

THE CALL PROJECT

Leader's Guide



EXPLORING YOUNG VOCATIONS

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INTRODUCTION

The Call Project is a five session course for young people (11-16's) to explore leadership. The aim of this course is to help young people explore their sense of leadership, whatever that looks like!

The course will help young people to notice and experiment with their God-given gifts, grow as young leaders and explore God's call on their lives - now and into the future.

Thank you for facilitating this course with the young people you serve. A gentle word of warning... **please only start this course if you are genuinely prepared to give young people the opportunities to 'have a go', experiment, and lead others.**

WHO IS THIS FOR?

This course has been written for those working with young people in a variety of settings: churches, schools, youth groups, chaplaincies, and lunchtime clubs. We recognise that no two groups are the same, and no two sessions run in quite the same way. Because of that, the material is intentionally flexible, adaptive, and responsive rather than fixed or prescriptive.

You are encouraged to shape each session to fit the young people in front of you. You may choose to use the whole session, select particular activities, or return to a theme over more than one meeting.

Each session can be:

- Shortened to fit a lunchtime club or a brief youth slot
- Extended for longer youth group sessions, retreats, or discussion-based groups
- Adapted to suit age, context, confidence levels, and group size

The course works best when it is led relationally, rather than rushed; and when space is made for listening, as well as speaking.

This course is for all young people! Both those who would consider themselves young leaders and those who have leadership potential.

Let's help our young people's to expand their definition of leadership. Leaders can be extraverted; introverted; loud; shy; confident or in need of encouragement, with diverse passions and gifting.

YOUR ROLE

As course facilitator, your role is not to provide answers, but to create a safe and attentive space where young people can listen for God, for one another, and for themselves. Your presence, curiosity, and willingness to listen are just as important as the activities themselves.

You do not need to be an expert in vocations to lead this course. What matters most is your *openness*, *encouragement*, and *trust* that God is already at work in the lives of the young people you serve.

We hope that this course supports you as you accompany them — helping them to find their voice, grow in confidence, and begin to recognise the many ways God may be calling them.



SAFEGUARDING

A note on best safeguarding principles

Listening and responding to the voice of the children and young people is essential for effective safeguarding practice. Listening fosters a culture of trust. Building trusted relationships with children and young people is essential to hearing, understanding, and responding to what they're communicating. In practice, it is the depth of relationships that determine the extent to which their voices will be heard and responded to.

Listening promotes wellbeing. Paying attention to children and young people gives insight into their lived experiences. Hearing their views about their circumstances enables professionals and practitioners to take effective action.

Practice

Children and young people communicate in different ways. How can we adapt our practice to hear their voice of those who may often be excluded due to disability, age, development and language? Are our resources and sessions dual-coded, with prompts for leaders and alternative delivery options.

We trust that all leaders have been safely recruited and will adhere to safeguarding policy in their context.

If safeguarding issues arise please contact your Church/School/Group's safeguarding lead.

USER GUIDE

Icons within the guide



You say' - things you can say to the group



'Bible' - passages that could be helpful to read aloud



"Choose' - options to pick from for your context



'Time' - suggested time for each section.

Sessions are designed to be between 30 mins - 1hr.

Useful Vocabulary

It may be helpful to explain these terms to your group, to help build their an understanding of Christian leadership and vocation:

Vocation - a special "calling" or purpose in life, often described as a job or path that suits a person's unique talents and passions.

Leadership - being a positive, helpful guide who inspires others to work together toward a common goal.

A note about Christian faith & prayer

This is a Christian resource, designed to build up and encourage Christian young leaders. We understand that it may be run in a context by people exploring their faith, new to faith or have no particular Christian faith. If it feels appropriate, in a school setting, for example, please feel free to preface content with the phrase “Many Christians believe...”

Prayer

If you would like to offer the invitational opportunity for the session to end in prayer, you could say the short prayer below or ask if anyone in the group would like to say the prayer. You could use the statement below so that everyone in the group does not feel obligated to pray.

If you would like to make this prayer your own, you could join in with Amen at the end or you may wish to just sit quietly and reflect.

Optional Prayer Suggestions

Father God, thank you that we can gather today and learn more about you. We thank you that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. Help us to understand more about who you created us to be as we complete more of the sessions, and we pray that we make use of our skills, talents and gifts positively for the good of others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

FOR YOUTH LEADERS

This guide offers a practical and engaging pathway to help young people explore what Christian leadership could look like in their everyday lives. As a youth leader, you can weave it into small group discussions, mentoring conversations, or retreat settings, creating space for honest reflection, questions, and experimentation with leadership in a safe environment. It's worth considering the diverse stages of faith and confidence within your group—some young people may be ready to step forward, while others are just beginning to ask deeper questions about purpose. Your role will be to facilitate, not force, drawing out potential gently while encouraging a culture where trying, failing, and growing are all part of discovering God's call.

FOR CHURCH LEADERS

This resource can serve as a strategic tool for nurturing emerging leaders within your church community, helping to identify and develop young people who may not yet see themselves as leaders. It can be integrated into discipleship pathways, leadership pipelines, or intergenerational mentoring structures, ensuring that calling is discerned within the life of the wider church rather than in isolation. As you use the guide, consider how your church currently recognises and releases young leaders—are there real opportunities for them to lead, serve, and be heard? The effectiveness of the resource will depend not just on reflection, but on creating tangible next steps where young people can actively live out their calling within a supportive and accountable community.

FOR TEACHERS/SCHOOL CHAPLAINS

School user guide

Thank you for considering using this resource in a school context. It is likely your group will be made up of young people of all faiths and none. Therefore, planning and delivering need to...

...Be invitational

This resource creates a space for children and young people to explore who they are and how they can use who they are to positively impact the lives of others. It is important that everyone participating in this project is not forced to give their viewpoint and instead are encouraged to reflect on the content and respond in a way that is suitable for them.

...Be Inclusive

It is important that a particular faith or belief is not assumed throughout this project. Children and young people engaging with this content will be from a range of all faiths or none and so giving them space to respond from their own worldview is crucial. This point also impacts the language used within the sessions and phrases like 'we believe' should not be used.

...Be Inspirational

This project allows pupils to explore a Christian worldview without expectation of a particular response and does so using a variety of different activities and methods to draw out conversation and encourage children and young people to reflect. All children and young people are different and so you are encouraged to adapt any activities to suit the personalities and learning styles that you have in front of you.

FOR TEACHERS/SCHOOL CHAPLAINS CONT...

There are a variety of different ways that this resource could be utilised within schools by a range of different people. Teaching staff may utilise this resource within PSHE lessons, Collective Worship or as a stand-alone project in the summer term, especially with year 6 pupils as they reflect on moving to secondary school. It may also be utilised by volunteers and visitors that come into school, mostly commonly from a Church. In this case, it may be that the project is carried out in a lunch or afterschool club.

How does this project align with the SIAMS framework or key school priorities?

Church schools have an additional inspection alongside Ofsted: the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS). This project supports schools in evidencing several areas of the SIAMS framework.

SIAMS Inspection Question 2 considers how a school's theologically rooted vision is reflected in the curriculum, including how pupils' spirituality is understood and developed. Inspection Question 3 considers how Collective Worship enables spiritual flourishing. This project gives pupils opportunities to explore a Christian worldview, consider different perspectives and reflect on their own beliefs and experiences.

SIAMS also considers how a school's vision enables both pupils and adults to flourish. The Church of England understands flourishing as the 'fullness of life' – including not only success and high moments, but also the challenges and ups and downs of being human. The project encourages pupils to engage with challenging questions and think deeply about these experiences.

Community schools do not have a SIAMS inspection but have a legal responsibility through Ofsted to develop pupils socially, morally, spiritually and culturally (SMSC). This project provides meaningful opportunities to explore a Christian worldview, ask big questions and reflect on personal perspectives. Exploring these questions together also develops oracy, meaningful discussion and positive relationships.

THE VALV FRAMEWORK

We believe giving children and young people a **voice** breeds trust, builds confidence and fosters a sense of belonging. It is often the first step to children and young people realising they have **agency**.

Agency is the capacity of children and young people to make choices and influence events and environments in their life (school & church). As they exercise agency, children and young people are likely to develop **leadership** skills through taking responsibility and action.

Through their experience of leadership, children and young people discover God given passions and talents, beginning their lifelong journey of **vocation**...

V – Voice

Young people are given space to speak, question, reflect, and be heard. Their thoughts, doubts, hopes, and experiences matter.

A – Agency

The course encourages young people to recognise that they are active participants in their faith and discernment. They are invited to make choices, reflect honestly, and take ownership of their journey.

L – Leadership

Leadership is understood broadly — not only as formal roles, but as influence, service, courage, and responsibility. Young people are encouraged to see how they already lead in everyday ways.

V – Vocation

Vocation is explored as God's call on the whole of life, not simply a job or church role. The sessions help young people reflect on gifts, passions, values, faith, and the ways God may be calling them to serve — now and in the future.

DIOCESAN PRIORITIES

Strategic Priorities

The Diocese of Leicester is made up of 320 churches and 97 church schools. We want to see God's Kingdom come across Leicester & Leicestershire. We have five strategic priorities that provide a framework for what we want to see...

New Communities that REACH those with no contact with church.



Intercultural Communities that LEARN with Global Majority Heritage people.

Reconciling Communities that MODEL peace, justice and reconciliation.



Intergenerational Communities that BRING TOGETHER all generations.

Eco Communities that CHAMPION care for God's creation.



RESOURCES

Useful resources for after The Call Project has ended

Amplify is an evangelism mentoring scheme for 11-17-year-olds, seeking to encourage, equip and empower young people to share their faith with their friends, family and community.
<https://www.amplifyacademy.co.uk/>

The Bible Course: grasp God's big story in 8 weeks. Perfect for equipping young people in Biblical depth.
<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/the-bible-course>

The Prayer Course: An eight week journey through the Lord's Prayer. Go deeper into prayer to prepare young people for a faith filled leadership journey.
<https://prayercourse.org/home/>

Prayer Spaces in Schools: Creating space in schools where pupils can pause to reflect or pray
<https://prayerspacesinschools.org/>

Scripture Union School Resources: A range of free resources to help you plan and deliver great sessions in schools!
You can use these resources as individual activities or as part of your term time planning with our [Schools Live Syllabus](https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/schools-live-syllabus)
<https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/schools-resources>

RESOURCES

Useful resources for after The Call Project has ended

Parenting For Faith: Through books, courses, resources and training, Parenting for Faith has been equipping parents, carers and churches to help their children and teens meet and know God
<https://www.parentingforfaith.brf.org.uk>

Growing the Rural Church: Growing the Rural Church works to resource rural Mission Communities to creatively use their talents and buildings, and to connect with their unique communities and landscapes to develop sustainable futures. Young people can use this resource to catalyse their leadership ideas.
<https://www.growingtheruralchurch.org/>

Share Jesus International: Using 'Prompt' can further equip young people in their discipleship, leadership and growth. Prompt is a thought and a question each week for a year!
<https://www.sharejesusinternational.com/prompt/>

The Bible Project: Watch, read, listen and learn through a variety of resources created by The Bible Project.
<https://bibleproject.com/>

FINAL THOUGHTS

A Final Word: Keep Walking

This resource was never designed to give all the answers.

In accompanying young people as they discern their vocation, leaders are entrusted with something both delicate and profound: the shaping of a listening heart. More than offering answers, the task is to create space—space for questions, for doubt, for growth, and for encounter. A true vocation is not imposed but discovered, often slowly, through prayer, experience, and authentic relationships. As leaders, your witness matters as much as your words; your attentiveness can help a young person recognize the quiet movements of purpose within their own life. Trust the process, remain patient, and remember that your role is not to direct the path, but to walk alongside—encouraging courage, nurturing faith, and pointing always toward a deeper sense of meaning and service.

LET US KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS

Let us know where you are running this course, and who with. Email Vocations@LeicesterCofE.org
