

ROOTS Children & Youth

Reshaped weekly resources

'Ready to go' sessions

A key development is to offer a Children's session and a Young People's session which support you to journey through the weekly resources.

- The session structure – **Gather**, **Share the Word**, **Explore and respond** and **Go with God** – are now consistent across all the ROOTS resources, and enable a clear focus on connecting faith with everyday life throughout all the materials.
- This also offers you the most flexibility. You are able to pick up and run with each session, making the resources easier to use if you have limited time to plan.

Supporting you as a leader

Three ways to help you prepare for your ministry with children and young people:

- 'In conversation with the Scriptures' (in print and on the **WEB**) gives an overall introduction to the biblical passages
- Bible notes each week on the **WEB** give in depth commentary
- **Prepare for your session** New notes including a Bible summary, questions for reflection and opportunities to think about what exploring this passage with children/young people might look like.



Children's session

Gather

Each week has a new introductory song – as well as a song to finish – relating to the Bible passage. These are set to well-known tunes. There are new songs for seasons such as Lent and Christmas; and Bible text e.g. parables. **Gather** begins with the children's own experience and opens up the theme.

Share the Word

Within the session, the presentation of the Bible passage in a book shape emphasises that these texts come from the books of the Bible. As you read the passage aloud, a new **Stop and share** feature gives you contextual information and explanation of key words. There's also a creative way of exploring the passage with your group after you've read it through together.

Explore and respond

You will find ideas to do, make, sing and pray within the session – presented in this order to give rhythm and pace as you journey together in your weekly exploration. The prayer activity is paired with the Talk together questions as we now **Talk together and talk to God** – bringing our own thoughts and questions about the Bible passage to God in prayer.

Go with God

This new closing activity offers children and young people the chance to think about the session and decide what it means for them. **Go with God** propels us into the week ahead where we continue our discipleship in our daily Christian living. The section is paired with an action for the week and the resources to use at home (see page 5).





Lots of choice for your own session planning

The page in between the session plans – **More options for your session** – offers a resource bank of alternatives for all sections, material for very young children, plus additional prayers and songs covering all ages from 0-18. This enables you to be creative, make your own choices and adapt for groups of wide age ranges, or take into account other factors, e.g. the kit list required, timings or the space you have available.

Very young children

Resources specifically written for under 5s are provided each week. Find them on the **More options for your session** page with a 🐻. They include a version of the Bible story for very young children, with activities to play, create and pray. There are additional song suggestions for under 5s too.

More online at www.rootsontheweb.com

Build your own session: You will find all the week's resources collated together in Gather, Share the Word, Explore and respond, Go with God.

The 'Ready to go' sessions for: Very young children, Children, and Young People.

Plus: Hymns, songs & music, Prayers, Bible notes and Images.

ROOTS at home

A new resource offering opportunities for continuing discipleship through the week for all ages. Based on the same biblical passages, they focus on creative ways of exploring faith at home.



Activity Sheet

All the amazing activities for children are now combined into one bumper sheet including: a colouring image, a puzzle, a drawing activity and a writing activity.



Young People's session

Following the same structure of **Gather, Share the Word, Explore and respond** and **Go with God** allows a more cohesive approach to ministry across the whole Church. The flow of the session gives greater opportunity to delve deeper into the young people's own experiences and to make links between the Bible passage and their daily lives. The **First impressions** picture with questions is an engaging, visual way of introducing the theme and provoking discussion.

Music

We offer two suggestions of tracks which can be integrated into activities within the session. An additional suggestion for the young people to use in worship can be found on the **More options for your session** page.

Checking in with everyday, real-life issues

Our up-to-the-minute resources are published on the **WEB** each Thursday morning and include a reflection and response specifically for young people. **Check-in** looks at what is going on in the world today, how it relates to young people, and is an excellent tool for mentoring, schools work and regular youth work.