

changing church

CLIMATE CHANGE

5 KEY QUESTIONS FOR
YOUR CHURCH ON
CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE



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5 key questions for your church on climate change response

Ninety-eight per cent of both church leaders and members agreed that the Bible teaches them to care about God’s creation. This should give church leadership teams the confidence to boldly consider how they could be addressing climate change and creation care within their church context.

1. How much of a priority is creation care in our church?

The research shows that a perceived barrier to churches responding to climate change is that it is not seen as a priority. Therefore, it would be worth considering where creation care fits within your priorities as a church? How can you communicate and demonstrate this within your church community?

2. How are we teaching and modelling a theology of creation care?

What are the different avenues for communicating a theology of creation care with your church leadership, gatherings, small groups, programmes and among your ‘scattered’ congregation? What small or big changes might you make to help people in your church grasp the importance of tackling climate change?

“As Christians we know that God made this world and that He made us to be stewards of His world. So if we love Him we will take good care of His creation - for the good of others and for the glory of His name.”

– Mike Cain
(England)

3. How can our church make a difference?

Some Christians and organisations have been working in the area of creation care for decades. Are there ways your church is being wasteful with its energy and resources? How could this be improved? Are there particular environmental needs or concerns in the community in which your church is based? How could you partner with the local community to show that Christians care for the world we live in and demonstrate why?

“Stewardship is an important part of our culture at Gate Church International. We believe that we all have a responsibility to take care of our people, our resources and our environment.”

– Felecity Wright
(Scotland)

4. Why does our culture care so deeply about this issue?

“I don’t want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. I want you to act. I want you to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if the house is on fire, because it is.” – **Greta Thunberg**, Swedish environmental activist.

It’s clear that climate change and environmental sustainability are issues of profound challenge and concern for our culture today. In the face of a genuine and urgent need for change, our culture can struggle to find the lines between hope and fear. As Christians, our faith allows us to worry less but care more about the world God has created. How can your church understand and take seriously the concerns you share with our culture about the stewardship of God’s creation?

“Many people, particularly young people, need hope in the midst of the nature and climate emergency. Our faith in Christ leads to hope, and hope calls us to action. The time to act is now. The mission fields are turning green.”

– Stephen Trew
(Northern Ireland)

5. How could creation care witness to the good news of Jesus?

Christians are called to proclaim the good news of Jesus. By caring for God’s creation, we can witness to the world that we believe in a creator God, who in turn cares deeply about those He created. Take time to consider how your church might meet the profound concerns and questions of our culture with the good news of Jesus in an effective and sensitive way.

“The climate crisis is a destructive and daily reality for millions in our world and it is the world’s poorest who are at the front-end of the devastating consequences. Climate change is not simply a political or scientific issue – it’s a Church issue! This is the moment for the Church to rise up as a prophetic voice for justice and creation care - to fulfil our God-given responsibility to take care of our planet and its people and to demonstrate practically and tangibly what Jesus meant when He told us to love our neighbour. So let’s pray, let’s make the lifestyle changes that we need to make, let’s use our voices to see policies change, and let’s make a difference together!”

– Dominic De Souza
(Wales)