Thank You for the Rain

“It is the greatest injustice of our time and age that those who did nothing to cause climate change are first and hardest hit... Thank You for the Rain should be a wakeup call for all.” - Jan Egeland, Former Co-chair of the UN High Level Panel for Global Climate Services.

Thank You for the Rain (87 min, 2017) (Ages 11+)

Captured through the lens of his own camera, Thank You for the Rain is the inspiring true-life story of Kisilu Musya, a smallholder farmer in Kenya. When his family and village experience the devastating human costs of the global climate crisis, Kisilu transforms into a community leader and international activist. He journeys to the world’s most important international climate conference, the COP, to share his story with the world.

Exploring intersecting issues of climate justice, gender equality and access to water and education, this film is a call to action for a better future for all. Watch the trailer at: thankyoufortherain.com/trailer

Get involved

Film screenings are a great way to explore, facilitate discussions, and empower young people to act on issues of global social justice. Whether you share the experience with your youth group or choose to involve other members of your community too, Thank You for the Rain will start challenging conversations and inspire responses.

Planning and promoting a film screening is easy! You could arrange a virtual screening from the comfort of your own homes, or (if lockdown guidance allows), make use of facilities in your local school or community hall. You might even ask your local independent cinema to show the film. Why not support your young people to organise and promote the screening themselves? This will enhance their learning and hopefully increase their engagement with climate justice.

How do I host a screening?

Christian Aid has purchased a licence for unlimited, free home and community screenings throughout 2021. To receive a free access link to Thank You for the Rain, contact Christian Aid’s Campaigns Team at campaigns@christian-aid.org. This link will enable you to download and screen a copy of the film on your laptop, TV or screen projector.

As long as you don’t make a profit from screening the film, you don’t need a ‘premises license’ or any other license. This means that you can watch the film and host as many screenings as you want! Full details about licensing can be found at: independentcinemaoffice.org.uk/advisesupport/what-licences-do-i-need/
Organise a watch party

1) Share the Thank You for the Rain link with all participants and ask them to download the film to their device – let them know this may take a couple of hours.

2) Set a date and time for everyone to watch the film simultaneously. Alternatively, participants can watch the film in their own time, and you can set a date and time to discuss the film together. While Thank You for the Rain is suitable for adults and children aged 11+, we recommend that young children watch the film with an adult so that they are able to discuss the film as they experience it.

3) We've collated some useful Discussion Starters (below) to spark conversations. Encourage participants to discuss the film with members of their household and set up an online discussion for your group to reflect and respond to the film together. You can use a variety of platforms to facilitate your reflection sessions, including:

- Zoom, Teams or Skype (or similar video conference platforms) to host discussions
- A WhatsApp group chat to share responses through texts or voice notes
- A live stream on your group's Facebook page to pose questions and enable text responses. Please note, our screening license does not permit live streaming of the film itself.
(Remember to share the details with your participants in advance so there's time to get everyone involved!)

4) Grab yourself some snacks, get comfy on the sofa, and be inspired by Kisilu's incredible story.

In-person or community screening

If current Government guidelines permit, and if you are able to gather safely and with sufficient distancing, community screenings are a great way to bring people together. You may find a suitable space in a local church, school, college, university, community hall or independent cinema. You might even have a good space for a screening outdoors!

1) Download a copy of the film onto a device using the link provided by Christian Aid's Campaigns Team.

2) Depending on the scale of your event, you'll need to connect your device to a projector or large TV screen. This may require some additional cables or adapters, so be sure to test your set-up well in advance of your screening. If you're using another venue, someone may be able to help you with this to ensure you get the best sound and picture quality possible.

3) Decide on a place, time and date, and invite your youth group. To ensure you get a good turnout at your screening, it's best to give people at least 3 weeks' notice.

4) If you're inviting other members of your community to attend, you might want to think about promotion. Church notices and newsletters are a great place to start. You might also want to promote your event online through social media. You could create an event through Eventbrite (a free online booking website). This will increase your promotion and will give you an indication of how many people hope to attend. You will be able to limit the number of attendees if necessary.

5) After watching Thank You for the Rain, use the Discussion Starters below to help your group reflect on the themes of the film and what climate justice actions they can take in response. Depending on the situation, you may wish to lead this session as a group exercise or encourage people to discuss these Starters with those around them.

Promotional Resources

You may wish to make use of the downloadable posters, images and film summary available at: thankyoufortherain.com/media.
Discussion Starters
Once your group has watched Thank You for the Rain, it’s important to allow time and space to reflect, discuss and act together. We’ve created these Discussion Starters to help initiate climate justice conversations between family members, friends, and within a group setting. You may wish to give people a few minutes to reflect on their own before starting your discussions. Remember, you know your group best. Use and adapt these Starters to fit with the experience and dynamics of the young people present.

- How do you feel?

- What moments in the film stood out for you most? Why do you think these moments stood out for you?

- Is the impact of climate change shared equally across the world?

- Do you think it’s fair that communities like Kisilu’s are most affected by climate change when they have contributed least to its causes?

- What does ‘justice’ mean to you? Why do you think the climate crisis is an issue of global justice or fairness?

- Despite his best climate justice efforts, Kisilu often feels powerless and frustrated. Have you ever felt powerless to challenge something unfair? How did this make you feel?

- When Kisilu is talking about the ants in the aftermath of the storm, he says “Despite the fact that they are very small, they have power in coming together and working together... I wonder why human beings are not doing it”. What do you think stops humans working together for climate justice? How can we become better at working together?

- Kisilu reaches out to his family, friends and community to speak out against the climate crisis. How can you and your youth group raise awareness of the climate crisis and act in solidarity with Kisilu?

- In November 2021, the UN’s climate conference, COP, is coming to Glasgow. What message would you give to world leaders as they meet to discuss climate justice and the impact of climate change?

Next Steps
There are many fun and engaging ways to get involved with climate justice!

Windows on the World is a great way to introduce primary school children to global issues. The learning resource focuses on how young people around the world are tackling climate change.

Our Bible Studies help young people to discover what the Bible says about justice and climate change. Exploring the Bible can be a great way to understand why and how we can respond. We’ve pulled together a few starter ideas for different age groups to help get young people talking about faith and climate justice.

If young people wrote Letters for the World, what would they say? This creative resource helps young people join with others across the UK to share messages of hope for the environment, and for people struggling with climate change.

If you and your young people are passionate about climate justice and want to support those living in vulnerable communities, we would love for you to fundraise with us. Your young people will have loads of creative fundraising ideas, and you can find more inspiration at: christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/fundraising

Check out all our latest youth climate justice resources at: caid.org.uk/youth-climate
My Planning & Discussion Notes: