

Episcopal Relief & Development

Communities of Learning

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Introduction

This **four-session curriculum** is intended for small group gatherings, online or in person. The objective is to help participants to grow in awareness of, and desire to, serve the populations and priorities aligned with the mission of Episcopal Relief & Development. As a faith formation curriculum, it offers group support and asks participants to be open to where God may be leading, in terms of how to grow in empathy and to respond to your new learnings in daily living. We know that our strengths come from pursuit of the things we are interested in and, so, we trust that our strengths relative to this good work will be revealed in the prayerful learning process.



Prayer

We ask you, loving God, to open our eyes to what is happening in communities at risk around the world. Guide us as we review the transformative responses of Episcopal Relief & Development.

Open our hearts to see where we might feel led to be of service, too.

Amen.

Group Rule of Life

- Group Prayer
- Guided Meditation
- Intercessory Prayer at Home



Episcopal Relief & Development priorities for Climate

When families and communities work together, they can better prepare for and recover from climate-influenced events.

The number of climate-influenced disasters has doubled in the past 20 years. Floods, hurricanes and other events can devastate communities.

Opening Prayer – Youth session

We ask your blessing on this learning community, Loving God, that we may be attentive to the movements of your Spirit. Guide us as we grow to understand how we might participate in the global priorities of Episcopal Relief & Development to empower women, nurture children, and meet the challenges of climate change and disaster resilience. We offer to you our open hearts and our desire to promote the dignity of all people. In your name we pray. *Amen.*

Opening Prayer - Adult session

Loving God, We ask your blessing on this learning community, gathered for mutual formation in the ways of love. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may open our hearts to the needs of women and children at risk, as well as the challenges of climate change and disaster resilience. Guide our efforts, we pray, as we discern what is ours to do in Your plan for human flourishing among all people. May we strive to be your Good News in the world. *Amen.*

Introductions

Share your name,
[location], and *one*
word for what is on
your heart today.



Scripture Reading

Both day and night belong to you; you made the starlight and the sun. You set the boundaries of the earth, and you made both summer and winter.

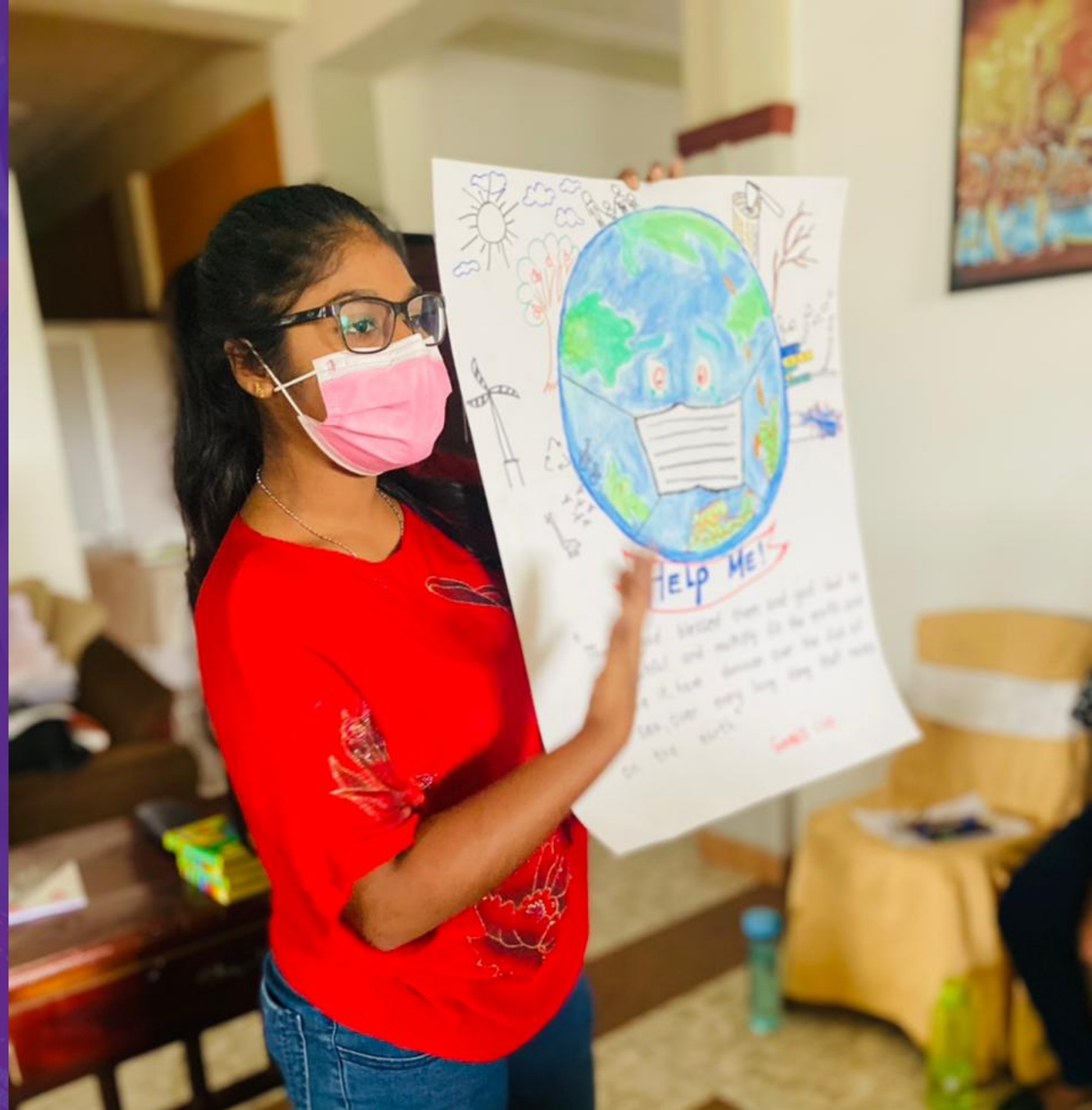
Psalm 74:16-17 NLV



Guided Meditation

Close your eyes or soften your gaze, which ever feels more comfortable for you.

Learning Together



The Lesson

1. Improving Food and Nutrition
2. Creating Economic Stability
3. Providing access to Clean Water, Hygiene and Sanitation

Improving Food and Nutrition

Our work with communities supports nutrition counseling during and after pregnancy, promotes breastfeeding and effective feeding and care practices for families and ensures families have enhanced access to nutritious foods. Episcopal Relief & Development programs also monitor the growth and development of children over the critical early years and link with health systems as needed for maximum care.

Creating Economic Stability

A family's access to financial resources and education has a direct impact on a child's development and their performance in school. Episcopal Relief & Development programs create economic opportunities and strengthens communities to help parents and caregivers earn an income.

Creating Economic Stability

This work includes supporting Savings with Education (SwE) groups, providing financial and business training, providing loans to individuals and groups for small businesses and developing micro-insurance products, village banks and cooperatives for people without access to traditional financial markets and institutions.

Providing Access to Clean Water, Hygiene & Sanitation

Clean water, proper sanitation and hygiene education are critically important to prevent the spread of disease, as well as protect communities when climate-influenced disasters occur. The work to create clean and safe water for drinking includes building wells and piping systems to prevent waterborne illnesses and installing water stations and systems like rainwater catchment tanks.

Providing Access to Clean Water, Hygiene & Sanitation

Sanitation programs include building or improving sanitary toilets, educating people on the proper hand-washing techniques, installing of hand-washing stations next to latrines and protecting land and water sources. They also empower local community health workers to train residents in safe garbage and waste disposal.

Instructional Video



Using Mutual Invitation for Sharing

When Mutual Invitation is used, it encourages deep and holy listening to one another, because there are no interruptions allowed until everyone has spoken.

Questions for Reflection – Youth session

1. What does this information have to do with me?
2. How does it challenge or inspire me?
3. What small step can I take in response?

Questions for Reflection – Adult session

1. What moved you in your learning?
2. Did it stretch or challenge you in some way?
3. How might your new learning change who you are becoming as a Christian disciple and enrich or equip your witness?

Group Reflection/Brainstorm

What would support your
ongoing formation in this
area?



Pray in this coming
week for the people
we met today and for
one another in this
Community of
Learning.

Let us pray.



Closing Prayer

Loving God, We thank you for drawing us into the work of justice and flourishing, envisioned by Episcopal Relief & Development.

We ask your blessing upon this learning community, seeking to grow in understanding and commitment.

Guide us, we pray, to walk in your way, so that we may embody the world that we deeply desire and long for.

Bless our loving actions in our daily lives, our families and partnerships, our communities and connections, for the Family of God and for all of God's creation. *Amen.*

At Home

Choose one or more links to explore the topic more deeply:

Ted Talk

<https://bit.ly/3N41ghB>

Music

<https://bit.ly/3wtYrRs>

Art

<https://bit.ly/39hgVeY>



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Working Together for Lasting Change