

WEEK 4: INDONESIA

CARE FOR CREATION

God created the world and all living things. We honor God by taking care of his creation and being good stewards of the earth. By doing this, we also help protect people and the planet. We are beginning to experience the consequences of failing to care for our common home, as more erratic, frequent and destructive weather events happen in our communities and around the world.

STORIES OF HOPE

Located between the Pacific and Indian Oceans, Indonesia has more than 17,000 islands. Many of the islands are in the Ring of Fire, where volcanic eruptions and earthquakes are common. Climate-related disasters such as cyclones also threaten communities here.

These natural disasters make it difficult for people like Evita Tiro Wada to grow food. To help her family and community, Evita participated in a Catholic Relief Services' program. She joined a disaster preparedness group, which helps people stay safe during emergencies.

The group also maintains a community garden, using special farming methods to grow vegetables even during a drought. They teach people how to start their own gardens and care for their community by picking up trash and planting trees.

Evita says, "When I first joined the village disaster preparedness group, I thought, 'What will I do or give to help the community?' After I've been involved, I see the benefits of what the community and I did."

FACTS TO CONSIDER

- Indonesia has 280 million people—the fourth highest population in the world after China, India and the United States.
- CRS has worked in Indonesia since 1957, helping communities improve their agriculture, strengthen their skills and resources and become better prepared for emergencies.



- Following the tsunami of 2004, emergency preparedness and response have become a priority for the country. It is expected that in any given year in the future, more than 3 million people could be forced to leave their homes due to floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, cyclones, tsunamis and other natural disasters.



For downloadable photos, visit crsricebowl.org/photos and watch the video at crsricebowl.org/stories.

CARE FOR CREATION

45 MINUTES

OBJECTIVE

Through the story of Evita in Indonesia, students will explore the Catholic social teaching principle of Care for Creation.

MATERIALS

- Week 4 story and video, available at crsricebowl.org/stories.
- A map of the world or Southeast Asia.
- A pair of gloves—rubber, gardening or other type—for each student.
- One trash bag.

DISCUSSION (15 MINUTES)

1. Locate Indonesia on the map. Highlight that it is made up of thousands of islands surrounded by the Indian and Pacific Oceans.
2. Read the story from week 4. Use the video to supplement the story.
3. Reflect:
 - Natural disasters like earthquakes and cyclones are common in Indonesia. Besides making it difficult to grow food, what other challenges or problems could natural disasters cause for Evita and other people living there?
 - Have you ever experienced a natural disaster, like a big storm or a period when it didn't rain for a long time? What was that like?
 - What things can you do to help care for the environment?

ACTIVITY (25 MINUTES)

1. Explain the principle of Care for Creation. All of creation is a gift from God, and our actions can help or hurt this gift. We show respect and love for God by taking care of his creation—the plants, animals and each other. When we fail to do this, we and all of creation suffer.
2. Activity instructions*:
 - Beforehand, choose a safe area that has either a lot of litter or needs basic cleaning up, such as a park. Ask students to bring a pair of rubber or gardening gloves.
 - Take students for a two-minute walk in the chosen area and ask them what they see, hear, smell and feel.

- Explain how God gave us creation to live and enjoy and that he asks us to take care of it. Like Evita and her group, we can pick up litter to protect our environment and help our community.
- Spend time as a class picking up trash. Once finished, ask the students how cleaning up the area made them feel. Ask them how they think God feels when we respect and take care of his creation.

**Weather permitting. If cold or inclement weather precludes outdoor activity, spend the activity time planning a trash pickup event for the spring. Have students create flyers to promote the event. Invite them to write a sentence or draw a picture on the flyer that demonstrates why picking up trash in their community is important.*

CLOSING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

An excerpt from Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato si'*:

All-powerful God,

You are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey toward your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

Amen

AT HOME

1. Go for a walk with your family outside to enjoy God's creation. Share with each other what your favorite things in nature are.
2. As a family, read and discuss the daily reflection found in your **CRS Rice Bowl Lenten Calendar**.

IF YOU ONLY HAVE



1. Read the week 4 story. Use the video to supplement the story.
2. Lead Discussion step 3.