

WEEK 4: BANGLADESH

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 can do our part to help people experiencing the effects of climate change—like flooding, stronger storms or long periods of no rain—to adapt to and overcome these challenges.

STORIES OF HOPE

Shahadat is a successful vegetable farmer in Bangladesh. He grows beans, pumpkins, tomatoes and eggplants, providing nutritious food for his family and extra produce he can sell at the market.

A few years ago, Shahadat's family struggled to pay for basic household expenses like food and school fees. It was difficult to farm because the intense rainy season often caused flooding and destroyed crops.

Then Shahadat and his mother joined a CRS project—implemented with Caritas Bangladesh—where they learned new farming skills, like how to protect their crops from floodwaters by planting on raised beds. In just one year, they boosted their vegetable harvest. Soon, Shahadat could afford to pay for his college tuition and for the education of his brothers.

“With the CRS training, my family can grow vegetables with less money. The vegetables I sell at the market help me to provide financially for my family,” Shahadat says.

Shahadat's dream is to help other families in his community grow successful crops, too.

FACTS TO CONSIDER

- Bangladesh has more than 700 rivers that help create a lush, green landscape. But it also means that the country is more vulnerable to flooding.
- During Bangladesh's rainy season, coastal areas often get hit by cyclones. These powerful storms can damage or destroy houses and farmers' crops.



- Catholic Relief Services—in partnership with Caritas Bangladesh, which plays a key role in implementing programming—is helping communities in Bangladesh reduce the risk of cyclones, flooding, erosion and other natural disasters. Programs include training for farmers, strengthening homes and designing emergency plans to keep communities safe.



For downloadable photos, visit crsricebowl.org/photos and watch the video at crsricebowl.org/week-4.

CARE FOR CREATION

45 MINUTES

OBJECTIVE

Through the story of Shahadat in Bangladesh, students will explore the Catholic social teaching principle of Care for Creation and learn how we are called to be stewards of God's creation, including by caring for our sisters and brothers in need around the world.

MATERIALS

- Week 4 story and video, available at crsricebowl.org/week-4.
- A map of the world.
- Week 4 Activity Sheet: Grades 7-8.

DISCUSSION (15 MINUTES)

1. Locate Bangladesh on the map
2. Read the story from Week 4. Use the video to supplement the story.
3. Reflect:
 - What obstacles did Shahadat and his family experience? How did he and his family overcome those obstacles?
 - How have the effects of climate change impacted your own community, especially for people in need?
 - How is caring for God's creation connected to the life and dignity of each person?

ACTIVITY (25 MINUTES)

1. Explain the principle of 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. This also means helping our sisters and brothers experiencing flooding, storms, long periods of no rain and other natural disasters caused by a changing climate. We can help farmers like Shahadat access trainings, tools, seeds and other resources to overcome climate obstacles and build a better life.
2. Have students complete the week 4 Activity Sheet: Grades 7-8.
3. If time permits, ask students to share what they wrote with a partner.

CLOSING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

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.

[Ask students to share any prayer intentions they have for God's creation and for helping our sisters and brothers experiencing climate challenges around the world.]

We thank you for being with us each day.

*Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.**

Amen

*Excerpt from *A prayer for our earth* in Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*.

AT HOME

1. Share what you learned today with your family.
2. As a family, read and discuss the daily reflection found in your **CRS Rice Bowl Lenten Calendar**.

IF YOU ONLY HAVE**10****MINUTES**

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



Name: _____



Write four things you can do individually or with your family, friends or community, to spread awareness or educate others about the importance of caring for our planet and neighbors near and far.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

We often refer to our planet as our common home. Why? What does “home” mean to you? Why do our actions affect people living in different parts of the world?

