

WEEK 2: HONDURAS

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

Rony is a farmer who lives with his wife Reina and two children about two hours from Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras. His son Emilson, age 14, dreams of becoming a professional soccer player. Determined to support Emilson's dream, Rony enrolled him in a soccer academy in Tegucigalpa, despite the expenses involved, and looked for ways to increase his income.

Rony participated in a Catholic Relief Services project to learn new farming techniques and how to care for the land and natural resources. CRS also helped him repair an old reservoir and install a low-cost irrigation system with pipes and hoses that uses very little water to grow his crops. Now he can harvest his crops even if it doesn't rain.

Today, Rony can feed his family, pay the soccer academy's fees and help people in his community. He's even become an active advocate for caring for the environment. "That's the best way to guarantee the lives of our families and the animals," he says.

FACTS TO CONSIDER:

- Honduras, a country slightly larger than Tennessee, has one of the highest levels of economic inequality in Latin America. CRS has worked in Honduras for more than 60 years and is helping communities become safer and increase their access to income and education.
- Honduras shares a border with Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua. It has coasts on the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. Among the country's main exported agricultural products are bananas, coffee beans and sugarcane. CRS has been providing humanitarian assistance in Guatemala since 1963, supporting food security, nutrition, health,



Photo by Oscar Leiva/Silverlight for CRS

agriculture, education, disaster risk reduction and emergency response programs.

- In 2020, Honduras was hit by hurricanes Eta and Iota. Thousands of people lost their homes, and crops were damaged or destroyed. When the country faces a natural disaster, the magnitude of its impact is greater because of climate change, erosion of the land and other factors.



For downloadable photos, visit crsricebowl.org/photos and watch the video from week 2 at crsricebowl.org/stories.

CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

45 MINUTES

OBJECTIVE

Through the story of Rony in Honduras, 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 2 story and video—available at [csricebowl.org/stories](https://www.csricebowl.org/stories).
- Week 2 Activity Sheet: Grades 7-8.

DISCUSSION (15 MINUTES)

1. Read the story from week 2. Use the video to supplement the story.
2. Reflect:
 - What would it be like to live in a place where the weather has such a big impact on your family's survival?
 - Invite a volunteer to read the following words from Pope Francis: "Once I was in the countryside and I heard a saying from a simple person who had a great love for flowers and took care of them. He said to me, 'We must take care of the beautiful things that God has given us! Creation is ours so that we can receive good things from it; not exploit it, to protect it. God forgives always, we forgive sometimes, but creation never forgives.'"
 - Ask students what it means that "God forgives always, we forgive sometimes, but creation never forgives."

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. Have students complete the Week 2 Activity Sheet: Grades 7-8.

3. If time permits, ask students to share one way they can care for our planet and global family.

CLOSING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

Holy Father,

Do not let us be indifferent to what is happening around us. Send your Holy Spirit to water our arid hearts with hope. Stoke in us the flame of fraternity. Make us set the world on fire with acts of justice in favor of those who suffer most. Transform our attitudes and make our minds fertile to new ways of living. Enlighten us to propose, support and defend projects and laws that protect the environment. Take our hands to till ways of solidarity, and make our works and words bear fruit.

Amen

AT HOME

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

IF YOU ONLY HAVE

10

MINUTES

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

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?

