



STARTING A TLS Lite GROUP

TLS Lite courses are locally organised and run and so are flexible according to your circumstances. Here are the essentials of setting up a course:

- Begin by asking around and bringing together people who may be interested. The obvious place to start is in your local church(es) but your Synod Training and Development Officer or TLS Regional Organiser may know of other interested people local enough to join with you so you should make early contact with them. Some courses have run with only one student and some with more than 20, 6 - 10 seems to be ideal.
- Consult your Training and Development Officer or TLS Regional Organiser about a tutor. It does not have to be a minister but you will need somebody with the time and inclination to read around and expand on the course notes and tutor guidelines. They will need some skills & knowledge in leading small groups but this does not have to be extensive as the guidelines provide a lot of help. Using more than one leader can help to spread the commitment.
- Once the group & tutor are set up, agreement is needed about venues, dates and times.
 - People's homes or church meeting rooms are both possible venues.
 - Weekly meetings can be a bit of a strain for those with already busy lives; monthly can seem too long a gap; fortnightly may prove the best – but decisions on this are definitely local decisions.
 - On the times of the sessions – the recommendation is 2 hours; and some of the courses have study days with both morning and afternoon sessions.
- Decide which course to begin with. From September 2016 there are two ways of studying on TLS Lite - BASIC LITE and LITE+PLUS. The two are differentiated by the outcomes that individuals are working towards and more information is given regarding these in the booklets. Course Members following either way study the same material, so may join the same LITE group. However any participants wishing to study LITE+PLUS will need to complete some courses in a particular order beginning with the Introductory Module.
- Obtain the course material direct from United Reformed Church House. Individual student booklets (£4.50) and a tutor guideline (£1 – £2.50) are available for each course:

By post	86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT
Phone	0207 916 2020
e-mail	publishing@urc.org.uk
Order online	http://www.urc.org.uk/publications.html

- LITE+PLUS participants will need to register for each course using the form in the booklets. Synods will record the details of those participating in BASIC LITE through their own system.
- When each course is finished, complete a feedback sheet. This helps to improve the course for future students, and comes with the bonus that a certificate is sent to every student who has attended all the sessions once the feedback is received.
- Your Synod may well be able to help with any further queries. Or contact the LITE Course Manager: Philippa Linton, Education & Learning Office, philippa.linton@urc.org.uk
020 7916 8635