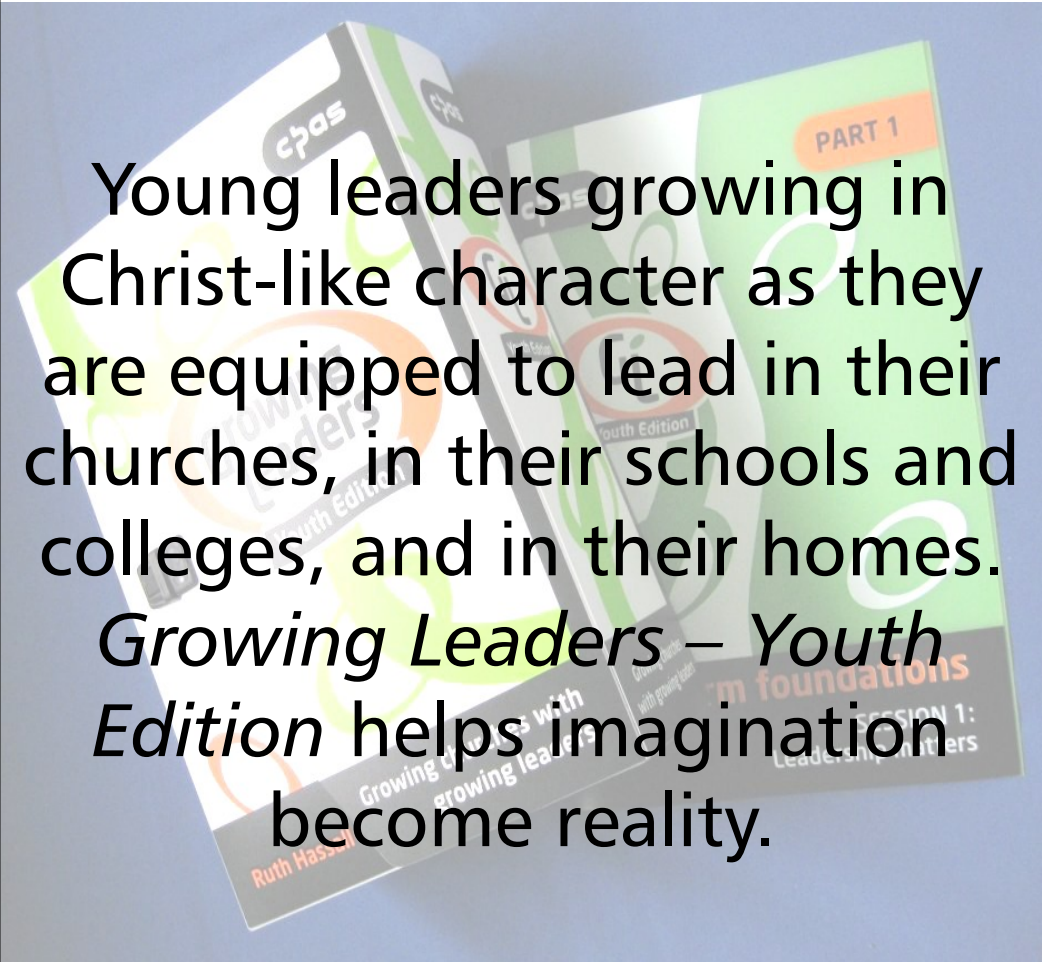




cpas

growing leaders – youth edition
an introduction

imagine

The background of the lower half of the image features several overlapping covers of the book 'Growing Leaders: Youth Edition' by Ruth Huskins. The covers are primarily green and white with orange accents. One cover prominently displays 'PART 1' in an orange box. Another cover shows the text 'SESSION 1: Leadership Fundamentals'. The book covers are slightly tilted and layered, creating a sense of depth.

Young leaders growing in Christ-like character as they are equipped to lead in their churches, in their schools and colleges, and in their homes.

Growing Leaders – Youth Edition helps imagination become reality.

'The course has given me more confidence in my leadership. I now recognise that leadership isn't always going to be easy, but I know it is what God is calling me to do!'

Hannah Branch (17)

why grow young leaders?

Research shows that leadership development starts early, very early.

The experiences young people have in their teenage years will go some way to forming their leadership capabilities in adult life. And, just as important, young people have so much to offer in leadership that the church will be diminished without their contribution.

Growing Leaders – Youth Edition provides resources for a church to use in developing 14-18s in leadership.

who is it for?

Young people take on leadership roles in a wide variety of contexts:

- In church as leaders of children's groups, or of a youth cell. Some may be on the church council.
- At school as leaders of class groups, the CU, prefects or part of the school council.
- In sports as captains of teams.
- In the community as leaders of uniformed groups, clubs, informal activities.

Yet few are offered any help to reflect on their role as a leader. Then there are those who don't have a formal leadership role but are exhibiting signs of leadership. *GL – YE* is for them all!

what does it cover?

Over two terms the course explores Christian leadership in a carefully designed process suitable for teenagers. Never pushy, always affirming, it offers individually tailored support for each participant through its combination of group sessions and personal mentoring.

The following two pages give an outline of what areas it covers. Focused around some clear aims, each session includes:

- **Way in:** an exercise to get into the topic.
- **Bible:** exploring the Bible in a variety of ways to help us understand the topic.
- **Activity:** varied approaches to integrating learning.
- **Worship/reflection:** engaging with God in worship and opportunity for personal reflection.
- **Refreshments!**



Overview: *Growing Leaders – Youth Edition*

Invitation	Jan-Feb	Personal invitations to potential participants.
Exploration	Feb/ March	A relaxed exploration of <i>Growing Leaders – Youth Edition</i> with an explanation of its aims and how it works, and an invitation to consider taking part.

Part 1: Firm foundations for Christian leadership

Session 1	April 24 hours away	Introduction: Leadership matters In this opening session we define leadership, identify the distinctives of Christian leadership, and focus on the way in which Jesus led.
See mentor	April	Getting to know one another.
Session 2	May	Foundation 1: Remember who and whose you are If we're to be a Christian leader we first need to be a disciple, sure of our relationship with God. This session explores the basis of that relationship (God chose us/grace) and the priority of spiritual disciplines in the leader's life.
Project	May	Spiritual check-up.
See mentor	May	Spiritual check-up and spiritual disciplines.
Session 3	June	Foundation 2: Getting to the heart The Bible places a lot of importance on our character. What are the character issues we face and how do we grow in Christ-like character?
Project	June-July	Interview with two Christian leaders.
See mentor	June	Reflect on character development.
Session 4	July	Foundation 3: Leading where you are We find ourselves in many different places – home, school, church, clubs, groups etc. How do we lead well in all these situations?
See mentor	July	Explore the different leadership roles we have and review <i>GL-YE</i> Part 1.





Part 2: Key skills of Christian leadership

Session 5	September 24 hours away	Skill 1: Growing your gifts This session looks at how we identify our gifts and talents and how we can most effectively use them.
See mentor	September	Discuss use of gifts and explore areas for development.
Session 6	October	Skill 2: Part of the team Leaders work with people, often in teams or groups. This session focuses on how we can support those who lead us, how we can be good team players and how to resolve difficulties within a team.
Project	October	Write a letter of encouragement.
See mentor	October	Explore working together and review <i>GL-YE</i> Part 2.

Part 3: Keeping faithful in Christian leadership

Session 7	November	Keeping 1: The bigger picture Leaders need to have a global perspective, aware of what's going on in other parts of the world and the role that we have in supporting leaders facing persecution. We'll also reflect on what the cost of leadership is for us.
See mentor	November	Explore costly leadership and a spiritual disciplines review.
Session 8	December	Keeping 2: Keeping on growing Leadership is a marathon not a sprint. How do we run a marathon well?
See mentor	December	Explore how we can keep on growing and review the course.
Review	December	Course leaders to review how it went, identify next steps for those who attended, and begin to plan the next course by identifying possible leaders and participants.

how does it work?

Sessions

There are eight sessions over a year, with an exploratory session before the course begins. Each session is two hours long, apart from sessions 1 and 5 which are a Friday evening and all day Saturday.

Spiritual check-up

Each participant is invited to conduct a spiritual check-up that helps them review where they are in their relationship with God. They discuss this with their mentor.

Mentors

Participants meet their mentor between each session. These meetings last between 60 and 90 minutes. The pack contains material to help identify, equip and support mentors.

Projects

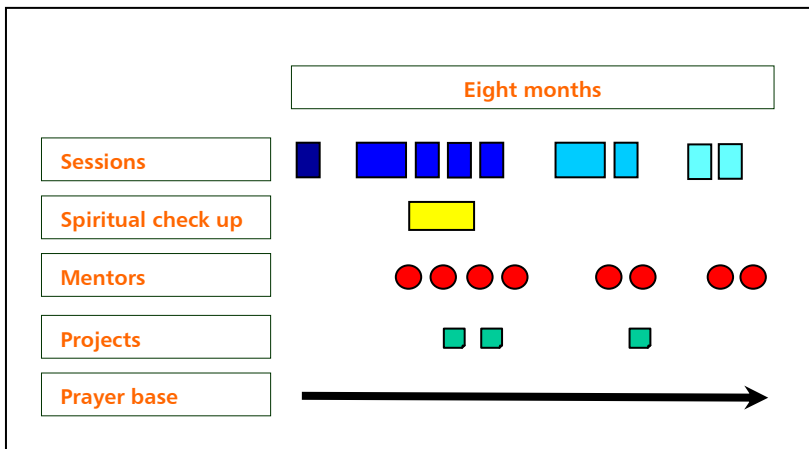
There are three practical projects as you go through the course. They are designed to help integrate learning with life and leadership.



'A lot of the kingdom is not about what you do, but who you invest in.'

Prayer base

Growing Leaders – Youth Edition doesn't simply focus on a few extra skills in leadership. It is about transformation. This is God's work in the young people's lives, and we encourage participants to identify someone who will pray for them as they go through the course. We also encourage the church to pray for the course as it progresses, recognising our dependence on his Spirit being at work.



what do you get?

The pack contains everything you need to run the course, including a copy of the course book. The materials are designed to be comprehensive yet flexible.

Introduction

A comprehensive guide to the philosophy behind the course and the practicalities of running *Growing Leaders – Youth Edition*.

Leaders' guide

Explaining how to run the sessions with detailed notes on the aim, content and delivery of the material.

Participants' handouts

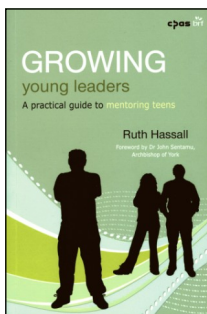
They are provided on paper in the pack, and as colour PDF files on the CD-ROM. Many of the sessions have additional activity sheets which may be printed directly from the CD-ROM.

Mentor resources

There are two mentor guides. One explores how to find mentors, the other is a guide for those who take on the role of *GL* mentor. There is also:

- A training session for equipping your mentors at the start of the course with PowerPoint and handouts.
- A mentor feedback sheet.

In addition there is an accompanying book by Ruth Hassall, *Growing Young Leaders*, CPAS, which offers practical advice on mentoring young leaders, available from CPAS.



Comprehensive, yet flexible.

Web based additional resources

There are a range of additional resources online, downloadable via a free subscription. These include:

- An ideas forum where course users post their suggestions of things to improve the course.
- Further resources in the *Growing Leaders* suite, including *Growing Leaders* (adult edition) and *Growing Women Leaders*.
- A bi-monthly email update on all things growing leaders.

Check out other resources for developing youth leaders (including podcasts, videos, session materials, book reviews, ideas and blogs) at www.cpas.org.uk.

Young people count

Mina Smallman, the curate at St John's, Stanmore in Middlesex, ran *Growing Leaders – Youth Edition* with seven 14-16 year olds and featured a mixture of teaching, mentoring and practical application to develop young people in Christian leadership.

Mina said: 'Running the *Youth Edition* was a bit of work but it was brilliant. It enabled the young people to see their Christian faith as part of their whole identity and not as a separate part of who they are. They were encouraged to live as followers of Jesus in all the places that they go – not just at church but at home and at school.'

Each young person was paired with a mentor - an older and more mature Christian - who they met with regularly throughout the course. Mina said: 'The solid relationships the young people had with their mentors were amazing.'



Gianni, a participant, said: 'Mentoring was one of the best bits of the course. I got to spend time with someone who I wouldn't usually spend time with - someone who had lived life and was able to answer questions about my faith.'

The course has had a lasting impact on the youth group at St John's. Two young people are now co-running the crèche on a Sunday morning, and another is helping to lead the 8-11s group.

Gianni says: 'Everyone should do *Growing Leaders – Youth Edition*. You really have to try it! Before the course I wasn't sure of where I was going in my faith and it definitely answered a lot of my questions. It brought me closer to God, and helped me to say "yes" to him. *Growing Leaders – Youth Edition* also brought the group closer together and gave us ideas about doing other things in the church.'

Mina shares Gianni's enthusiasm: '*Growing Leaders – Youth Edition* is definitely the course to be doing! It's the real deal.'

For information about our extensive range of leadership development services please go to our website or contact us at:

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