

Environment

YCW

How much attention do we give to the world around us? Do we see the beauty and the things that are well cared for or do we only notice the bad points, where things are dumped and the damage we and others do to environment? What can we do to make a difference to the world we live in?



See

- What is our local environment like?
- What do we do to “help” the environment?
- Do we usually use a car or public transport to get around?

Video clips

Watch each clip in turn. After each clip spend 10 mins considering the questions:

“Towns are expanding, they’re coming into the countryside, some towns are even starting to come into each other.” *Francis*

See Clip 1

- What do we think of when we talk about the environment?
- How do we enjoy the environment?

See Clip 2

On the video the young people talked about some of the issues and concerns they had about the environment.

- What did we think about the comments on the video?
- What concerns us about our environment?
- When have we seen examples of these issues and concerns?
 - What happened?
 - Who was involved?
 - What caused it?
 - What were the consequences?

Walk the Line

What’s the area like where we live? Get a map of the local area and then draw a line across the map through the place where you meet. Then go and walk the line. Wherever the line crosses a public space, or a road, go and have a look at the environment in this area. Is it full of litter and rubbish all over the place, or is it well cared for? Are there places to recycle things? Are there any green open spaces? What condition are they in? Make notes on what we see, where it is and take pictures. When we get back, we need to transfer the information onto the map, marking on the places that have lots of litter, places to recycle etc. also stick your photographs around the map to show the things we have discovered.

- What’s our local area like?
- Is it well cared for or is there lots of rubbish around?
- Are there lots of green spaces people can use?
- What issues do we face in our local area?

On the video clip the young people talked about the changes they had seen in their local environments. How has our local environment changed?

How green am I?

Answer each of these questions individually then share your responses with the group

- Do I recycle? If yes what? How often?
- Would I choose to walk/cycle or take public transport to get to places?
- Would choose to drive to get to places?
- Do I chose to go on holiday to places where I have to fly to get there?



YCW
The Difference
Is You

Judge *What do you think?*

- Do we think people respect their local environment? Why
- Should caring for the environment affect our lifestyles -how we travel, where we chose to go on holiday or the food we eat?

Scripture Enquiry - watch the video clip

“When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,
what is man that you are mindful
of him,
the son of man that you care for
him?
you put everything under his
feet:
all flocks and herds,
and the beasts of the field, the
birds of the air,
and the fish of the sea,
all that swim the paths of the
seas.

You made him little less than a
God and crowned him with glory
and honour.
You made him ruler over the
works of your hands;
O Lord, our Lord, how majestic
is your name in all the earth!”
Psalm 8:3-9

- What message does this clip give us?
- What is the message of the scripture passage?
- Are we aware that we are “little less than a God”?
- If God has made us the “ruler over the works of your hands” what responsibilities does this place on us?
- How should we act and treat the environment if we are trying to live up to this passage?
- Do we have a Christian responsibility to look after the local area?
- How are we called to act by this passage?

“We do not inherit the earth from
our ancestors, we borrow it from our
children.”

Native American Proverb

- What do we think about this statement?
- Do we agree or disagree with it?
- If we accept it what responsibilities does it place upon us?
- What changes would we need to make to our own lives if we were to live by that proverb?

A voice from the Church...

Taken from an address by Archbishop Celestino Migliore to the General Assembly of the United Nations on Sustainable Development.

[The Church] believes that protecting the environment means more than defending it. Protecting the environment implies a more positive vision of the human being, in the sense that the person is not considered a nuisance or a threat to the environment, but one who holds oneself responsible for the care and management of the environment. In this sense, not only is there no opposition between the human being and the environment, there is established an inseparable alliance, in which the environment essentially conditions man’s life and development, while the human being perfects and ennobles the environment by his or her creative activity.

- What responsibilities does this statement place upon us in caring for the environment?
- How are we called to be?

Act *Now look back at your SEE. What will you take action about?*

- What were the main issues that we discovered from our see about the environment? How did these affect young people?

Now we’ve talked about the issues, found out what’s actually happening, and decided what we think about it as young people and young Christians, what are we going to do about it?

Example: “A group of YCW’s in Malta are trying to raise awareness of the impact of environmental problems. To do this they are planning to show an entertaining commercial highlighting these problems at a concert attended by many young people.”

- What could you do to try to change the issues you have found?

Other resources to use:

Take Out – everything you need in a Take Out pizza box to ‘take out’ an action and transform your local community. The resource includes a training DVD and material for your group to plan an action using See-Judge-Act

Coming to Life – A resource for 16-30 year olds, using See-Judge- Act, to help you link life and faith. A DVD including discussion starters and scripture reflections enable you to reflect on 12 different topics relevant to your life.

Contact YCW HQ (see details over page)

