



# HOW TO PRAY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

This prayer guide will equip and inspire your prayers for the climate. It has been produced by Tearfund and 24-7 Prayer as part of the international Renew Our World campaign.

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CAMPAIGN



24-7 PRAYER

# INTRODUCTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

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The climate crisis is growing more urgent each day. We are on course for catastrophic global temperature rises that will put millions of lives at risk – and it’s hitting the world’s poorest people hardest. We know this is not God’s plan and we can help change this.

As Christians, we are all called to play our part in shaping a better future. God calls us to love one another and to help build his kingdom on earth. Through prayer and speaking out for change, we can build a fairer world that works for everyone.

“NEW RESEARCH SHOWS THAT UP TO 132 MILLION PEOPLE WILL BE PUSHED INTO EXTREME POVERTY BY CLIMATE CHANGE BY 2030.”<sup>2</sup>

Already, more people are going hungry, extreme weather events are more frequent and severe, and entire communities are being displaced. We are on course for further catastrophic global temperature rises that will put our world and millions of lives at risk. Unless we act urgently, climate change will push 132 million more people into poverty this decade. We know this is not God’s plan and we can help change this.

Even faced with these facts, the issue of climate change can still be hard to grasp: it’s big, it’s global, and it can feel difficult to know how to begin to respond.

However, our generation has a choice no other generation will have – we’re the ones who can act and make sure everyone has the chance to live well, as God intended.

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## WE HAVE A PART TO PLAY

“LOVE DOES NO HARM TO A NEIGHBOUR.”  
**ROMANS 13:10**

We can all play a part in responding to the changing climate by putting our faith into action. Speaking up for change and adjusting our lifestyle are great ways to respond – see the taking action section ([page 11](#)) for ideas. However, prayer is one of the most important ways that we can take action. We’re commanded to “pray in the Spirit... with all kinds of prayers and requests” (Ephesians 6:18),

and when we pray we’re speaking to a mighty and powerful God. This means that when we pray, we are part of God’s transforming work!

As we lift up prayers and requests about these issues, injustices and difficulties, we must also remember to give thanks and praise for the beauty of the world that we’re part of, and praise God for the created earth that we live on. Through our prayers and actions, we’ll show our governments we care about a fair and sustainable world, for the love of God and our neighbours.

<sup>2</sup> <https://blogs.worldbank.org/climatechange/covid-climate-change-and-poverty-avoiding-worst-impacts>

# INTRODUCTION TO THIS GUIDE

This guide contains everything you need to start praying for the climate, either in a 24-7 Prayer room, with others, or just on your own. Before you start, you may like to check out the resource bank below with links to information and inspiration to get you started.

## **1. PRAYING FOR THE CLIMATE: 24-7 PRAYER ROOMS**

Practical ideas for adding activities to your prayer room.

## **2. PRAYING FOR THE CLIMATE: INDIVIDUALS**

Ideas to inspire your personal prayer life.

## **3. PRAYING FOR THE CLIMATE: GROUPS**

How to inspire and encourage group prayer. These ideas can be used in prayer meetings, church meetings or small groups.

## **4. NEXT STEPS: TAKING ACTION**

We believe that prayer leads to action: this section contains practical steps you can take to tackle climate change.

## **5. RESOURCE BANK**

Useful places to learn more to inform your prayers.



# 1. Praying for the Climate

## 24-7 PRAYER ROOMS

“THE PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS PERSON HAS GREAT POWER AS IT IS WORKING. ELIJAH WAS A MAN WITH A NATURE LIKE OURS, AND HE PRAYED FERVENTLY THAT IT MIGHT NOT RAIN, AND FOR THREE YEARS AND SIX MONTHS IT DID NOT RAIN ON THE EARTH. THEN HE PRAYED AGAIN, AND HEAVEN GAVE RAIN, AND THE EARTH BORE ITS FRUIT...”

JAMES 5:16-18

### HOW TO GET STARTED

A 24-7 Prayer room is a space containing prayer activities to inspire constant prayer. Together, a group of people decide to pray continuously by each taking hour-long slots for a period of time, creating a chain of unbroken prayer.

It only takes 24 people to pray non-stop for a whole day; and 168 people to pray non-stop for a week.

Get started by heading to [www.24-7prayer.com/prayerrooms](http://www.24-7prayer.com/prayerrooms) where you'll find a handy guide on how to register and run a 24-7 Prayer room for the first time.

### 24-7 PRAYER ROOMS

Devoting space in your prayer room to pray about climate change is a really great way to encourage interactive and devoted prayer. The following ideas can be used as part of a wider prayer room, or to theme your entire prayer room around praying for the climate.

However you use your prayer room to pray, here are a few handy tips to bear in mind:

1. **Make the facts and instructions clear** – With a topic like climate change, it can be difficult to know how to focus prayers, so make sure you give specific facts for people to pray into. Include space and ideas to help people to give thanks for God's creation as a way into praying about issues like climate change. Give specific examples and pointers.
2. **Make space for questions** – Prayer stations can often spark interest, so allow space for your community to ask questions, and give ways that they can practically get involved as well as praying.



# 1. Praying for the Climate

## 24-7 PRAYER ROOMS

### HOW TO PRAY

Try some of the following prayer stations to focus on climate change in your prayer room. Feel free to adapt them to suit you, and check out the resource bank for places to find facts and statistics:

#### RISING TEMPERATURES

##### You'll need

- » A couple of cactus plants
- » Sand in a large tray (or a couple of smaller sand trays)
- » Blankets

##### Do it

Section off part of your prayer room (a warm end if possible) to act as a hot desert, and decorate with sand and plants.

- » Sit in the desert, wrapping some of the blankets around you and noticing how warm you feel.
- » Dwell on the rising temperature of our world and its impact on humans.
- » Spend time praying for communities who are already experiencing the impact of rising temperatures on our world.

#### PRAYING FOR THOSE IN LEADERSHIP

##### You'll need

- » Cardboard that can be cut with scissors
- » Scissors

##### Do it

- » Create a paper crown using the cardboard and scissors.
- » As you hold, or wear, your paper crown, pray for the leaders of your nation, and those around the world who have the authority to make decisions that will positively affect our world's climate.

#### GLOBAL PRAYERS

##### You'll need

- » A black and white map that you can colour in, or a globe that can be painted on
- » Sticky notes
- » Pens

##### Do it

The carbon emissions of the richest 1 percent are more than double the emissions of the poorest half of humanity.<sup>3</sup>

On a globe or map, use one colour to shade in countries which have been most impacted by and are the most vulnerable to climate change, and then use a different colour to shade in the countries which have created the highest carbon emissions.

- » Look at the map or globe, and reflect on the disparity between rich and poor nations.
- » Write prayers on sticky notes: you might like to pray for decisions and changes to be made that will create a positive future for everyone, all over the world.

#### GOD'S LIGHT IN THE WORLD

##### You'll need

- » Tealights or electric tealights

##### Do it

- » Light a tealight, or switch on an electric tealight.
- » As you watch the light, pray for God's light to transform our world.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/carbon-emissions-richest-1-percent-more-double-emissions-poorest-half-humanity>

# 1. Praying for the Climate

## 24-7 PRAYER ROOMS

### SUITCASE PRAYERS

#### You'll need

- » A suitcase
- » Paper
- » Pens
- » Scissors

#### Do it

All over the world, people are displaced because of the climate.

- » Spend some time thinking and praying for individuals, families and communities whose homes and towns have been destroyed because of the changing climate.
- » Use the paper and pens to draw around your feet as a way of standing in solidarity with those who have had to flee to find safety.
- » Cut out the outline of your feet, and write a prayer in your footprint.

### PAPER PEOPLE

#### You'll need

- » Paper
- » Scissors
- » Guide on [how to make paper people](#) (optional)
- » Facts about people affected by climate change (see the resource bank)

#### Do it

We are all connected to one another.

- » Using the paper and scissors, make a chain of paper people.
- » As you draw and cut, think about the people you are connected to, all over the world: those who grow the food that you eat, or make the clothes that you wear.
- » Pray for those people who are affected by climate change on a daily basis, and take the paper people with you as a reminder to keep praying for others in our world.

### THE SIGNIFICANCE OF WATER

#### You'll need

- » A green plant in a big pot of soil
- » Wooden popsicle sticks

#### Do it

- » A plant needs to get the right amount of water: too much and it can drown, too little and it can dry out.
- » Spend some time giving thanks for creation: for water, earth and life.
- » Variations in rainfall around the world, caused by climate change, can lead to floods, droughts and crop failure.
- » Grab a lolly stick and write prayers for communities in your nation – or in other parts of the world – who are being affected by erratic weather patterns and rainfall.

### ACCIDENTAL DAMAGE

#### You'll need

- » A couple of things that represent fossil fuels such as a piece of coal, electric plug, toy car or plane

#### Do it

- » Reflect on the objects that represent fossil fuels; how using them has accidentally damaged the balance of creation.
- » Take time to respond in prayer: you might like to ask God for forgiveness, grace and wisdom for us as humanity to live in a more conscious way; and pray for leaders to make responsible commitments to more sustainable energy supplies in the future.

## 2. Praying for the Climate

### INDIVIDUALS

“I BELIEVE GOD HAS HEARD MY PRAYERS. HE WILL MAKE IT MANIFEST IN HIS OWN GOOD TIME THAT HE HAS HEARD ME. I HAVE RECORDED MY PETITIONS THAT WHEN GOD HAS ANSWERED THEM, HIS NAME WILL BE GLORIFIED.”

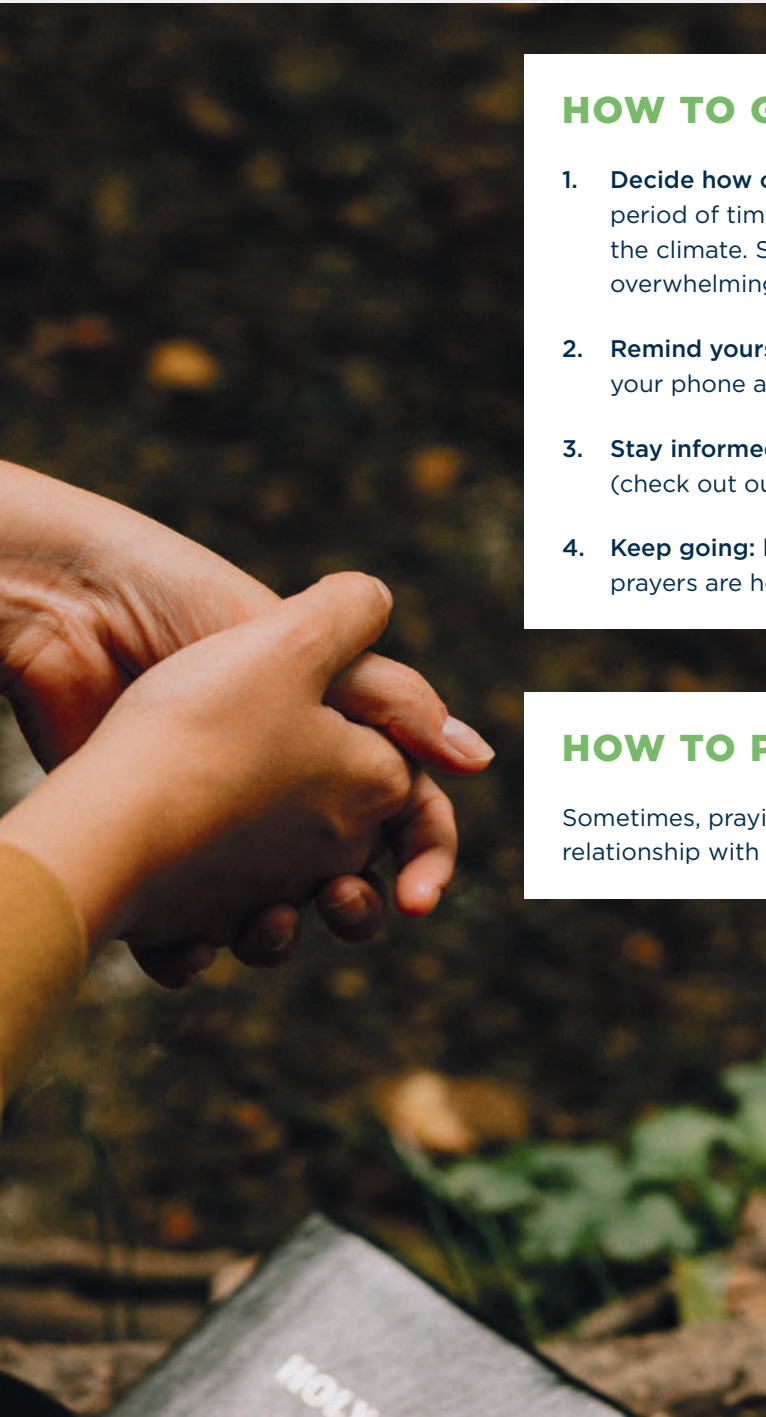
GEORGE MULLER

### HOW TO GET STARTED

1. **Decide how often to pray:** you might like to set aside a specific period of time every day, week or fortnight to pause and pray for the climate. Start with something that feels manageable and not too overwhelming!
2. **Remind yourself to pray:** write down your commitment or add it to your phone as a reminder.
3. **Stay informed:** find a source of information to help you pray (check out our [resource bank](#) for ideas).
4. **Keep going:** be persistent. It can feel like a huge topic, but your prayers are heard by God and can make a difference!

### HOW TO PRAY

Sometimes, praying differently can really help you to go deeper in your relationship with God. Below are some interactive prayer ideas:



## 2. Praying for the Climate

### INDIVIDUALS

#### USING THE BIBLE

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The Bible contains incredible words that can inform and inspire our prayers. Focus on a passage of scripture as you pray. You might like to:

- » rewrite the passage in your own words;
- » read in a different translation;
- » apply God's promises in the passage to your prayers;
- » read the prayer as a blessing to a particular leader on your heart;
- » memorise it.

Here are some passages to get you started, we've included a couple of verses from each:

"The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters..."

**PSALM 24 (NIV)**

"For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God..."

**ROMANS 8:18-27 (NIV)**

"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority..."

**1 TIMOTHY 2:1-7 (NIV)**

#### USING SOCIAL MEDIA

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Often, our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram feeds can be a distraction to our prayer lives. However, there are things you can do to make social media helpful when praying:

- » Follow key people or organisations who talk about climate change
- » Share what you're doing: there are lots of Christian organisations tackling climate change who will love to hear how you're praying
- » Challenge yourself to get creative! Turn tweets into prayers; Instagram photos into reflections; Facebook updates into a rallying call to action. Be bold and courageous with your social media prayer presence and challenge others you know to get involved too!

#### PRAYER WALKING

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If you find it difficult to concentrate by sitting still to pray, try going on a prayer walk. Choose a route around your local area and as you walk, pray into whatever you see that speaks to you. You could pray for world leaders when you walk past your local council office, or communities overseas when you get to your town hall.

#### USE PRE-WRITTEN PRAYERS AND LITURGY

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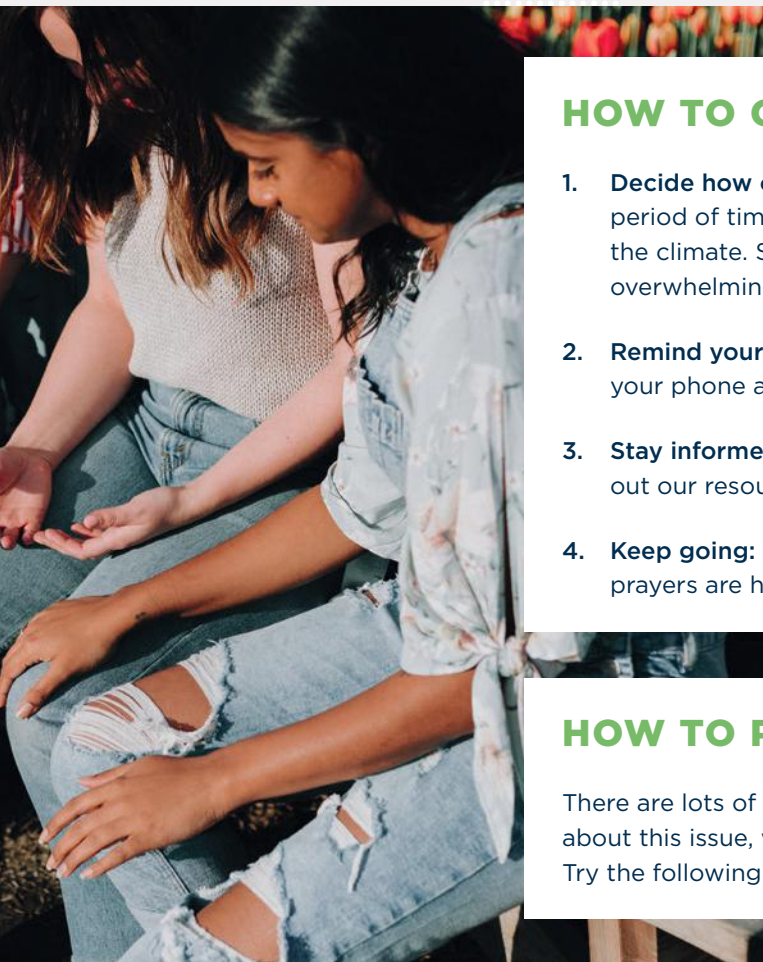
You may like to provide some pre-written prayers and liturgy. See the resource bank for ideas on where to gather these.



# 3. Praying for the Climate

## GROUPS

“NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL, COMMITTED CITIZENS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD”  
MARGARET MEAD



### HOW TO GET STARTED

1. **Decide how often to pray:** you might like to set aside a specific period of time every day, week or fortnight to pause and pray for the climate. Start with something that feels manageable and not too overwhelming!
2. **Remind yourself to pray:** write down your commitment or add it to your phone as a reminder.
3. **Stay informed:** find a source of information to help you pray (check out our resource bank for ideas).
4. **Keep going:** be persistent. It can feel like a huge topic, but your prayers are heard by God and can make a difference!

### HOW TO PRAY

There are lots of interactive and interesting ways to pray as a group about this issue, which can motivate and spur your group into action. Try the following ideas:

#### NEWS PRAYERS

Take a particular climate issue that's been featured on the news, or on a trustworthy website (see our resource bank for ideas) and either print off the story or use copies of a newspaper to give information to each person. Split into smaller groups and allow everyone to form their own prayers for the issue.

#### PRAYING GOD'S KINGDOM COME

Take a few minutes as a group to simply pray or sing together the words: “Your Kingdom Come, Your Will be Done, on Earth as it is in Heaven”. Encourage members of the group to really think about the significance of inviting God's kingdom to come on earth, and to think about specific spaces and places on earth to invite God's kingdom to reign.

# 3. Praying for the Climate

## GROUPS

### USING THE BIBLE, TOGETHER

Scripture is an incredible way to inspire prayer together, so choose a passage to read through together a few times that will encourage your group to pray. You might like to choose a few different translations to read through, or encourage different people to read different verses aloud.

You could get started with:

“HOW MANY ARE YOUR WORKS, LORD!  
IN WISDOM YOU MADE THEM ALL;  
THE EARTH IS FULL OF YOUR CREATURES...”  
**PSALM 104 (NIV)**

“GOD SAW ALL THAT HE HAD MADE, AND IT  
WAS VERY GOOD” **GENESIS 1 (NIV)**

“THEN I SAW ‘A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW  
EARTH,’ FOR THE FIRST HEAVEN AND  
THE FIRST EARTH HAD PASSED AWAY,  
AND THERE WAS NO LONGER ANY SEA.”  
**REVELATION 21:1 (NIV)**

*(You can find additional ideas in the section  
on [prayer ideas for individuals](#))*

### GETTING CREATIVE

See the individual and prayer room sections for creative ideas.

### SILENT PRAYER

Group prayer doesn't always need to mean praying out loud. Allow time for silent reflection as a group, and encourage people to quietly pray for God's presence across the issues. You could also make space for individuals to listen for God's voice; for words, pictures or Bible passages. You might be surprised to find how praying quietly together brings a new power as you wait on the Lord.

### LOUD PRAYER

Group prayer can mean being louder than usual, too! Encourage your group to pray out loud, all at once, and raise their voices in petition to God for transformation of the world. If your group find this daunting, put on or play some loud worship music, and encourage a holy noise to be made to God!

### CIRCULAR PRAYERS

Sit in a circle together, and encourage everyone to take turns praying out loud for as long or as short a time as they want, pouring out their prayers to God. This simple method is a great way to encourage everyone to form their own words as well as being encouraged and inspired by the prayers of others. Remind everyone that they don't have to think of something original but can repeat the prayers of others, in the knowledge that God hears all of our words.

## 4. Next Steps: TAKING ACTION

“AND WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU? TO ACT JUSTLY AND TO LOVE MERCY AND TO WALK HUMBLLY WITH YOUR GOD.”  
**MICAH 6:8**

“DO NOT CONFORM TO THE PATTERN OF THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND. THEN YOU WILL BE ABLE TO TEST AND APPROVE WHAT GOD’S WILL IS—HIS GOOD, PLEASING AND PERFECT WILL.”  
**ROMANS 12:2**



Climate change is hitting the poorest people first and hardest, those who have contributed least to the problem. The past generation didn’t know, and it will be too late to leave it to the next, so this is our generation’s challenge.

Prayer is part of our response - it connects us to God and will shape the way we respond to these issues. The more we pray, the more we become passionate about making change happen. Here are some suggestions to take action:

### LIVING DIFFERENTLY

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Think and pray about steps you could take to live more sustainably and reduce your own carbon footprint. Here are some suggestions to get you started, and check out the resource bank for suggestions of where to find out more.

- » Travel: could you walk or cycle more? Or use public transport, where available?
- » Food: what impact does the food you eat have? Could you reduce eating meat each week?
- » Energy: what type of energy powers your appliances at home, work and church? Could you switch to renewable electricity?

### SPEAKING UP FOR CHANGE

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In 2015 after years of negotiations, 195 nations committed to work together to tackle climate change and keep the earth’s temperature rise to 1.5 degrees (the highest level we can handle without much worse damage). This deal is known as the Paris Agreement. This was a brilliant foundation, but we need to keep reminding governments to move faster and implement it. This includes keeping promises to reduce emissions, and for those most responsible (rich countries) to keep their promise to provide finance to help the poorest countries adapt to the changing climate. Here are some suggestions for ways you can speak up for change:

- » How is your government doing on implementing the Paris Agreement? Check out the [climateactiontracker.org](http://climateactiontracker.org) website
- » Visit [www.renewourworld.net](http://www.renewourworld.net) to join a global movement of Christians acting and praying to tackle climate change
- » Can you write or speak to your local or national leaders about their climate commitments?

Climate change is a big issue that affects so many aspects of life. Here are some useful resources to get you started.

### PRAYER GUIDES AND INFO ON THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

- » Check out this [nine-part film series](#) for small groups (Christianity and climate change) featuring Katharine Hayhoe, the internationally renowned Christian climate scientist.
- » Use the [Climate Emergency Toolkit](#).
- » See Tearfund Learn's resources on environment and climate.

### LATEST NEWS

Most news outlets will report on impacts of climate change. Try BBC News, the Guardian, the Economist, or Climate Home News for more in-depth reporting. You could also check out [unfccc.int](#) for UN and national government responses to climate change.

### THE SCIENCE

For the authoritative version, see the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, independent body of scientists which look at climate science research and publish key reports every few years). For a personal take from a Christian working on climate science, try [Katharine Hayhoe's website](#)

### TAKE ACTION

Put your faith into action with [Renew Our World](#)

### FOR MORE INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION AND CAMPAIGNS CHECK OUT:

- » [Tearfund Australia](#)
- » [Renew Our World Malawi](#)

### THEOLOGY

Theology: For theological thinking on creation care, justice and other related issues you could read John Stott's *The Radical Disciple* and Ruth Valerio's *Just Living*.

### HOW TO RESPOND IN YOUR CHURCH OR COMMUNITY

[Live Justly](#) (a series of 10 sessions including Bible study and reflection looking at justice); TEAR Australia's Renew Our World Bible studies.



24-7 Prayer is an international movement made up of communities of prayer, missional projects and countless individuals in Prayer Rooms all over the world. For over two decades, 24-7 Prayer has helped millions of people in countless locations to encounter God and engage with the needs of the world.

The movement began in 1999 when a simple, student-led prayer vigil went viral, spreading into tens of thousands of locations and every denomination, from the Catholic Church in Austria to the Salvation Army in Australia, and countless persecuted communities in the Middle East.

Find out more: [www.24-7prayer.com](http://www.24-7prayer.com)



Renew Our World is a global movement of Christians who believe that since we are truly image bearers of God, we should act like it – living out love for one another in actions and in truth. Since we are image bearers of God, we won't stand by while our neighbours are trapped in poverty, and we won't stay idle as creation is left untended, and inequality is left to fester.

Right now, we are campaigning and praying for action on climate change and waste. Join us at [www.renewourworld.net](http://www.renewourworld.net)