



Hours of Reality

— Truth in Action —

Continuing the Conversation: **PEOPLE OF FAITH**

Faith Will Change the World

We know faith can change the world. We've seen it firsthand.

As Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews, Sikhs, and more, we've led the great movements for justice, dignity, and compassion in our world. We braved water cannons and unconscionable hate to fight for civil rights. We opened our hearts and dedicated our lives to ending hunger across the planet. We spoke truth to power when all others were silent.

As we see the climate crisis ravaging creation and spreading poverty and suffering planet-wide, we know it's time to stand and lead again. Because whatever our creed and however we know our creator or presence, we are all called to protect the Earth we share. We are all called to protect the poor and vulnerable among us.

As people of faith, we can move the world to act.

But the change has to start with us, with talking to each other about what's happening to the planet and how we can solve it. In our churches. In our mosques. In our synagogues. In our temples. Everywhere we meet for reflection and worship.

The good news is that you don't have to be an expert to have a climate conversation. You just have to tell a simple story. So simple, the basics are just 11 words long:

We must change. We can change. We will change. Here's how.

Below are some talking points to help you tell this story. Tell the story in your own way and voice, using what feels right for *you* and *your* audience.

WE MUST CHANGE

- **We are called to be stewards of creation.** Our creator/presence has entrusted the Earth to us to care for and manage responsibly for future generations. But now fossil fuels and

consumption culture have created a climate crisis, putting our very home in danger.

- **We are called to protect the poor and vulnerable.** When rising temperatures turn hurricanes into wrecking balls and floods swallow homes, those worst hit and first forgotten are inevitably the poor and people of color. The injustice couldn't be clearer — and it's got to end.
- **We have to act quickly.** We're approaching a catastrophic and irreversible tipping point. Unless we slash global emissions by 2030, our children and future generations will live in a world where disappearing water supplies, endless wildfire seasons, and lethal heatwaves are simply the new normal.

WE CAN CHANGE

- **The tools to end this crisis are in our hands today.**
- **With renewables like wind and solar, we can take charge of our future and power our houses of worship, our homes, and our lives without destroying our planet.** Clean energy is affordable and abundant. [More energy from the sun's rays strikes the earth every hour than humanity uses in an entire year. Globally, wind could supply the Earth's electricity needs 40 times over.](#)
- **Making a just transition to clean energy will protect creation from climate change, fight poverty and create opportunities in communities worldwide.** [Clean energy puts 11 million people \(and growing\) to work worldwide.](#) Clean energy is also [cheaper than fossil fuels for two-thirds of the planet.](#) By embracing clean energy, we give developing communities the tools to lift themselves out of poverty without sacrificing their health and future with fossil fuels. We can bring jobs to communities from Atlanta to Appalachia and beyond.

WE WILL CHANGE

- **Leaders of every major faith are calling for action.** From Pope Francis' encyclical to the Islamic Declaration on Climate to the Hindu Declaration on Climate, proclamations from

all the world's great religions are all saying the same thing: We must act now.

- **Faith communities are responding and embracing practical solutions.** Muslims in Indonesia are working to build 1,000 eco-mosques. The Church of England is pushing energy companies to reduce emissions quickly. The New Poor People's Campaign in the US is uniting Christians to fight fossil fuel pollution in communities of color. The list goes on.
- **More and more people of faith are with us.** [Seven in 10 US Catholics recognize the danger of the climate crisis.](#) Nearly seven in 10 US Protestants do too. Growing numbers of Muslims, Jews, and people of other faiths also support urgent action to solve this crisis.
- **We have the numbers to change the world.** [There are over 6.1 billion people of faith in the world.](#) When we act together, our leaders must listen.

HERE'S HOW

- **We make 2020 the turning point.** The 2030 deadline for action is approaching fast. In 2020, global leaders will meet to strengthen the Paris Agreement. It's our chance to set a new course for the planet.
- **We make 2020 a national conversation on climate.** The future of our Earth and our families isn't a partisan issue. In 2020, we need to make our commentators and religious leaders talk about the crisis.
- **One question for every elected official: "What will you do about the climate crisis?"** National leaders and elected officials need to have a plan for solving the crisis threatening our future. We can make sure they do.