

# Ten Ways: Practical Ideas for Ministry



Each of these one-page handouts from Thrive shares ten easy, practical ideas that provide a springboard for conversation, training, and planning around various faith formation challenges.



## Thrive

800-272-5125  
crcna.org/Thrive

## TO CARE FOR CREATION

## 1 START AN INTERGENERATIONAL GARDENING PROJECT

Create a church garden or green space and tend it with the help of church members of all ages. Consider enlisting those in your church who are familiar with gardening to manage the project. The garden could be used to grow fruits and vegetables for church or community members, or could simply be a place to plant native flowers and vegetation.

## 2 BE A CLIMATE WITNESS PARTNER

Become a part of the Climate Witness Project ([justice.crcna.org/climate-witness-project-0](http://justice.crcna.org/climate-witness-project-0)). Through this project groups of people are helping their congregations engage in creation care around three core areas: prayer and worship, learning more, and advocacy.

### 5. HOST AN ADULT EDUCATION SERIES ON CREATION CARE

Hosting an education series is a great way to get the conversation started on creation care. The Climate Witness Project has a number of resources for you to use. From the short video series *Climate Conversations* to the *For the Love Of* documentary and study guide, the Climate Witness Project's education webpage has the tools you need to get started!

## 4. HOST A FILM OR FILM SERIES ON THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Partner with area congregations to rent out a theatre or host the event at your church. Popular films on the topic include *For the Love of, Climate Conversation: Kenya, Before the Flood*, and *From the Ashes*. Invite panelists who are impacted or who have expertise to continue the conversation after the film.

## PRAY FOR COMMUNITIES THAT ARE IMPACTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE.

FRAT FOR COMMUNITIES THAT ARE IMPACTED BY...

# Ten Ways

## TO MAKE YOUR CHURCH A SAFER PLACE

We believe that because each person is created in the image of God, each one is to be treated with dignity and respect. Faith formation happens best in a nurturing context of healthy relationships. Safe Church Ministry equips congregations in abuse awareness, prevention, and response, helping to build communities in which the value of each person is honored and people are free to worship and grow free from abuse. Although no ministry is risk-free, there are action steps that can minimize harmful risks and prevent abuse.

**PAY ATTENTION TO ABUSE PREVENTION**

### 1 PAY ATTENTION TO ABUSE PREVENTION

create a safe environment for everyone.

**2 IDENTIFY A CHAMPION WITHIN THE CHURCH** Often abuse prevention is most effective when someone champions the cause. This person may be a member of the congregation who have directly or indirectly experienced abuse and, as a result, may be passionate about preventing it. One of these people may agree to spearhead efforts to form a safe church team for the congregation or for the diocese.

**5** **CONNECT WITH SAFE CHURCH MINI**

#### 4 DEVELOP AND FOLLOW A SAFE CHURCH OR ABUSE PREVENTION POLICY

person. Policies designed to protect those who are

**5 PARTICIPATE IN ABUSE AWARENESS SUNDAY**

from Safe Children  
abuse awareness!

As far as possible for your child, here are

## 1 BE POSITIVE

Instead of saying, "We have to go to church" say "We get to go to worship." Teach your kids that worship isn't just a place we go, it's something we are able to do. You might also set a positive tone by adding words like the ones Flarefing in the Pew author Robbie Castleman used with her kids: "Jesus must be so excited it's his special day!"

Create patterns that help you  
before and set the alarm a

**3. TAKE ALONG WORSHIP TOOLS**

It can be difficult to sit quietly for a long time. To help your child learn to sit still, engage your children in working and

childproof with a finger labyrinth for prayer (search [firstthings4kids.blogspot.com](http://firstthings4kids.blogspot.com)), a small pencil for drawing/writing questions, impressions, and prayers (visit [prayingincolor.com](http://prayingincolor.com) for info). **7c** Invite your child to decorate a blank journal to use as their worship journal. Read through it together after worship.

Parents with young children often sit on their children's behavior and can not

**These free resources are available  
in English, Spanish, and Korean.**

