

HOME

FURTHER RESOURCES & IDEAS

The theme of “Home” lends itself to all sorts of further activities – and most of all to seeking how to engage with your local area to make it a better home for people and wildlife. Below are a variety of ideas and links for further reading and activities. There are also extra resources in “Home – Small Group Material” and “Home – Children’s Activities”

TRANSITION TOWNS



The Transition movement (www.transitionnetwork.org) contains many of the values of ‘home’ that this pack and Jeremiah 29 both talk about. Each Transition Initiative is “a place where there’s a community-led process that helps that town / village / city / neighbourhood become stronger and happier”. In other words, it’s about bringing local people together to find locally-driven solutions to some of today’s global issues.

There are now over 1,000 Transition Initiatives around the world, and some of the areas that are typically addressed are local food, transport, energy, education, housing, waste, and the arts, all as responses to the global challenges of climate change, economic hardship and shrinking supplies of cheap energy.

Whilst the Transition movement is not Christian-based, and some of those involved are of widely different worldviews, there are many who feel it is “doing what the Church should always have been doing” in creating healthy, resilient, supportive local communities. As a result, many Transition Initiatives have one or more Christians at their heart alongside people of other faiths and none.

- Why not research the Transition movement online, or even better by going along to meetings of a nearby Transition group?
- If there’s a local Transition group, why not get involved, and encourage your friends to as well?
- If there is no local Transition group yet, how about getting together with people of goodwill locally to set one up? The whole process is devolved and shared, and often begins by showing a series of films about sustainability / food / climate change and having informal discussions afterwards about what to do.

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FURTHER INFORMATION / READING

- **“Home-love and Conservation”** by Leah Kostamo (A Rocha Canada). A brief but thought-provoking article on home-love or “Oikophilia”, including a review of “How to Think Seriously about the Planet: The case for an Environmental Conservatism” by Roger Scruton, OUP, 2012. www.cardus.ca/comment/article/3848/home-love-and-conservation
- **“Where is my home?”** by Dave Bookless (A Rocha International). A short one-page blog suitable for reproducing in a church magazine. blog.arocha.org/post/where-is-my-home
- **Wendell Berry** – one of the great contemporary thinkers about the importance of ‘home’, belonging and place. His poems are a good place to start e.g.: agrarianideas.blogspot.co.uk/2010/11/poems-by-wendell-berry-about-home-and.html
- Simone Weil, *The Need for Roots*, London: Routledge, 2001
- Casey, E. S., *The Fate of Place: A Philosophical History*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997
- Craig G. Bartholomew, *Where Mortals Dwell: A Christian View of Place for Today*, Baker Academic, 2011
- Steven Bouma-Prediger, *Beyond Homelessness: Christian Faith in a Culture of Displacement*, W B Eerdmans, 2008

CREATIVE HOUSE BLESSING

Praying for your house can involve physical acts, and encompass the different senses:

- **Touch** - physically lay hands on the walls of your property, or sprinkle water on the walls and doors, as you pray around each room in the house
- **Smell** - light incense or scented candles in the rooms as symbols of a prayer-filled home
- **Sight** - place a suitable bible text above the entrance door of your house, and hang some suitable artwork or symbols that speak (not too obtrusively!) of your faith, or light a candle in each room
- **Hearing** - sing a simple song of worship or play one on a music player and welcome the presence of God into your property
- **Taste** - Have a special meal, ideally with locally-grown produce, invite neighbours to share it with you, and give thanks to God for the blessings of food, home, neighbours etc.