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## Toolkit overview

The Growing Good Toolkit is a 6 session course for church groups. Through flexible, interactive small group sessions, we explore how our churches can be faithful and fruitful in our local communities.

Each session includes a bible reading, a short film, discussion and prayer, as well as research and stories from churches all across England

For local churches, the purpose of the Growing Good Toolkit is to equip and encourage church leaders (lay and ordained) and church members for holistic growth and community transformation. Joining the dots between social action, discipleship and growth.

***Growing Good: Growth, Social Action and Discipleship in the Church of England*** is the final report of the GRA:CE project, a three year research project from Theos and CUF that explores the relationship between social action, growth and discipleship in the church across England. The research included interviews with over 350 people in nearly 70 churches in a range of contexts and identified some common themes shared by churches that are growing in faithfulness and fruitfulness. The Growing Good Toolkit is designed to help churches reflect on and implement the key insights of the research.

[The GRA:CE Project Report – CUF]

**The good of individuals:**  
as we grow in spiritual, physical, and relational wellbeing.

**The good of the church:**  
as we grow in love for God and for neighbour.

**And the good of communities:**  
as we grow into places of hope and wholeness, transformed by the Holy Spirit.







“It’s really relevant as people are coming out of lockdown. Right now a lot of churches are thinking: ‘How are we going to be present in our communities moving forward? Are we going to go back to business as usual, or re-evaluate?’ The Growing Good Toolkit provides a resource and a framework to help churches with their thinking and planning.”

**Heather Black, Programme Lead for the Mustard Seed programme in the Diocese of York.**

# Growing Good Sessions

There are five main sessions exploring the five main Growing Good themes, followed by a final sixth session that considers the next steps that you can take together as a church. You can choose whether to run all of these as a six-week course, or pick a couple that are of greatest interest. We estimate each session will take about 75 minutes.

## Session structure

-  **A brief opening question to get people thinking**
-  **A Bible text and reflection**
-  **A film involving a story and a summary of key insights from the *Growing Good* report**
-  **A group activity**
-  **Time for prayer**
-  **Optional follow up activities for in between session**

“The beauty of this material is that it can be used in-house and delivered locally and you can use it in a way that best suits your circumstances.”

## Group size

You can run the course with as many or as few people as you like but from experience, a group of 6-8 people works well.

## Providing feedback and sharing your stories of Growing Good

We're asking people who download and use the toolkit to complete a short feedback survey that will help us develop the resources. We'd also love to hear your stories of how you are growing good and the difference it's making. What steps are you taking to be more present, to persevere, to adapt, to be hospitable and encourage participation?

[Provide feedback](#)

# Growing Good: Session themes

## 1 Presence

Being actively and visibly present in communities.

Explore how an inner city church has become a beacon of hope in its local community.

## 2 Perseverance

Investing in our communities over the long term, even when it's hard and slow.

Find out how a church has invested in local schools over the long-term, and seen fruit.

## 3 Hospitality

Building a culture of giving and receiving, openness and welcome that goes beyond offering food.

Learn how a church worked with its local community to start a vibrant café and build relationships.

## 4 Adaptability

Being open to challenge and change.

Find out how one church has adapted their worship to involve people of different ages, cultures, ethnicities, and backgrounds.

## 5 Participation

Inviting everyone to be part of what's going on.

A mother and son share their story of how they became part of the life of their local church.

## 6 Next steps

Reflect on the things you have learned from the Growing Good sessions and the practical next steps you might take individually and as a church.

### Running the course

You can use the course online or in person. As part of the downloadable Toolkit we've also provided some suggestions and guidance to help you get started.

**[Sign-up now to access the Toolkit](#)**

### Further information

You can find more information and tips for using the Toolkit in the **[Frequently Asked Questions](#)** section of the Growing Good website.