

Puppet Script

(PJG002)

**Climate change;
what a pain!**

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PUPPET SCRIPT: “CLIMATE CHANGE – WHAT A PAIN!” (PJG002)

Aim of script: To encourage people to think about how their energy rich lifestyle affects others, particularly the poor.

Use of Script: In an All Age Worship Service setting, the script can be introduced by a simple quiz or talk on climate change and the effects on different countries around the world.

The script can be followed by an encouragement to people to make simple changes to lifestyle, so that we don't continue to “harm” our poorer neighbours in the world.

Main themes: Climate change, loving our neighbour, the earth is the Lord's, justice

Biblical references: Romans 13:10, Psalm 24:1

Characters:



The script is a dialogue between a young boy puppet called “James” who wants to follow Jesus but keeps getting things wrong, and his wise old “Grandad” puppet who helps to sort him out. The puppet boy “James” is dressed in a white vest over his normal clothes for this script. Each puppet is operated by one person from behind a screen and so it is essential that the voices are heard; radio-microphones are ideal. Puppets and puppet screens can be purchased from many sources including <http://www.onewayuk.com/>

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James appears humming away dressed in a white short sleeved vest.

Grandad: *(speaks off stage)* Hello James, Can I come into your room please?

James: Yes of course – come in Grandad.

Grandad appears.

Grandad: Wow, it's like an oven in here James.

James: Just how I like it Grandad – nice and hot like the Sahara desert.

Grandad: Mmmm. Surely you don't need a fan heater on as well as the central heating James?

James: I do feel the cold rather Grandad.

Grandad: I'm not surprised! We are in the middle of winter and all you have on is a vest! Wouldn't it make more sense to put a jumper on James?

James: Too much effort Grandad. It is so much easier to just switch on my fan heater. Why don't you take your jumper off if you are so hot?

Grandad: James, has it occurred to you that you are being very wasteful of the earth's resources?

- James: Oh Grandad, pl-ee-se....spare me the lecture on the earth's resources. All I ever seem to hear these days is that the climate is changing.... it is such a pain.
- Grandad: Why is it such a pain James?
- James: For one thing, my mum seems to think I should walk more instead of getting a lift in her car. She wants us to cut down on our "use of energy" as she puts it. So I had to walk to school yesterday in the pouring rain.
- Grandad: How long did that take you James?
- James: Ten minutes Grandad....and I could have had those extra minutes in my nice warm cosy bed and I got wet.
- Grandad: Well I must agree with your mum James. I think it will do you good to walk more and it does mean that you are using up less of the earth's resources.
- James: Oh come on Grandad....as if me walking to school is going to make a difference to the polar ice caps melting... but it will certainly make a difference to my lie-ins!.
- Grandad: I can see that.
- James: And another thing. Mum is now insisting that I switch off the lights whenever I leave a room.
- Grandad: Your life is changing isn't it James?
- James: It is Grandad....and then there is dad.
- Grandad: Dad?
- James: Dad has decided this year that we aren't going to go abroad on holiday. He said that because we flew last year, we shouldn't fly this year....apparently we need to reduce our carbon footprint. The only carbon footprint I have ever made was when I climbed up the inside of the chimney and walked over mum's new cream lounge carpet afterwards.
- Grandad: I remember it well.
- James: I am hardly going to do that again, am I? Dad went purple with anger when he saw my beautiful black footprints, so I don't understand why he is linking carbon footprints with flying. I think he is losing his marbles. I am actually feeling very cross about all of this.
- Grandad: I can see that James.
- James: And then **you** come in and tell me that my room is like an oven. Next thing I'll have dad turning the thermostat down and we'll all freeze in this house. Can't a boy enjoy any comforts without someone making them feel guilty?

Grandad: James, I understand that this must all feel like a big pain for you, but there are some people in the world that are really suffering as a result of the climate changing. They don't have to cope with tiny inconveniences like putting on a jumper or walking to school in the rain. They are suffering from floods, and droughts which destroy their homes, and they are struggling to even be able to grow the food they need to eat.

James: I am sorry for those people Grandad, but how does me walking to school, and me having a cooler bedroom affect them? They live miles away.

Grandad: We are part of the problem James. It is because we are using up so much energy that the world is heating up and the climate is changing.

James: We've had floods too Grandad. I saw them on the telly.

Grandad: I know James, but in our country we have much stronger houses and more money to put things right when disasters happen. In many countries the poor people become even poorer when disasters happen. Many of them lose their homes and some of them die.

James: How awful Grandad.

Grandad: It is James, but we can do something about it. If each one of us here tries to do our small bit to save energy, then all those bits will add up and there will be a big effect on our climate. That will help the people who are living in the poorest countries.

James: I didn't realise that what I do in my everyday life has an effect on someone else living on the other side of the world. I don't want to be selfish.....Oh Grandad, I have done something good today then...I was a bit worried about it, as there is rather a large pool of water in the kitchen.... but now I've had my talk with you, I know it will be all right.

Grandad: What have you done James?

James: I have done something to save electricity today.

Grandad: Uh huh?

James: I switched off mum's large chest freezer in the kitchen. I thought she wanted me to switch off all the lights and there is a big light on the freezer.

Grandad: Oh James!

Exit James and Grandad