

Green Ninja Video

We just talked about the Pope, and how he wants us to Care for Our Common Home. Now we are going to learn about specific ways we can each do our part to accomplish that goal. Has anyone heard of a **carbon footprint**? Basically, that is a term to mean how much impact each of us has on the planet. You know how when you walk in sand or mud, you leave behind a footprint? Well, sometimes a person's actions can leave behind a footprint on the earth - just that it is not one you can see, an *invisible* one.

We are going to watch a video called "The Green Ninja: Footprint Renovation". I want you to pay particular attention to what the Green Ninja does because we are going to talk about his actions and the differences he makes in this video.

(watch video)

O.k., now that you've seen the video once, we are going to watch it again, but this time I'm going to stop the video at certain points and I want people to tell me how they think the Green Ninja (GN) improved things.

(watch video to where the GN throws the LED light bulb)

Has anyone heard about using energy-efficient light bulbs? (If they know, you could ask if they know whether or not they are being used in their house, e.g., spiral kind). Basically, the Green Ninja is showing us that lighting our home takes energy, but that there are certain you can do to reduce that energy by using certain kinds of light bulbs last longer and use less energy.

(watch video to where the GN rearranges the trash to put in recycling bins)

What is the GN doing here? Has anyone put things in recycling bins at home? It's better to recycle things that have everything go into the trash then end up in one big waste pile at the dump, right?

(watch video to where the GN rearranges refrigerator to have mostly package-free, non-processed, healthy items)

What kinds of things are in the refrigerator now? Do you see lots of packaging (e.g., styrofoam, lots of things in individual containers)? The GN is telling us that things like whole fruits and vegetables are healthier for us and take less energy overall to produce than things like hamburgers and sodas.

(watch video to where the GN gets rid of the bottled water and installs a water filter – and turns off the water)

What did the GN do here? Does anyone have a water filter on their faucet at home, or use a Brita filter? How about putting drinks in a reusable water bottle or thermos?

(watch video to where the GN turns off the sprinkler in the rain, closes the window and turns down the thermostat)

What did you see the GN do here? Why do you think he did those things? Do you think it makes sense to turn off the sprinkler while it's raining?

(watch video to where the GN turns off the electronics)

How many of you have computers and TVs at home? How many of you turn them off after you are done using them?

O.k., thanks everyone for watching and hopefully you've learned a few things about saving energy and reducing your carbon footprint at home.