Church and Youth Group Stewardship Session Outline

A 50-minute session on stewardship, using Pango and real species records, ending with one patch of ground and a date in the calendar.

At a glance

- **For:** church groups, youth groups, and family ministries. Mixed ages, with a leader.
- **Length:** 50 minutes, or 75 minutes with the service project planning section.
- **Tone:** serious but hopeful. Practical rather than political.
- **You will need:** the Pango reading guide or the story; the species profiles on the site; paper; a wall calendar.

Opening - 5 minutes

Read Pango's greeting aloud: "I am a drawing, not a photograph - but the animal I am drawn from is real, and so is the trouble pangolins are in." Ask the group what the difference is between caring about a story and caring about something real.

Teaching - 12 minutes

Stewardship means looking after something that was entrusted to you and that you did not make. Cover three ideas plainly, without arguing anyone into a position:

- **Entrusted, not owned.** A steward answers for how a thing was cared for.
- **Small and unnoticed still counts.** A pangolin is not useful to us, is rarely seen, and cannot ask for help. That is precisely the test of stewardship.
- **Care that lasts.** A single tidy-up day is a kindness. Returning to the same patch for a year is stewardship.

Discussion - 15 minutes

- What has been entrusted to this group that nobody else is looking after?
- Who is the smallest, least noticed living thing on our grounds?
- Where do we already meet creation every week without noticing it?
- What has our group started before and not finished? What made the difference?

Practical session - 15 minutes

Walk the grounds together - the car park edge, the boundary hedge, the lawn, the drainage ditch. Note aloud what lives there. Then choose exactly one patch to take on.

1. Name the patch.

2. Name what you will do to it: leave it unmown, plant native flowering species, remove litter, keep water available in summer, stop spraying it.
3. Name two people responsible.
4. Put the first working date and the three-month review date on the wall calendar before anyone leaves.

Close - 3 minutes

Ask each person to say one sentence: something they will notice this week that they have walked past for years.

Optional: service project planning - 25 minutes

- Adopt one species profile on this site as the group's focus for a year and learn it properly.
- Build a pollinator strip using species native to your area; check a local extension or wildlife agency list before planting.
- Take on a litter-and-water route along a local creek, with a fixed monthly date.
- Host a reading of Pango's Secret Armor for younger children, using the reading guide and discussion worksheet.

Leader notes

- Keep it non-political. Talk about the patch of ground in front of you, not policy.
- Do not quote statistics from memory. Read them from a species profile with its verification date, or leave them out.
- Do not promise outcomes. Promise the return date.

Pango is an illustrated character created for this project, not a wildlife photograph. Every factual statement here comes from the canonical, sourced species records on endangeredspecies.humanity-project.org/species. Free to copy and print for classroom, church, youth-group, and family use.