

## WEEK 3: BANGLADESH

### CARE FOR GOD'S 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.

#### STORY OF HOPE

Monpura, Bangladesh is a beautiful island with beach views, forests and gardens. But in some areas, natural disasters like cyclones damage the landscape in the summer and autumn months. Houses are lost, farmlands flood, and roads and dikes break. Residents are always looking for new ways to protect their homes.

Noornobi's land would flood often, making it difficult to grow vegetables year-round. He found day labor catching fish, but limited work made it difficult for his family to eat well.

Through Catholic Relief Services' Mutki Project, Noornobi learned how to prevent his land from flooding, farm using chemical-free and organic fertilizers, and raise chickens and ducks to sell. Now, Noornobi farms more than half of his land and grows a variety of vegetable, which he sells. With the profits, he can support his family.

"If I can build a nice family ... I will be grateful," Noornobi says.



Photo by Amit Rudro for CRS

#### FACTS TO CONSIDER:

- Bangladesh is a populous South Asian country next to India with lush greenery and hundreds of rivers and tributaries, which are streams that flow into a larger river or lake.
- Cyclones and other natural disasters linked to a changing climate cause flooding throughout Bangladesh that destroys homes, farms and other infrastructures.
- Catholic Relief Services is helping families reduce the risk of disaster through vegetable gardening, making homes more resilient, organizing savings and loans groups, and providing safety gear and training to fisherman.



For downloadable photos, visit [crsricebowl.org/photos](https://crsricebowl.org/photos) and watch the video from Week 3 at [crsricebowl.org/stories](https://crsricebowl.org/stories).

## CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

45 MINUTES

### OBJECTIVE

Through the story of Noornobi in Bangladesh, students will explore the Catholic social teaching principle of Care for God's Creation and how they can help take care of our planet and global family.

### MATERIALS

- Week 3 story and video—available at [crsricebowl.org/stories](https://crsricebowl.org/stories).
- Paper and colored pencils, markers or crayons.

### DISCUSSION (15 MINUTES)

1. Locate Bangladesh on the map.
2. Read the story from Week 3. Use the video to supplement the story.
3. Reflect:
  - What did you find interesting about the story?
  - How do cyclones and other natural disasters affect Noornobi and other families living in Bangladesh?
  - How do our actions affect the environment, and why is it important to protect and care for the earth?

### ACTIVITY (25 MINUTES)

1. Explain the Catholic social teaching principle of Care for God's Creation. God created every plant, every mountaintop and valley, every animal and person—everything and everyone. And God said they are good. Our planet and global family are gifts from God, and so we must take care of them—for ourselves and for all people.
2. Activity instructions:
  - a. Provide students with drawing paper and colored pencils, markers or crayons, and have them draw two pictures of examples outside: one that demonstrates caring for creation and one that demonstrates mistreatment of creation.

3. If time permits, ask students to share one picture they drew and explain how it shows care for creation or mistreating creation.

### CLOSING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

*Loving Creator of all things,*

*You have given us a beautiful home and have asked us to care for it. May we always be respectful and loving to all your creation—remembering it is a gift for all people—and we pray especially for Noornobi and others who are most impacted by changing climates.*

*Amen*

### AT HOME

1. Share your drawings with your family.
2. As a family, read and discuss the daily reflection in your **CRS Rice Bowl Lenten Calendar**.

### IF YOU ONLY HAVE



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