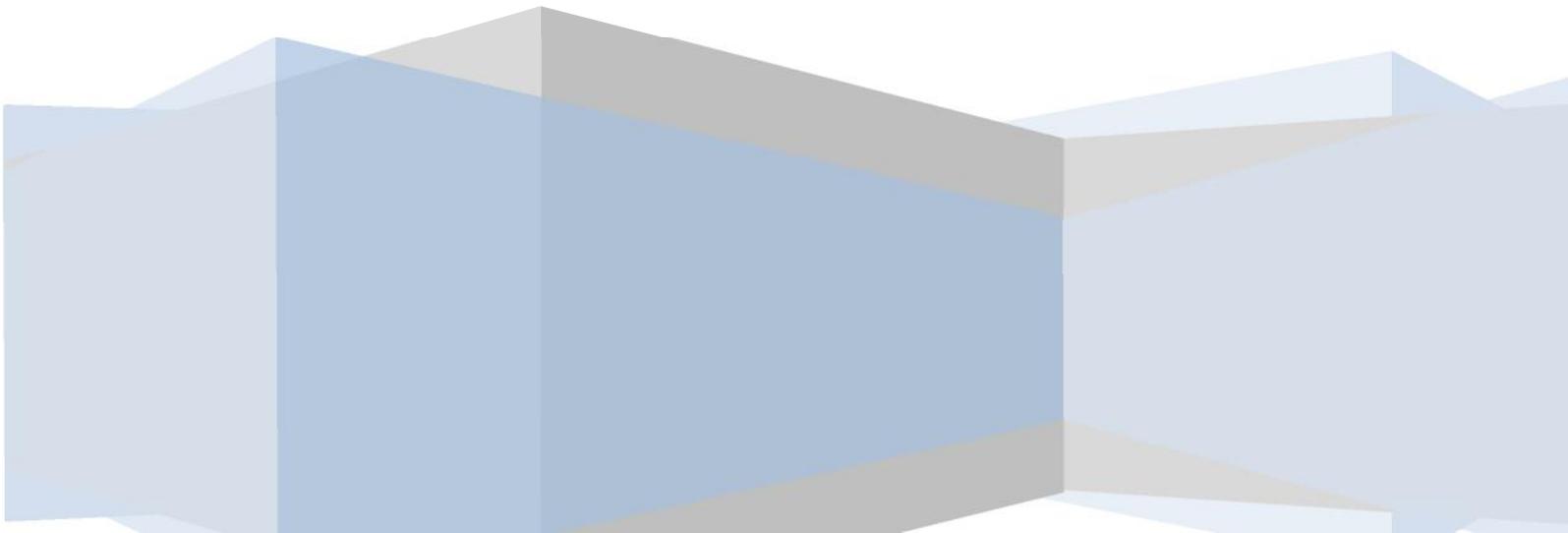




# Lesson Plan: Religion and Climate Change

For Christian schools and home schools in Canada  
(Grades 10 – 12)





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## Religion and Climate Change

*[The [National Geographic movies](#) that accompany this lesson plan are available at our website. Click on the education menu, find this lesson plan and click on the link provided.]*

**Length:** One 50 minute lesson

**Level** – Grades 8 - 12

**Applicable Courses:** Social Studies, Worldview Studies, Science

**Overview for Teachers** – Turn on the radio or TV, look through a newspaper or magazine, and you will undoubtedly come across something about “climate change.” How did this one issue consume the West so quickly? Why has the media and our governments bought into it with religious zeal? Why do we hear it referred to as “climate change” rather than “global warming” now?

Christians have a God-given mandate to care for this world. Being “green” is usually a good thing. But there is something about this whole climate change hype that seems wrong. What is the problem? Is it just bad science? Or is there more to it than that?

The purpose of this lesson is to get students to understand that there is more to the climate change hype than bad science. It is being promoted with religious zeal because there is religious motivation behind it. Secular humanism believes that we are all there is. Without an all-powerful and loving God, we have to be responsible for Mother Earth ourselves. Humans are to blame for changes in climate and humans are responsible to fix it. Mixed in through all of the climate change rhetoric is the call to a form of international socialism. International bodies (such as the United Nations) are supposed to govern the redistribution of resources from richer nations to developing nations. National governments are not to be trusted because they will likely consider only their own well-being. These unaccountable transnational bodies are given more and more power as they work towards promoting their humanistic worldview.

In this lesson, students will watch two short videos (located on the ARPA Canada website) produced by National Geographic and the United Nations about climate change. The purpose of the lesson is to get students to think critically about what they see and to recognize the humanistic worldview behind the movies. This worldview will then be compared with our Christian belief about the world.

### **For Further Study:**

For more information on the science of global warming, go to [www.cornwallalliance.org](http://www.cornwallalliance.org). There are also a couple of articles on the ARPA Canada website.

<http://www.cornwallalliance.org/docs/an-open-letter-to-the-signers-of-climate-change-an-evangelical-call-to-action-and-others-concerned-about-global-warming.pdf>

<http://www.cornwallalliance.org/docs/a-call-to-truth-prudence-and-protection-of-the-poor.pdf>

<http://www.npr.org/documents/2006/feb/evangelical/calltoaction.pdf>

## Procedure

- 1) Introduce the issue of global warming/climate change to the class by bringing up some of the points made in the introduction.
- 2) Show the class the two movies available at [www.ArpaCanada.ca](http://www.ArpaCanada.ca) (click on the education tab and then the link to the movies that accompanies this particular lesson plan). If time is limited, just show the first movie.
- 3) In conjunction with the movies, ask the students to fill in the accompanying form (the climate change videos column) by writing down quotes and points that come up in the movie. It may be a good idea to show the movies twice. See the second form a few pages further for some suggestions of what can be filled in the form. Also, here are some quotes and points that came up in the first movie (*A Way Forward: Facing Climate Change*) that could be given as examples:
  - Global warming “threatens every species on earth”
  - “The world’s top scientists...have issued urgent warnings.”
  - “The IPCC reports leave no room for doubt. Global warming is a fact.”
  - “Humans are the main cause of climate change and its dangerous side effects.”
  - Global warming will intensify drought...aggravate flooding...lead to disappearing glaciers and rising oceans, disturb biodiversity, kill off some species, lead to starvation, make third world countries suffer the most
  - “We can shape a different future.” We must stabilize greenhouse gas emissions so that the temperature can drop two degrees. All of us must change our consumption patterns. But it is largely up to governments. IPCC suggests we change the way we think about energy. Help developing countries choose a more environmentally friendly course.
- 4) As a class, go through the Christianity column of the form and provide Bible texts or points of doctrine and belief from our faith to compare with the ideas expressed in the *National Geographic* film. For example, [read Lord’s Day 10](#) of the Heidelberg Catechism and compare answer 27 and 28 with the message in the *National Geographic* movies?

## Some Features of Religions

Religions Explain/Answer	Climate Change Videos	Christianity
Where do we come from?		
Are we on our own?		
What/Who is the ultimate authority?		
Where are we going?		
Who should be responsible for guiding us to the truth?		
Does it rely on faith? If so how?		
Examples of Evangelists, Prophets, etc.		

## Some Features of Religions

Religions Explain/Answer	Climate Change Videos	Christianity
Where do we come from?	Belief in evolution is assumed. Humans are products of change just like the rest of nature.	Genesis 1 and 2 – We were made by God. Belief in Him is assumed.
What/Who is the ultimate authority?	Science (as if it were one singular voice). Science is all-powerful and all-knowing.	God is the authority. He is all-powerful and all-knowing. The sciences testify to His power and work (Romans 1).
Can humans turn anywhere for help?	No, it is up to us to change the climate and ensure the survival of both nature and humanity.	Lord’s Day 10 of the Heidelberg catechism and Matthew 6:26 – God cares for nature. But even more, he cares for us. He is our heavenly Father.
Where are we going?	Eternal destruction, unless we repent and change our ways quickly.	Eternal destruction, unless we repent and change our ways quickly.
Who should be responsible for guiding us to the truth?	We have an individual responsibility to change our ways and make things better.  International bodies (unaccountable and undemocratic) should supervise this.	We have an individual responsibility to change our ways.  God ultimately guides us by His Word and Spirit.
Faith	No scientific certainty to prove the hysterical claims, despite the claim that it is a fact.	No scientific proof of the existence of God and the truth of His Word although the Bible says that creation itself testifies to its truth (Romans 1)
Evangelists, Prophets, etc.	Al Gore, David Suzuki etc.	Apostle Paul, Augustine, etc.