



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Leeds

Loving.
Living.
Learning.



Useful Resources for all ages

Introduction

There are plenty of resources out there, but the ones listed here are ones that the Diocese of Leeds Children, Youth People and Families Team have identified as being useful (we've not been paid to advertise any of them; honest!).

When looking at resources, whether the ones here or ones from elsewhere, there are a few points worth considering:

- Does it work for those you are working with?
Will they engage with it?
- Does it work for the leaders?
Can they access it? Does it make sense to them?
- Does it work for your church?
Does it represent the beliefs and values of your church?
- Does it work for your space?
Will it fit? Will it be safe?
- Does it work for your budget?
Can you afford it?

Remember: you get to decide! Resources are there to help you, not constrain you. If you need to pick and choose the bits that work, you are allowed to do that (but remember that the people who made the resource also knew what they were doing)!

If you have any questions or suggestions, you can contact the team using the details on the back page, or by visiting:

www.leeds.anglican.org/children-youth/home

Youth and Children's Work Magazine

A combination of Premier's two previous titles, Youthwork and Childrenswork, YCW is created for everyone involved in developing faith in youth and children's ministry.

Each monthly issue includes ideas, advice, resources and guidance to support and shape work with youth and children. With full length feature articles which include practical, stretching and challenging issues, resources, up-to-date news about developments in youth and children's ministry and culture, testimonies, how-to guides and much more. For a free copy see:

www.youthandchildrens.work/subscriptions/free-trial



Youth For Christ

British Youth For Christ have a suite of resources for 7-25s and families, including ongoing resources and sets of sessions. Some are aimed at discipling children and young people with an active faith, while others are more focused on engaging those on the fringes. Sessions can be used as written, or altered to taste, or constructed from scratch using an immense bank of resources; these include talks, video clips, games and other activities.

Details of all the resources, including how to start a free trial, are at:

www.yfc.co.uk/churchresources



Energize



Energize is a resource by Urban Saints, offering meeting plans for ages 3-18+. To help build a curriculum unique to your context, you can filter options according to topic, faith level, style, age group, group size and even venue size, before then choosing from different games, activities, videos and Bible-based discussions. There is also training and support for leaders in the form of articles, courses, videos and online chat support. For details of how to access a free trial, see:

www.energize.uk.net

Sessions

Sessions are the heart of Energize. You can use or adapt one of our existing sessions or create your own from scratch.



Series



Syllabus



Search



Blank Session



Saved Sessions

Alpha Youth

Alpha Youth is designed to be run anywhere for anyone between the ages of 13–18 and whether it's in a church youth group or in a school classroom.

Alpha has three key elements:

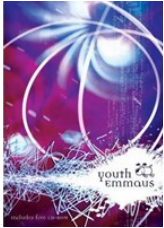
- **Food:** Food has a way of bringing people together and building community. So even if it's a light snack, sweets or a full meal, Alpha starts with food.
- **Talk:** Between 20–25 minutes long, each Alpha Youth Series episode unpacks the basics of the Christian faith, addressing questions such as 'Who is Jesus?', 'How can we have faith?' and 'Why and how should I pray?'
- **Discussion:** Throughout each episode, there are three discussion breaks. These breaks give a chance to share thoughts and ideas on the topic and discuss them in small groups.

www.alpha.org/alpha-youth-series



Youth Emmaus

Youth Emmaus helps young people aged between 11 and 16 to get to grips with the basics of the Christian faith.

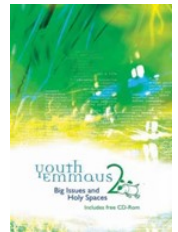


The book is in three sections

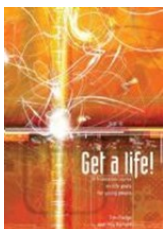
- What Christians believe
- How Christians Grow
- Living the Christian Life

It's aimed at 11-16s preparing for baptism and confirmation/fringe youth/any interested youth.

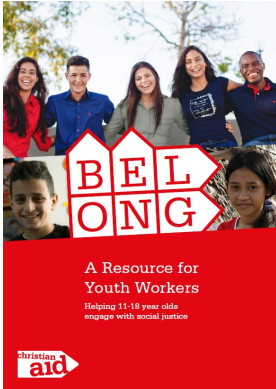
Youth Emmaus 2 is a fourteen-session interactive discipleship course for young people, designed to help 11 to 16 year-olds integrate their faith into life and to equip them as worshippers and disciples. It breaks down into two sections - Big Issues and Holy Spaces.



A follow-on from the Youth Emmaus books, **Get a Life!** approaches some of the big questions that 13-18 year-olds face in their secondary school years, including issues of vocation, calling, gifts, passions and the big question that many young people dread being asked: 'What do you want to do with your life?'



Belong



Belong is a resource by Christian Aid for youth groups to think about social justice and their place in God's world. It has 10 sessions which are packed with music, games, discussions, questions, and poems, and is flexible for 30mins, 60mins or longer sessions. There are lots of notes for leaders to help them think about raising young activists.

www.christianaid.org.uk/churches/belong-older-youth-church

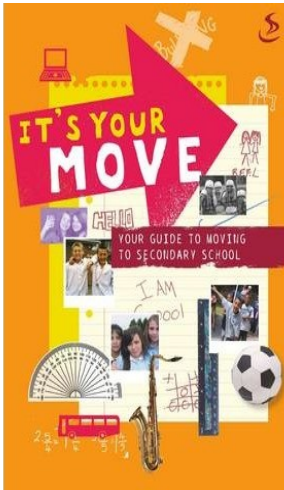
SPCK Assemblies

SPCK offer a range of assemblies for both primary and secondary school. The assemblies have a Christian outlook but are designed for use with children from all cultural and faith backgrounds. They provide seasonal assembly plans, as well as rapid response assemblies for use in the event of a serious public issue or tragedy. They also have many assemblies based on world religions, and even assemblies in Welsh!



www.assemblies.org.uk

It's Your Move & It's Your Next Step

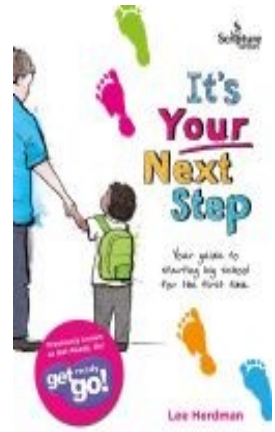


It's Your Move is designed for children moving from primary to secondary school. It contains 'survival tips', anecdotes from high school students, poems and jokes, and bible stories to encourage students to work through any fear they might have. It can be given out by churches or schools.

www.scriptureunion.org.uk/112817.id

It's Your Next Step is for parents/guardians and children to work through any anxieties about children starting school. It is designed to promote healthy conversations between adults and children about school and learning, and is ideal for church groups such as toddler groups to give out at the end of term before a child goes off to school.

www.scriptureunion.org.uk/3731752.id



SchoolsworkUK

A collaboration of schools and youth workers across the UK, SchoolsworkUK is passionate about facilitating a new and dynamic response to the challenges of the changing role of faith and spirituality in education, developing and deepening the skills of Christians visiting schools, and fostering a new vision for the church's contribution to education. They offer a range of resources, and a couple of examples include:

This resource is all about using art to open up the big questions with teenagers. The



pack comprises 12 high quality Artcards complete with stunning images from young people and questions to trigger discussion, debate and reflection on the question 'Where is God?'

Designed for three age groups, 7-13, secondary and 16+ (students) these playing cards can work in lots of different settings in schools

including:

- Group work
- Mentoring sessions
- Card tricks to use in the playground/dining hall

Discussion naturally flows from the questions that appear, whether it's through a favourite card game, a trick, or just taking a card from the pack and seeing what happens.



www.schoolswork.co.uk/resourcetoolkit

Explore Together

Explore Together is an all-age bible resource that engages people in a variety of ways or their choosing depending on their learning styles and spiritual preferences. Explore Together can be used in a wide range of settings, group sizes and age profiles, and encourages everyone to explore the bible alongside one another. It offers an open question with no wrong answers that the community can explore through the use of six different “Explore Zones”:

- Busy Zone
- Colour Zone
- Word Zone
- Listening Zone
- Chat Zone
- Quiet Zone

These offer different activities centred around different learning styles in order for everyone to be able to explore the bible in a way that feels comfortable to them.



www.exploretogether.org

Godly Play

Godly Play is a creative, multi-sensory approach to sharing the bible. It invites listeners into stories and encourages them to connect the stories with personal experience. The regular, predictable sessions build up a structure and an expectation from those participating to create a sense of reverence and familiarity.

At the heart of Godly Play is:

- Creating Sacred Space
- Building and working in community
- Learning religious language
- Using religious language to make meaning



Godly Play begins as an approach with 3-6 year olds but can be used with any age group, and has even been used with ordinands in training. Godly Play does not depend on knowledge, but on personal response and spiritual engagement, and is great for meeting people where they're at.

www.godlyplay.uk

Light

Light is Scripture Union's range of Bible-based learning resources for children, young people and adults, perfect for use in a Sunday School or Junior Church setting (and beyond!). Light provides a great mix of tried and tested Bible teaching which is flexible, dynamic, fresh, relevant and fun.



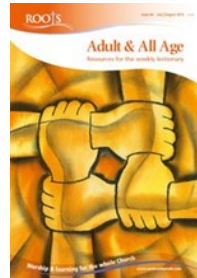
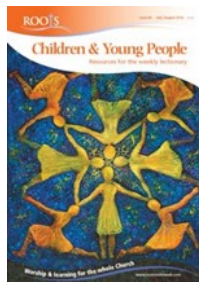
The Light range includes a range of Bible Timelines, specially written songs and music for worship and audio-visual web resources. Light is ideal for use with junior church on Sundays, in midweek Christian groups, at youth clubs and with children's prayer groups. Church ministers will find Light meets their needs as a preaching, teaching and learning resource, helpful for running youth cell groups and celebrations.

www.scriptureunion.org.uk/Lightcurriculum/42705.id

Roots

ROOTS resources can help you to:

- Plan inspiring worship.
- Encourage discipleship throughout the week.
- Nurture children and young people in their faith, every single week of the year.



ROOTS offers
weekly resources:

two sets of

- Adult and All Age; enriching adult, family and all-age worship and learning.
- Children and Young People; ideas and resources to inspire toddlers to teens.

www.rootsontheweb.com

Fruitfulness on the Frontline

Fruitfulness on the Frontline is a discipleship resource from LICC which looks at being fruitful Christians in today's world and in our own contexts.



It

involves group discussion, videos, self-reflection and much more, and thinks a lot about whole-life discipleship, not just Sunday worship.

www.licc.org.uk/ourresources/fruitfulness/

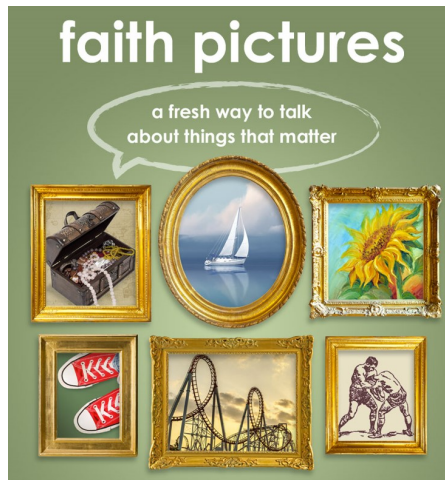
Faith Pictures

Faith Pictures is a discipleship course from Church Army UK. Its focus is about finding ways to talk about your own faith and faith journey through images.

The three things that are at the heart of Faith Pictures are:

- Honesty
- Humour
- Whole Church

www.churcharmy.org/Groups/266913/Church_Army/ms/Faith_Pictures/Faith_Pictures.aspx



Care for the Family

Care for the Family offer support in three main areas: marriage, parenting and bereavement. They aim to promote strong family life and help those who are facing difficulty, and have a whole wealth of resources which churches can use to help support family life.

www.careforthefamily.org.uk



Top Tips For Bereavement

Supporting Bereaved People



Parenting for Faith

Parenting for Faith is an organisation that helps equip parents to talk about faith in their own homes by using five key tools. They also have a Parenting for Faith course that can be accessed for free and run in your own church.

Parenting for Faith also helps the church link through how they can support and enable parents to flourish in their role of being spiritual leaders in their own home as God intended.

All of the course information can be accessed at:

www.parentingforfaith.org/course

Rachel Turner also runs monthly webinars for parents and church leaders on Facebook; past and future editions can be found at:

parenting for faith

www.facebook.com/parentingforfaithBRF

Jesus Shaped People

Jesus Shaped People is a whole church discipleship adventure which aims to motivate the whole church for mission and service. It looks at Jesus' ministry and asks what were his priorities and how can we, as a church, make that our priority.

JSP suggests five main priorities for the whole church to look at over a 15-week period. There are resources for all ages of children and young people; midweek group material and monthly outreach material as well as suggestions for intergenerational worship and fellowship.

In addition to the main programme, there are further JSP courses which range in length from five to ten weeks.

A free sample of the youth material can be found at:

www.jesushapedpeople.net/what-next



Want to motivate **your** whole church for mission and service?

Jesus Shaped People is a comprehensive and all-embracing programme, with resources for adults, children and young people. It can benefit a wide spectrum of churches, particularly those set in social housing estate communities. An introductory summary leaflet is available [here](#).

Jesus Shaped People builds on five key priorities in the life and ministry of Jesus:

[Find Out More](#)

[Donate to JSP](#)

Team Contact Details

**For further help or information,
please contact:**

childrenyouth@leeds.anglican.org