

## 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.



#### 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 [csrcricebowl.org/stories](https://csrcricebowl.org/stories).
- Index cards—25 for each group.
- Hair dryer.
- Extension cord.

### 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 stood out to you in the story?
  - How do cyclones and other natural disasters affect Noornobi and other families living in Bangladesh? What are some other potential direct or indirect consequences of these disasters? For example: school disruption, health services disruption, not having enough food to grow or develop fully.
  - 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. Divide the class into small groups. Give each group 25 index cards.
  - b. Ask the groups to reflect on the following questions. The groups should come up with at least six responses for each question. Have them write each response on a separate index card.
    - i. What are some examples of changing climate?
    - ii. What are some examples of the impacts of changing climate?
  - c. When all the groups have completed at least 12 cards, have them attempt to build a house of cards using all 25 index cards. Tell them to build the tallest but sturdiest house they can. While participants are building their houses, discretely plug in the extension cord and hair dryer.
  - d. When groups have completed their houses, use the hair dryer to blow them down. Point out that farmers who are poor are the ones most susceptible to the adverse effects of changing climates and that the effects of changing climates like drought, storms and flooding are difficult to overcome.
3. If time permits, ask students to share how they felt about their house being destroyed and what they can do to help care for creation.

## CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION CONTINUED

### 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. Share about your house-building activity 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.