

# **Creation Care Champions**

(A workshop for school children)

## **Preparing for Workshops**

- Choose your date
- Recruit some volunteer helpers (Talk to your safeguarding officer about doing this safely) A flyer (3) is provided to put up in your church
- Contact the school/s you wish to invite, it is best to do this by popping into the school or by telephone in the first instance
- Set the date/time/number and age of pupils with the school
- Follow up the invitation with an email using the Template (1) to provide information. Attach the flyer for teachers (4)
- Choose the activities you would like to offer (9) – you can, of course, design your own
- Familiarise yourself and your volunteers with the risk assessment (5) you may need to edit this
- Confirm the programme for the day with the school (2) Remember to attach the completed Risk Assessment (5) as this will be useful for the staff.

## **Getting the church ready**

- Organise an area for children to sit – on a carpeted area on the floor is ideal, but selected seats or pews works too
- Children should be able to see (and hear) you clearly as well as the screen if you are using one
- Have three areas prepared for your activities, with all the equipment needed for each activity
- Have enough leaves cut out for one per child (and a few spares) Luggage labels work equally well and are easier to prepare if you prefer
- Check your tech – it's a good idea to open any links and have videos ready to go with the adverts already run through.
- Set up the teaching powerpoint, there are two versions available one with a link to David Suchet reading the Jesus Story Book Bible version of the story (6) the other with the illustrations added to the slide show to show as you read the story (7). A copy of the Jesus Story Book Bible can be borrowed from the Old Cathedral School.

NB the workshops work equally well without a screen, you will simply have to read the creation story. The Jesus Story Book Bible is recommended, but you can use any child friendly translation.

## **Session Timetable**

- Children arrive with school staff, invite the children to sit in a group where they can see the screen (or book if your church doesn't have a screen)
- Welcome staff and inform them of the whereabouts of toilets and fire exits, you might want to offer hot drinks to staff. (Not mentioning toilets to the children directly will avoid an immediate rush and lengthy queues)
- Staff to sit with/behind children
- Introduce yourself and your volunteer helpers to the children

- Tell the children the creation story or follow the link on the powerpoint for the “Jesus Storybook Bible” read by David Suchet.
- Follow the powerpoint for discussion points, the story and discussion should take about 20 minutes. The accompanying notes (8) might help you
- If you are unsure about how to lead this part of the session, please refer to our training video
- Ask school staff to create three groups from the children and direct each group to an activity
- After 15 minutes, rotate the groups to the next activity (You may want to ask the class teacher to get the children’s attention)
- Repeat until all groups have completed all activities
- Return all children to the space by the screen and provide them with a pencil and a leaf
- Share last slide with the children and ask them to write down a wish or a prayer for creation
- These should be collected by volunteer helpers and/or school staff and tied to the tree with children watching
- There is a link on the final slide to a fun song if you wish to use it
- Finish with a prayer using some of the children’s ideas from the tree. Allow 10-15 minutes for the leaves, discussion and prayers
- Between writing prayers and gathering to pray is a good time to offer the children refreshments if you wish to do this\*
- The whole event should last between 90 and 120 minutes depending on how long you spend on the practical activities.

### **Things to remember**

- The school staff are responsible for the children’s behaviour – any issues refer to the class teacher
- Take the opportunity to chat to staff about any other activities that go on in church for young people, ask them to put a flyer or your service times on their school newsletter
- It’s useful to find out who the RE lead teacher is so you can communicate directly with them about other activities or invitations
- Don’t forget to invite the children to join the next Sunday service to see their prayers being used
- You could always take a photo of the service and email it to the school.

\*Many churches like to offer refreshments to children, but this can cause issues – some children may have allergies or medical issues and some parents prefer their children not to have squash etc. It’s a lovely thing to do (and very popular with the children) but always check with the school before you set this up.

NB A stationary box (10) is available for loan from the Old Cathedral School, it contains stationary, clipboards etc for 30+ children, please contact Clare Green for information about this, or about the support we can offer in running your workshops. [Clare.green@trurodiocese.org.uk](mailto:Clare.green@trurodiocese.org.uk)