

The Story So Far

Growing Leaders was first published in 2006. By 2017 we had revised the course twice and sold over 1200 copies. It has been run in hundreds of churches throughout the UK and Ireland, and attended by over 10,000 people. The course has also been translated into three other languages, as has the book.

In 2018 we decided it was time for a further revision and to produce it in a slightly different format to reduce the cost and ease access as part of our commitment to develop the course in the light of feedback and new insights into leadership development.

Changes to Content

Thinking about leadership has progressed over the last decade, with new books and resources coming on stream. We have also developed our own understanding of leadership, both theologically and pragmatically, through our ongoing involvement in training leaders in multiple contexts.

There are a number of shifts we wanted to reflect in the revised course:

- **Whole-life discipleship** We are grateful to the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICCC) for the excellent work they have done on helping the Church focus on whole-life disciples. This work was recently reflected in a Church of England report called *Setting God's People Free*. Growing Leaders has always been about resourcing Christians as leaders in every area of their life, but this latest version has made this clearer. Throughout we have tried to ensure the emphasis is on both equipping people to lead in their home, community, school, work-place as well as to lead when the church gathers, be it in small groups or as the whole church.
- **Leadership responsibilities** We have developed a way of reflecting on the responsibilities of those in leadership, based around the image of a tree. We suggest there are four core things to focus on (modelling, focusing, enabling, animating), each with a pair of things to do. We've included an explanation of this approach at the start of Part 2 of the course, and have introduced some new additional sessions that could also be run as alternatives to the three sessions currently in Part 2.

- **Content** We've updated book recommendations and website links, recognised the different ways those from Gen Y and Gen Z lead, and made links to the latest research.
- **Mistakes** We have continued our campaign to eradicate all typos and mistakes, although fear there may still be a few left. Do let us know if you find any.

Changes to Format

Growing Leaders is now available as a downloadable resource. This has simplified the structure of the materials and given us an opportunity to revise the layout of a number of them.

- We have updated all the PowerPoints.
- We have reformatted the leaders' guides and handouts.
- The 12 videos (one promotional video, one general introduction to the course, and one introduction to each of the 10 sessions) are available to watch via a link on Vimeo or directly as a download.
- The additional sessions are also available as part of the download.

Each 'session' contains:

- **Leaders' guide** A two-page summary identifying the session aims, the biblical material behind the session, the background to the session's construction, a list of required materials and a section for you to use in your own preparation. This is followed by the session outline with notes that guide you as you run the session, including timings, and columns identifying which PowerPoint slides and handouts to use.
- **Handouts** Ready-to-print handouts for participants.
- **PowerPoint presentations** There is at least one for each session.
- **Videos** An introductory video explaining the thinking behind each session. Do watch these ahead of running a session.
- **Activity and project masters**

Also available to download:

- **Publicity materials** These include a promotional video to show those thinking of attending and templates for leaflets.
- **Mentor materials** These include guides on the role of the mentor and a training session for equipping your mentors.