

CREATION SPEAKS



Creation Care Packet



**A compilation of resources from
Creation Justice Ministries**

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www.creationjustice.org

Light

Power Up!

Working in small groups, ask campers to draw a map of the camp before or while exploring the grounds. Ask them to put a number on each building that represents the number of electric outlets in that building. Have them put a star on the map to represent outside lights. These can be lights on poles, buildings, or even landscaping. Have them add extra dots for other places at camp that use electric, such as the swimming pool pump, kitchen appliances, musical instruments, projectors, etc.

Afterward, let the groups spend some time talking about the amount of power used at camp compared with at home. Reflect on issues of safety, comfort, and convenience. Ask the campers how we might save on electricity at camp.

Water

Where Did the Fish Go?

This is an adaptation of “Sharks and Minnows” that includes 2 or more people trying to “fish” in the same body of water.

Assign two or more (add one for every 10 campers) people to “go fishing.” The others line up as fish who will try to cross a large field, or “body of water,” without getting tagged. Each round, those fishing keep track of how many they tag, or “catch.” Those tagged sit outside of the play space and observe. Keep playing another round until all the fish are caught.

Afterward, spend some time reflecting on how the dynamics changed as there were fewer fish to catch. How did those fishing treat each other?

Play again with new campers “fishing” and a new rule: For every three fish still in the game, one caught fish can return, representing reproduction within the fish population.

Play again with new campers fishing and another new rule that allows those fishing to “release” those they catch if they choose. This allow them to catch the fish again and earn more points.

Afterward, spend some time talking about over-fishing and the impact it can have on our environment and economy.

Name That Water:

Divide campers into four teams and provide them with Bibles. Go from team to team, having them name a story in the Bible that explicitly includes water. For example, Jesus washing the Disciples' feet works, but shepherds keeping the sheep does not. They probably did take the sheep to water, but it is not part of the story. Keep track of the stories each team names, and give a strike to any story they name that is a repeat or doesn't really include water. This activity could be repeated with stories of "light," "earth," "animals," etc.

Afterward, invite the groups to brainstorm ways the water is used in scripture. This might include drinking, washing, and as a symbol. Ask them how our use of water is similar and different, then how we might better protect this precious gift.

Earth

This Land Is My Home

Provide each camper with paper and something to draw and color with. Ask them to each draw a picture titled "Land." Once everyone has had time to draw, ask them to share their work with a small group and talk about how each interpreted the assignment. Point out which ones included water, plants, light, etc. Notice how different images reflect the geographic location of "home" for different campers.

Afterward, spend some time talking about what makes land healthy and how our communities are dependent on healthy use of the earth.

Land Landing

Invite campers to imagine you are an alien landing on the earth for a visit. You have come to learn all about life on earth. Name different landing zones you might stop in, and have the campers tell you what that place is all about and how it impacts or reflects life on earth. Here are some suggestions: farm, landfill, national park, strip mall parking lot, forest, coal mine, golf course, orchard.

Afterward, spend some time discussing positive and negative uses of land. With older campers, you might want to discuss how we understand ownership of land compared with other cultures.

Seasons

Seasons of Service

Ask campers to divide a piece of paper into four quadrants, or have four separate pieces of paper with the seasons written on them. Invite campers to brainstorm service projects they or a group could do that are specific to that season.

Afterward, spend some time looking at the compiled lists and see what surprised people and what seemed obvious. Ask the campers which seasons seem to present the most challenges and why that is. Reflect on which issues get the most attention and how we should best use our limited resources.

Changing Seasons

Invite staff or other adults to share stories of seasonal activities they participated in when they were growing up, and what they see being different about those today. The older the storyteller, the better. Invite campers to imagine how seasonal activities might be different for their children and grandchildren as we face continued climate change.

Animals

Professor Pets

For each of the following words, ask campers to share examples they have seen in animals. This could be from pets, at a zoo, in the wild, or on video: Calming, Play, Protection, Affection, Rest (sabbath). Ask campers to complete the sentence, “Animals teach me _____” based on your conversation. You can make a list of these to display somewhere, pose one a day on social media, or have campers take turns writing them on a piece of paper in different colored markers. Take a picture of the finished product and then share it online, or maybe print it out as a large wall decoration.

BioBlitz

We recommend you check out a wonderful activity from National Geographic called a “[BioBlitz](https://www.nationalgeographic.org/projects/bioblitz/)” (<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/projects/bioblitz/>). This is great for churches, families, or community groups.

Ecosystem Services

This one is not really an activity. It is a great video that youth can view and discuss.

[Ecosystem Services Video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCH1Gre3Mq0&feature=youtu.be)

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCH1Gre3Mq0&feature=youtu.be>).

Afterward, talk about it. See what campers learned and what they already knew.

Humanity

Selfish Living

Invite campers to brainstorm things people need to live. Try to get them to focus on core resources. For example, they may say “shelter.” Ask what the shelter is built of and where it comes from. Make sure air, water, land, and light are on the list. Ask campers

to identify the source of each thing on the list and how it's being dirty, polluted, or limited impacts people.

Afterward, spend some time reflecting on this question: If these things are bad for us, why are we OK with them?

You can have a group conversation based on this question or let campers journal or pray about the issue. This is a complicated question with issues of denial, privilege, avoidance, greed, and leadership as contributing factors. There is no simple or easy answer, but it is an important conversation.

Celebration

Earth Day!

Plan an Earth Day party for your family, community, or church. There are resources for worship and education on the [Creation Justice Ministries](http://www.creationjustice.org/earth-day-sunday.html) website (<http://www.creationjustice.org/earth-day-sunday.html>).