

Eco and Fairtrade Assembly

Hello and welcome

Today we are going to be talking about the environment (and about Fairtrade).

I'm going to need 6 volunteers.

Get 6 children out and stand them in a line holding a branch (I will be using the palm fronds borrowed from the Easter services!)

Talk about in the beginning when God made the world it was a beautiful and perfect place, which he was pleased with. There was light and dark, sky, land and sea, creatures for the sea, land and sky and he put people in charge to take care of his wonderful world.

After a while some of the trees were chopped down for firewood, ask one child to sit down.

Some trees were chopped down to make houses and furniture, ask another child to sit down.

Some trees were chopped down to make room for roads, ask another child to sit down.

Some trees were chopped down to make paper, cardboard and toys ask another child to sit down.

Some trees were chopped down to make room for airports, so that people could go on holiday to look at trees in far away places.

Oh dear! Look what's happened now we only have 1 tree left. Our world isn't quite so perfect and beautiful as it was in the beginning when God made it.

Who is in charge of looking after and caring for the world? The people.

Perhaps it is time we looked after our world a bit better than we have been doing, as it is not just the trees that have been cut down, what else has been damaged? (Rivers and air have become polluted with rubbish and chemicals etc.)

Who knows what we can do to help make the earth a better and more beautiful place again?

(Although some trees are needed for important uses perhaps we can think of ways that we can make the Earth better)

Take 5 ideas from the children and with each one, ask the children sitting down with the branches to stand back up until all 6 are standing again. If not mentioned can say replanting trees is a good thing to do.

It is important to remember that we have choices in looking after our world and also in helping to make it a better place for the future - more like the perfect place that God first made.

Fairtrade: We also have the choice about how we treat other people in the world. There are lots of farmers round the world that grow our food like bananas and cocoa beans and products we use like cotton and sadly they are very poor and struggle to survive. The reason is they are paid very badly for their products so that we can have cheap goods. How can we help them? By buying items that are Fairtrade, so we know they are being paid fairly for their goods. How do we know something is Fairtrade? We look for the logo.

Song: He's got the whole world in His hands.

Dear God

Thank you for our beautiful, wonderful universe.

Please help me to take care of our world and the people that live in it. Amen