

# The Five R's

*A short skit to promote recycling, reusing and reducing in a faith community setting*

One: walks across stage with backpack on back, as if just home from school, looking at a piece of paper. Passes a recycling container without noticing it, and starts to toss the paper into a nearby trash can.

Two: (rushes onto scene with a large Green "R" on chest) Stop! What do you think you're doing!?

One: coming home from school?

Two: No—that's not what I mean, silly! What do you think you're doing with that piece of paper?

One: ahhh—putting it in the trash can?

Two: Right! I mean, wrong! I'm Recycle Person, and that's not what we do with a piece of paper when we're finished with it!

One: That's what I plan on doing with this one. It's a note from my teacher to my parents.

Two: Then wrong on two counts! First, you need to face your failings in this life and try to learn from your mistakes. And second: Do you see that other container? (points to recycling container)

One: Yep.

Two: That's where we put paper and other recyclable items. *If* you were to dispose of that painful-but-eventually helpful note, that would be the place to put it.

One: (sarcastically) I guess it's going to save some trees.

Two: every sheet of paper requires three and a half times its weight in trees to produce.

One: Okay—I can see your point (and heads for the recycling container)

Three: (runs onto stage, an "R" on chest) Stop! What do you think you're doing?!

One: Sorry—you're too late (points to Two)

Three: Oh, I'm not Recycle Person—I'm...Re-use Person.

One: Seriously?

Three: Very seriously. Does that piece of paper have a clean side?

One: Yesssss...

Three: Then we should not waste it. You should keep it and use it for other purposes.

One: But, but...you don't understand about this piece of paper...it can't fall into the wrong hands...

(Two whispers in Three's ear)

Three: But if it were to end up in the hands of certain persons, it might be good if there were an apology written on the back...

One: That's got possibilities...after all (starts to sob)...they've been so good to me, teaching me to be a good student, to treat other kids respectfully, and then I go and do THIS... (holding up the note while reaching for a paper towel to wipe away the tears)

Four: (runs on stage, large R on chest) Stop! (at that point, Two and Three sing: "...in the name of love...")

One: (looking at third R with other two) And who "r" you??

Four: I'm Reduce person. We're taking way too much from God's earth, and we just have to say "no."

One: (holding up paper towel) To paper towels?

Four: How does 51,000 trees a day in the USA sound to you?

One: Just for paper towels? No way...

Four: Way. And there are plenty of options for drying those tears: a handkerchief, a nearby shirt sleeve, a friend's shoulder. Use your imagination—not a paper towel...and the tree it came from.

One: (looking at piece of paper and paper towel) Wow, I have learned a lot today.

Five: (runs on stage, large R on chest) But wait—there's more!

One: (to audience) Why am I not surprised...? (to Five): and your R is for...?

Five: Redemption person.

One: As in... Jesus?

Five: As a matter of fact, yes! Says in the Bible that one of these days God wants to heal everything—humans, as well as trees and all the creatures that call them home—through Jesus. And if God thinks nature is worth redeeming...

One: ...we should treat it better too.

Five: (to audience) So, people, when it comes to the metal, glass, plastic and paper that passes through our hands, remember the Five R's! (the others have turned around with backs to audience)

Two (twirling to face audience): Recycle!

Three (ditto): Reuse!

Four (ditto): Reduce!

Five (ditto): Redeem!

One: (One has had an R on his t-shirt under his button-up shirt – which has been held closed by a small piece of duct tape; at this point he pulls open his shirt to reveal his own "R") Resist!...hiding stuff from your folks—it's way more trouble than it's worth!