plan for them and was looking out for them. He writes;

Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We too wait for eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.)

Now let's sing; **My God is so big**

MY God is so big, so strong and so mighty,
There's nothing that He cannot do. (repeat)
The rivers are His, the mountains are His.
The stars are His handiwork too.
My God is so big, so strong and so mighty,
there's nothing that He cannot do.

My God is so big, so strong and so mighty,
there's nothing that he cannot do, (repeat)
He's called you to live, for Him every day,
In all that you say and you do.
My God is so big, so strong and so mighty, He
can do all things through you.

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Let's talk about our Bible verses and this week I'm borrowing a script from Christian Aid, which you can find at www.christianaid.org.uk

In the Book of Romans, Paul talks about the whole of creation groaning. While Saint Paul wasn't talking about the climate crisis in this passage, his words remind us that we have a relationship with creation. We, too, can hear this groaning of creation today. We need to listen to the groaning of God's creation – to the extinction of species, to the fury of increasing storms and typhoons, to the deepening droughts and rising floods. And we need to listen to the science of climate change. We need to add our voices to those who are suffering the most, but have done the least to cause the problem. We need to call out for climate justice. What can we do to encourage and support everyone to respond to the groaning of creation? There are several things we could do to help. Make a climate change banner or poster - come up with the message you want to get across and spend time making the banners together. Use as much recycled material as possible, put the banner up at church or in your front garden. You could write to your local MP and let them know how you feel about climate change. You can find out who your MP is online at Gov.uk. Write a letter, a poem, or even record a song, dance or rap! Christian Aid want you to send them your work and they will be using the best letters to create an exhibition that will be shared with church leaders and politicians. Start working on your letter, either individually or as a group, and email it to lettersforcreation@christian-aid.org or post it to: Letters for Creation, Christian Aid Schools and Youth Team, PO Box 100, London SE1 7RT. Together we can make a difference, no matter what age we are.

Let's talk to God now:

Dear Lord God, you made the earth, the sea, the sky and all the things in it.
Thankyou for all the wonders of the world that we see around us.

Amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out hands as if expecting a present)

And the love of God (Put your hands on your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (Hold hands)

Be with us all now and for ever. Amen! (raise hands together on the Amen)

BBC bitesize, understanding climate.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zkhtqfr>