Hope Has a Voice:

Climate Stories That Connect, Inform & Inspire

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Why Climate Stories Matter:

Talk with a Neighbor:
In your own faith or moral tradition, why are stories powerful? How are they used?

Create a Story in 7 Steps:

① Think about people, places, & other life forms important to you…and others.

② Introduce your topic. Begin to build a narrative.

③ Pivot to talking about the current situation.

④ Connect the dots to our growing climate crisis.

⑤ Connect the dots to your faith & beliefs.

⑥ Inspire & empower your audience to take action.

⑦ Offer an invitation to others to tell their story.

Talking with 3 Common "CS" Groups

- **Climate Skeptics**
- **Climate Silents**
- **Climate Stewards**

Who to Tell Your Climate Story To

Storytelling Groups

Resource: The Art of Climate Dialogue, ecotheatrelab.com/the-art-of-climate-dialogue

What's Your Climate Story?

Use this template to help you talk about our climate crisis.
Download the full resource at iowafaithandclimate.org/climate-story

Step 1: Think about things that are important to you…and others.

Step 2: Build a short narrative introducing your topic.

Step 3: Pivot to talking about the current situation.

Step 4: Connect the dots to our shared, growing climate crisis.

Step 5: Connect the dots between our climate crisis, solutions, the benefits, & your faith.

Step 6: Inspire and empower your audience to take action.

Step 7: Offer an invitation to others to tell their climate stories.

Bonus! Once you're comfortable telling your story, record a video or write a blog post and share it with us!

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What's Your Climate Story?

35 Questions for Starting Conversations

Begin with curiosity, not persuasion.

Noticing Change

1. What changes have you noticed in the weather or seasons during your lifetime?
2. Is there something about the natural world you remember from childhood that feels different today?
3. Have you noticed anything changing in your garden, farm, or local landscape over the years?
4. What's one outdoor place that matters to you, and how has it changed?
5. Are there things you used to expect from the seasons that feel less predictable now?

Personal Experience

6. Have you ever had an experience with extreme weather that stuck with you?
7. What's a moment when you felt especially grateful for the natural world?
8. Has climate or weather ever affected something important in your life, like your work, hobbies, or family plans?
9. Is there a particular year or event that made you start paying more attention to climate or weather?
10. When do you feel most connected to the land, water, or natural world around you?

Faith, Values, and Meaning

11. How does your faith, the sacred texts you read, or your values shape how you think about caring for the Earth?
12. What teachings, stories, or traditions in your faith influence how you think about creation or the environment?
13. When you think about future generations, what hopes do you have for the world they'll inherit?
14. Where do you find hope or motivation when you think about the challenges our planet faces?
15. How is your faith community engaging with the challenges of our climate crisis?

Action and Possibility

16. Have you ever taken a step—big or small—to care for the Earth? What inspired it?
17. What's something people in your community are already doing that gives you hope?

18. If you could change one thing about how our community cares for the environment, what would it be?
19. What climate action do you wish you could take that just feels impossible right now?
20. When you see examples of the growth of cleaner energy like windmills, solar panels or car charging stations, how do you feel?

Invitation and Reflection

21. What experiences have shaped how you think about climate change?
22. How often do you talk / think / hear about climate change, and why do you think that is?
23. What's one story about the Earth or the changing climate that you wish more people would hear?
24. When do you feel anxiety or concern about how our climate is changing, and what do you do about that?
25. Have you heard the terms eco-anxiety or eco-grief? When have you experiences those feelings?

Questions for Climate Skeptics (with tips about why they're useful)

26. What kinds of changes have you noticed in the weather or seasons over the years? *(This starts with observation rather than explanation.)*
27. Have you ever experienced a storm, drought, or weather event that really stuck with you? *(Personal experience is easier to talk about than abstract ideas.)*
28. What do you think has influenced the way you see climate change or environmental issues? *(Invites them to explain their perspective rather than defend it.)*
29. What do you think people often get wrong when they talk about climate change? *(Allows them to voice concerns and feel heard.)*
30. Are there things about the natural world or the land that you especially care about protecting? *(Moves the conversation toward shared values like stewardship, farming, hunting, or local landscapes.)*
31. *What kinds of changes would worry you the most if they started affecting our community more often? (This helps people articulate what they value and want to protect.)*
32. *Are there things communities like ours could do that would make us more prepared for whatever changes might come? (Focuses on resilience rather than argument about causes.)*
33. *What do you think farmers, towns, or faith communities around here are already doing well when it comes to caring for the land? (Affirms existing stewardship and local knowledge.)*
34. *If there were practical steps that saved money, strengthened farms or communities, and helped the environment, would those be worth exploring? (Introduces solutions without ideological framing.)*
35. *What kind of future would you most want for your kids or grandkids when it comes to the land, weather, and natural world? (Connects the conversation to shared hopes for future generations.)*