

## TOGETHER APART

### *A simple curriculum for use online*

*The current period of quarantine and isolation provides uncharted territory for youth workers. While it is an anxious time for many, as we strive to keep up contact with our socially-distanced young people, it is also an opportunity for us to find completely new approaches to youth ministry. As we rethink how we previously engaged teenagers, and seek to translate much of this now into a digital context, we find ourselves at the frontier of youth work innovation. However, this takes time, and while we explore new possibilities for online youth work, it's important to continue to support the young people we work with as they try to find their feet in this new normal.*

*This six-part series of session plans are a suggestion of how you might run a fairly traditional-style youth group by using an online format. **This is not a revolutionary new youth work model**; rather it's a basic tool to help you continue to care for your young people, to keep sharing Jesus with them and to bring them together to have fellowship with one another. Also remember: technology is not failproof – if what we or you've planned doesn't work for technical reasons, that's ok. Youth work has always been about connection rather than content, and that's doubly true now.*

### **Session 3: Generosity (50 minute)** *Study material used with permission*

SESSION PLAN	LEADERS GUIDANCE for use in online groups
<p><b>BEFORE THE SESSION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If you need to remind young people how to join your online youth group, get in touch (making sure you follow safeguarding procedures) and make sure they understand how to work your chosen video chat platform.</li> <li>- Schedule a time to meet and forward any relevant access information to your group.</li> <li>- Prior to the session, ask all the leaders to buy a pack of strawberry laces. Just before the session starts, have them take out 2 laces and tie them together in the middle. These will be needed for the challenge.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If you haven't done this already, choose a video chat platform that is best / safest for your needs. Register and download your chosen app and familiarise yourself with how it works.</li> <li>- For guidance on creating an online safeguarding policy please see the 38:1 Youthscape document.</li> <li>- Make sure you are available and ready to go plenty of time before the start of your scheduled meeting.</li> </ul>
<p><b>OPENING THOUGHT</b></p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As young people get logged on to the video chat, have them discuss the opening thought for today...</li> <li>- What would you do with £1 million?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encourage the young people to talk through different aspects of the question...</li> <li>- What would you spend it on?</li> <li>- Who would you spend it on?</li> <li>- Would you give any of it away or keep it to yourself?</li> </ul>
<p><b>CHALLENGE (5 minutes)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Once everyone is online, officially start the session with a leader challenge.</li> <li>- This challenge is for the leader(s) to attempt and the young people to cheer them on. Try to have at least two leaders do the challenge so as to make it more of a competition.</li> <li>- The leaders should have pre-prepared an extra-long strawberry lace (2 individuals laces tied together). Before the timer starts, they can put one end in their mouths and then put their hands behind their back. Once the countdown begins, they have to eat the whole lace without using their hands. The winner is to first to eat up their lace, chew, swallow and show the rest of the group their empty mouth.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If you want the young people to be able to see a visual countdown, load a 60 second countdown on YouTube and share your screen (if you're able) so that they can watch the clock tick down.</li> <li>- Alternatively, nominate someone to time 1 minute on their phones. Have them shout out regular intervals such as 30 seconds to go, 10 seconds to go, etc.</li> <li>- After the challenge, celebrate the winner before moving on to the next activity.</li> </ul>
<p><b>GAME (10 minutes)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Counting Up...</li> <li>- The aim of the game is to count from 1 to as high as possible as a group but without a prearranged order of who says what number when.</li> <li>- If two people say the same number at the same time, the game stops and starts again with 1.</li> <li>- Any person in the group can say a number whenever they want to, but they can't say two numbers in a row.</li> <li>- In order to make sure everyone is getting a chance to participate, you as the leader can nominate someone to start the group off</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Explain how the game works and give an example of how a round could play out...</li> <li>- "I'll start with 1, then Bob says 2, then both Bill and Brenda say 3 at the same time so the game restarts"</li> <li>- Make sure everyone understands the game before you start.</li> </ul>

<p>with 1. Choose a different person to say 1 each time you have to restart so that everyone feels involved.</p>	
<p><b>Story (5 minutes)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Explain to the group that you are going to read them a true story and then ask them some questions about what they've heard.</li> </ul> <p>An 83-year-old lottery winner was heralded as Britain's most generous man, after giving away his entire £3.5m fortune in just two months. Bob Bradley, from Llanelli, made large donations to children's charities, and spent the rest on presents for his family and friends. The gifts ranged from a £500,000 home, bought for his grandson, to a pet rabbit for his great-granddaughter, which cost £8.50. He also bought a £70,000 Mercedes for his son, and a nail salon for his grandson's wife.</p> <p>War Veteran Mr Bradley, who took part in the D-Day landings, scooped £3,570,000 on his 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday. 'I want nothing for myself,' he told reporters, 'but everything for my family. I want to make sure their dreams come true.' Mr Bradley said that the joy he received from watching his family enjoy themselves was a big enough reward for him. 'I already feel like I had won the jackpot before it happened,' he said. 'I had got good health and a wonderful family. No amount of money can buy that.'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make sure you have read through the story beforehand.</li> <li>- Take your time and make sure the young people are listening before you start.</li> <li>- If you want the young people to follow along while you read, you can either send a copy of the story to them beforehand or share your screen while on the video call (if possible).</li> </ul>
<p><b>QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION (20 minutes)</b></p> <p><b>What do you think about what you've heard?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In the opening question, you were asked what would you do with £1 million. What were some of your answers? Did anyone give it all away?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make sure to read through the questions beforehand and have an idea of responses so that you can facilitate conversation if it seems to be drying up.</li> <li>- Consider thinking about how you want the young people to answer these questions. Do you want a hands-up system and</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What do you make of Bob Bradley's use of the money? Why do you think he did it? What do you think most people would think about this story?</li> <li>- What might the long-term consequences of Mr Bradley's generosity be?</li> </ul> <p><b>Themes from Bob's story</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How generous are you, on a scale of 1 to 10? How do you compare to: your friends? Your family? Mr Bradley?</li> <li>- If you were a contestant on a quiz show where the money had to be given to charity, who would you give it to, and why?</li> <li>- Do you think it would be easier to give away half of: £1,000, £10,000 or £1 million? Explain your answer?</li> </ul> <p><b>Optional Bible study questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Read 2 Corinthians 8: 1-15, and 9: 6-8</li> <li>- What do you learn from this passage about what was going on in the Macedonian church?</li> <li>- How does Paul describe their generosity? What else does he say about it?</li> <li>- Why is giving important for Christians? What other passages back this up?</li> <li>- In the second reading, what does it mean to reap and sow generously, and to be 'a cheerful giver'? How does this link with the story above?</li> </ul>	<p>then you choose who answers? Do you want them each to take a couple of minutes to think of an answer and then you choose someone at random to answer?</p>
<p><b>PRAYER (10 minutes)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Close the session by praying together.</li> <li>- Ask the young people what they're anxious about and how you can support them at this time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Again, think about how you want to young people to interact in this. Do you want to go around and ask each person for a prayer request? Do you want to leave it open and see who volunteers a prayer point?</li> </ul>

# Youthscape

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Also, if you want leave time for the young people to pray as well make sure you explain to the group how that will work.</li></ul>
<b>POST-SESSION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Think about how you want to session to end. You can either end the meeting once is prayer is over and goodbyes are said, or you can allow space for the young people to chat and catch up then end the meeting at a later time.</li><li>- Ask the leaders to stick around for an online debrief after the young people leave the chat. Talk through any concerns (safeguarding, pastoral, etc.) and decide on how best to follow up.</li></ul>