



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

## Preparation needed before each session

### Preparation for week 2.

Jesus said he had come to bring 'abundant life' or 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10). What do you think makes for 'life in all its fullness'? Write a list of the key things for an abundant or full life and bring it to the next session (week 2).

### Preparation for week 3.

In preparation for week 3 (Communities) find out as much as possible about the people who formed the community around Jesus. Passages like Luke 6:12-16, 8:1-3, 10:38-39, John 1:35f., 11:1-3, Matthew 4:18-22, 9:9, 10:1-4, will get you started. You could also look up the names in a Bible dictionary - or go on line!

### Preparation for week 4.

During the week before session 4 (Creating) read through Genesis 1:1-2:3 or, if you have access to a recording listen to it read. If you have access to the internet you will find many amazing pictures of galaxies and nebula at [www.NASA.gov](http://www.NASA.gov). Look for things that excite you about God's creativity in the world at large, in the local community and within the church. Bring one thing to share with the group when you meet; a picture, an idea, a story, an observation....

### Preparation for week 5.

At the end of session 4 you will be given pieces of paper or sticky notelets. In preparation for session 5 (Creating communities of wholeness with Christ at the centre) answer on them:

- *What words would you use to describe your church (building)?*
- *What words would you use to describe your church (community of people)?*
- *What words would you use to describe a typical service in your church?*
- *What words would you like to use but can't at the moment?*

(A helpful way to approach this is to begin by asking yourself 'What words might people in our community use to describe our church building? Or our church as a community? Or a typical service in our church? If some of these are negative then they will point you towards answering the question)

## **Preparation for week 6.**

On the 'Going for Growth' DVD, Bishop Mike talks about our influence as Christians depending on an intentional step which often takes us out of our comfort zones.

Where is God calling you out of your comfort zone? During the week think and reflect on where you sense God may be calling you out of your comfort zones now. Write them on a piece of paper and put them under the front of your bible for regular reference in the next few weeks. Come prepared to share in week 6 (Going for Growth)