



Neither the one
who plants
or the one who
waters is
anything, but only
God, who makes
things grow.
1 Corinthians 3:7

GOING FOR GROWTH

Diocese of Bristol

Introduction to the Course

Our purpose as a Diocese is to create communities of wholeness with Christ at the centre which are growing in numbers, in commitment, in influence, and in partnership. This course has been designed to help churches across the Diocese explore what that might mean for our Christian discipleship. There are 6 separate sessions and the course would work well in Lent. However, it could be run at any time of the year and is very flexible.

Each session consists of a time for participants to get to know one another better, an in depth exploration of our purpose statement based around material from the gospels, and a time for reflection and prayer. The course could be run in the daytime or evening, in the week or at the weekend. There is photocopiable material for use by participants and a CD containing music and bible readings. The main pack is for the Leader of the course to use in preparation and for reference. A variety of suggestions are made to help Leaders adapt the course to the variety of contexts in which it will be used. At the end of the pack is a form which we hope Leaders will use to help us improve the course.

The idea of producing such a resource came from the 'Growth Group' and we are grateful to other members of this group for their comments and contributions. Particular thanks are due to Emma Langley and Claire Franklin, for layout and production, Berj Topalian for music and Phil Daniels, Rhoda Daniels and John Tucker for reading.

What we hope is that the course itself will help create and nurture a community of wholeness with Christ at the centre as it is run. This will entail the building of trust and openness, some imagination and risk-taking, and a desire to respond more fully to the Spirit of God. We pray that it will prove a valuable resource to churches and be a springboard for growth in faith and action across the Diocese and beyond.

+Lee
Jenny Low
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