

A guide to training resources for young leaders to use alongside the URC YOUNG LEADERS resource



Young Leader Essentials – from Youthscape
www.youthscape.co.uk/store £50

Every Synod has a Young Leaders Essentials box which a local church can borrow for free from the CYDO or equivalent. The box contains the leaders guide, a sample participant's handbook (you can buy these separately), game elements (board game and cards) that feature in the leadership skills section of the sessions.

“YLE is made up of six sessions covering six different themes of leadership drawn from the life of Jesus. Each session will explore an insight into the leadership example of Jesus, a practical youth work skill to build their confidence and ability, and a personal reflection to help develop character and fuel faith. Sessions are designed to be around 75 minutes and include video content, gamified learning, discussion questions and individual reflection.”

REVIEW

The course can be run pretty much out of the box with minimal preparation - a discipleship course on how to be a good helper. Would suit a regular church youth group.

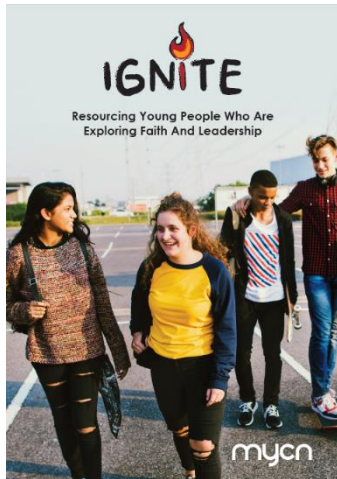
🤔 Not clear what age range this is aimed at. Requires a group and youth leaders who are used to talking about faith and Bible passages as a normal and large part of session. Focus on being a servant helper rather than sharing leading in terms of preparing content. Could be more challenging rather than reinforcing the status quo. 😞 Not very skills based. Does not look at inclusion for those new to faith, with disability, LGBTQ+, different economic backgrounds etc. Seems to view questioning as disruptive rather than encouraging open learning. Suggest session five needs more balance on self-care and avoiding burnout – rather than putting being a volunteer first.

🌱 Improve by adding a 'now what' section:

For young people – what would you like to do to help, where are your skills?

For youth team - what are you prepared to let the young people do?

Faith wise, now what? What further support is there to keep growing?



IGNITE from Missional Youth Church Network (Church Army)

<https://mycn.org.uk/resources/ignite-info/> **FREE**

“The Ignite resource has been developed to help young people who are exploring faith or who have recently come to faith, to go deeper in their faith and then explore discipleship and leadership through using the Five Marks of Mission.

We want to enable young people to discover God’s love and then get on a discipleship journey, especially those who are unchurched or on the edge of Church and so this resource has been developed with those kinds of young people in mind.”

There are five sessions on ‘knowing’ and five sessions on ‘sharing’. Each session has a short video and is video led. In the video it tells you when to pause and do activities. Sessions are designed to be short (20-30 mins) and able to slot into an existing group session or in a school lunch time club.

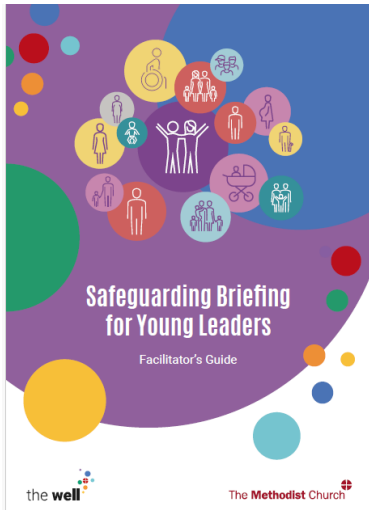
REVIEW

The course is easy to run using the free online materials, with guidance on flexing material to your group. Designed for those new to faith or considering faith and takes a ‘have a go’ approach, not just focused on leading in church. Uses the Five Marks of Mission framework for the second set of sessions. Would work with a very small group.

😬 Will work best if leaders are happy to share personal experiences, positive and negative, of church, faith and mission. Need to consider how to support the young people with different levels of challenge.

😬 Not very skills based. Tends to use male language to describe God. Discipleship with some leadership training within it, not really preparing for being a junior leader in church. Assumes a good relationship with the young people and/or good facilitation skills for open discussion.

🌱 Improve by preparing the church for supporting the planned transformation action arising from the penultimate session and generally finding ways to connect the church with the young people and enable safe intergenerational relationships to flourish.



Safeguarding Briefing for Young Leaders from **the well** (Methodist Church)

“This 90-minute session is for young teenage leaders in different children’s, youth and community settings across the Church. The session aims to help participants understand what it means to be a young leader and the safeguarding processes they need to know.”

Really helpful resource to adapt for URC settings with young leaders (such as Messy Church, Holiday Clubs, Junior Church etc).

Please get in touch with children.youth@urc.org.uk for a PDF copy.

[Guidelines for Young Leaders Safeguarding + Boundaries.pdf](#) from Suffolk Diocese

Helpful one page summary of responsibilities for safeguarding and keeping good boundaries for young leaders.



Professional FREE online training for those delivering young leader training looking at safeguarding within this.

National Youth Agency

[Safeguarding Young Leaders - National Youth Agency](#)

“Developing young leaders is vital to providing opportunities for young people to develop their skills and confidence and is also critical for the future workforce for the sector. However, it is important we do this safely and train young leaders in how to look after themselves and their role in keeping others safe. We are pleased to help produce this course so that this practice can be extended across the sector to ensure positive experiences for young people looking to become leaders in their local community.”

- *Safeguarding and youth work principles to support young leaders*
- *The role of a young leader in safeguarding contexts*
- *Protocols and strategies to help young leaders confidently respond to a safeguarding concern and the need for their own specific self-care and supervision.*