

Holy Habits – session 2: Fellowship

Introduction:

In Genesis, we read that the first time God saw something that was not good was when God looked at Adam on his own. It is not good for man to be alone...and so God gave Adam a companion. Fellowship is important, it is the time and place where many of the Holy Habits are fulfilled. One of the first things Jesus did in his ministry was to bring a small group of people around him for mutual support and spiritual development. Often fellowship is a term used to describe a group of people coming together who have a common thread to encourage each other and offer support and guidance as well as having fun and simply being with each other.

As a church we need to consider how we enable and encourage people to come together in separate age specific groups, in church together and as community /families.

Resources for specific Age groups:

Resource for work with children under 11

Under 4's: Playtime



Playtime provides support and advice for anyone interested in engaging with young families in a toddler group setting, providing seasonal resources. They include, ideas for sessions on themes and festivals, interactive stories, prayers, games, take home sheets for parents and carers and more.

www.careforthefamily.org.uk/faith-in-the-family/playtime

5 – 11's: Children's Society



Young carers are children from the age of five who fulfil care roles in the family due to adult disability or illness. What can your church do to bring young carers together and meet their specific needs. Do you

know who the young carers are in your groups? The Children's Society website has much to offer churches who want to work effectively with this group.

www.childrensociety.org.uk/what-we-do/helping-children/young-carers

Resource for work with young people aged 11-18

This is often the age where children are able to begin accessing the worlds of social media (Officially) so here's a resource to use with your young people to help them make wise decisions in the virtual world.

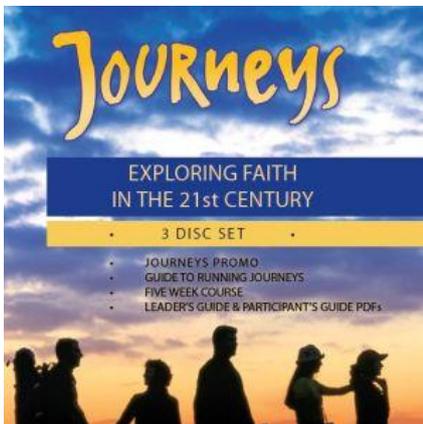


www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/young-people/resources-11-19s

Aimed at 11 to 19 year olds this site has films, games, quizzes and advice to help young people to use the internet safely, responsibly and positively.

Resource for work with young adults aged 18-25

Journeys – Exploring Faith in the 21st Century



<http://willowcreek.org.uk/product/journeys-curriculum-kit>

Designed by Willow Creek this course is a 5 week DVD journey to use in small groups to explore faith. It is aimed at people who are interested 'spectators' to Christianity and offers a unique blend of stories of faith, told by regular people whose lives have been impacted by God. Journeys shows how faith works at 'street level'. The course covers the following key topics:

Week 1 – Is there a spiritual side to me?

Week 2 – If God and heaven exist what are they like?

Week 3 – Does this faith thing work in real life?

Week 4 – Does God have real power to change things?

Week 5 – Crossing the line – what's that like?

Resources for Church together

Call to Mind (Discussion Starter Game)

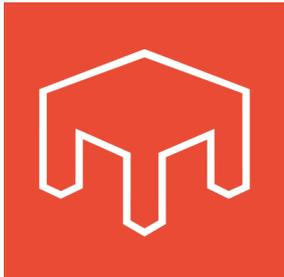


www.call-to-mind.com

This is a board game that is aimed at bringing people together to tell their stories and recall memories. It is specifically aimed at those with Dementia, However I can recommend it to any multi generational group. I used it at a cafe church style service to encourage the congregation to get talking to each other.

Resources for Community or families

The Kitchen Table Project



kitchentable.org.uk

Provided by Care for the Family, this online resource enables families to share ideas and learn from each other so we can all succeed in inspiring a faith that lasts. Ideas include how to pray with your children, modelling holy habits and discussion starters. The aim is to bring families together in their homes to live and explore their faith. Rob Parsons describes their new resource as being 'low on guilt and high on practical ideas'.

They also have a face book page for regular updates and ideas

<https://www.facebook.com/ktpcampaign/>

Parenting for Faith Project

parenting
for faith

parentingforfaith.org is part of the Bible Reading Fellowship; it's an online community that includes a course to run with parents and carers on developing spirituality of children within the family. It gives support and practical advice for raising God centred children and teens.

<https://www.facebook.com/parentingforfaithBRF>

Faith in Homes



faithinhomes.org.uk

Provided by the Bible Reading Fellowship this resource gives practical ideas for parents and carers to engage with their children of all ages in spiritual development, especially within the home context. The ideas work well within any small multi aged group.

The Resource



theresource.org.uk/category/parenting/

This is a project run by **Ali Campbell** / Youth and Children's Ministry Consultant. Its aim is to equip and inspire all those who engage with children and youth. Ali sends regular updates and blogs on every aspect of bringing children together and has an area for parents, enabling faith in the home.

<https://www.facebook.com/alitheresource/>

Reflection (5 Minutes' Peace)

Together is Better

The LORD God said, "It isn't good for the man to live alone. I need to make a suitable partner for him." Genesis 20 v 18

In Genesis, we read that the first time God saw something that was not good was when God looked at Adam on his own.

It is not good for man to be alone...and so God gave Adam a companion. Fellowship is important; it is the time and place where many of the Holy Habits are fulfilled.

One of the first things Jesus did in his ministry was to bring a small group of people around him for mutual support and spiritual development. Even at his death, Jesus made sure that his mother Mary would be cared for and not be alone.

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. John 19 v 25 – 27

Often fellowship is a term used to describe a group of people coming together who have a common thread, interest or life experience to encourage each other and offer support and guidance as well as having fun and simply being with each other.

As a church we need to consider how we enable and encourage people to come together in separate age specific groups, in church together and as community and families. Are we enabling those with common threads to come alongside each other? When was the last time we devoted time in our services and church calendars to be with each other to simply talk and share our own stories? Often it is seen to be the time we spend together over coffee or at an organised church social; but I would encourage us to bring opportunities into our services and programs where the only task is to get to know each other.

Take some time to consider your own 'times of fellowship'. Look at a normal week in your life.

Who are the people you spend time with and what is the quality of that time together?

Is it work, family, church? Consider your part in these groups, are you able to share and encourage as well as receive?

Are there areas that you would appreciate finding a group of people for a specific purpose?

What is the balance between time alone and time with others? Is it right for your needs?

It is not good for us to be alone. We need to be with others to build each other up, to share our faith and to be understood and cared for as well as to offer ourselves to others in this way.

Trinity God.

Thank you for those you have placed in my life. Help me to cherish the times I am with them and to do all I can to encourage and support them.

Amen.