



5 Marks of Growing – Children and Young People



Session 3 – Growing in Partnership

Introduction: (J, I, S)

ASK: *I wonder if you prefer to do things on your own or with other people?*

Set up a quick game for two people. One person is blindfolded and must eat a yoghurt by themselves. Next allow the other person to help them. This could be done in other ways too eg: having to eat a bar of chocolate, or a (closed) packet of crisps with your hands tied behind your back.

ASK: *I wonder if you can think of good things and bad things about doing things on your own, or doing things with other people?*

Being a Christian means working with God in the world, and also with other people in a partnership or team. The Church is a partner with God, and as part of the church we can join in with God's mission. This could be in evangelism, or working to save the environment.

Some Bible passages:

John 15: 1-17

1 Corinthians 12: 12 - 31

Activity: Partners (J, I, S)

Gather together a number of objects (or pictures of objects) that go together, such as a nut and bolt (some more examples are in the list on the right). Mix all the objects up and give them all out to everyone.

Nut & Bolt	Torch & Batteries
Hammer & Nail	Toothbrush & Toothpaste
Screwdriver & Screw	Bat & Ball
Needle and Thread	Cup & Saucer
Knitting needle & Wool	Mobile Phone & Charger
Pencil & Paper	Glasses & Case
Knife & Fork	Camera & Memory Card
Hat & Scarf	



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Now ask the group to work in pairs to go around the rest of the group to try and work out what other objects might be the partner for theirs. Once people have agreed a pairing they can put the 'partners' together on a table in the middle of the room.

Ask the group to think of more examples of different partnerships. You could give them some different categories eg: 'a famous partnership' or 'a red partnership', or 'a disgusting partnership'.

Activity: The body of Christ (J, I, S)

Draw a large outline of a person (if you have large enough paper you could draw around a member of the group). Imagine that this body outline represents your church.

1 Cor. 12:27 – Paul describes the people in the church as being like small parts of a big body – each part (every person) has a different place/job but they all have to work together for the body to work properly. Don't worry if younger ones do not understand the metaphorical aspect of the body, this works just as well with a quite literal understanding

ASK:

I wonder which part of the body (your church) you might be like?

I wonder which part you might like to be?

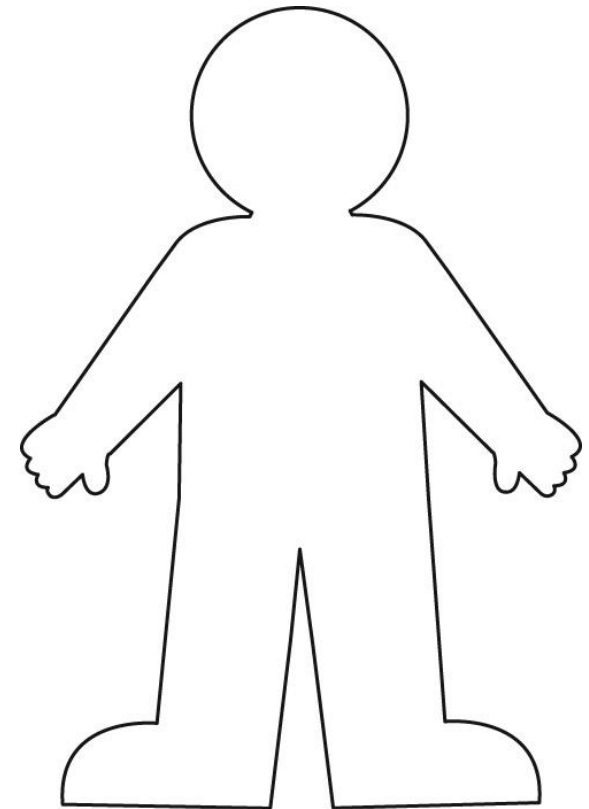
People can use post-it notes with their names on to answer these questions by sticking them on different parts of the body. They can move them around if they want to at any time, if they change their mind.

ASK: *I wonder if there are some parts (some people) who you think you are better than you?*

Re-read verses 14-20 out loud to the group

ASK: *I wonder if there are some parts of the body (some people in your church) who you don't get on with?*

Re-read verses 21-26 out loud to the group



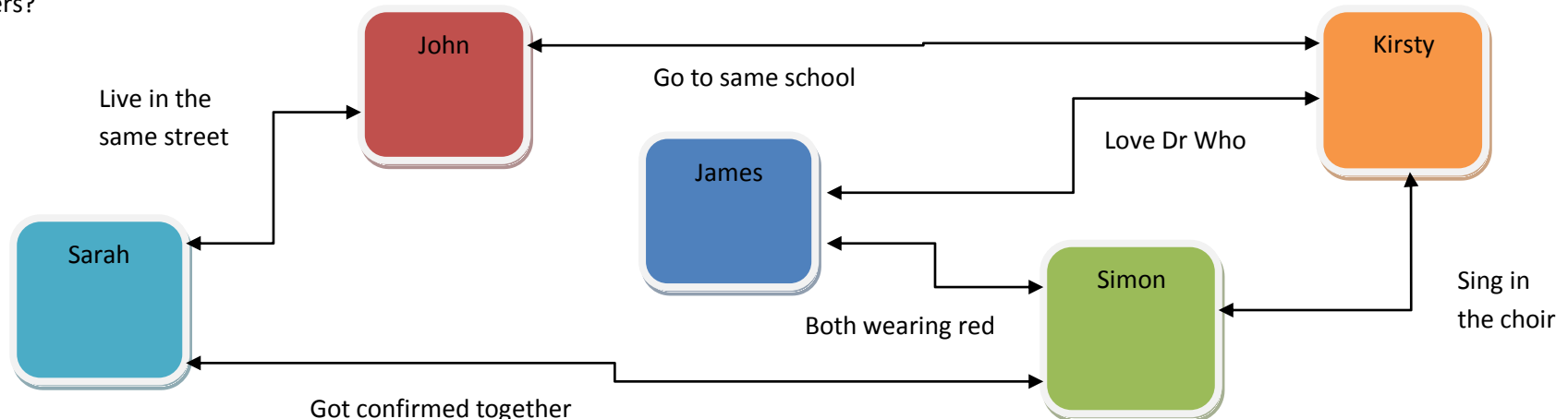


Activity: Mapping Connections (I, S)

This activity is about exploring how connected we all are, even by small things. It could lead into looking at how partnership is an important part of church life.

WHAT TO DO

- All you need for this activity is a ball of string and some people (and some post-it notes for the alternative version). Cut several lengths (up to 20 maybe) of string, about 2-3m long.
- Ask everyone to either sit, or stand where they can all see one another – ideally in a circle.
- Starting with yourself, take one end of a piece of string in one hand and give the other end of it to someone else that you think you have some kind of connection with. Keep it simple to start with e.g. same hair colour or clothes; like the same t.v. programme/music etc. You are now connected to someone else by a piece of string!
- Give this person another piece of string and ask them to think of a connection they have with someone else, handing the other end to that person...and so on until everyone is connected up.
- Look at how the string shows the invisible connections we have with one another even on a basic level.
- Now... **EITHER:** try the activity again, thinking of deeper connections with one another.
- **OR:** give everyone a post-it note with a group or organisation from the list (see next page) written on it. Now repeat the exercise with the string and try to think about what connections there might be between your group or organisation and others.
- Take some time to reflect on what these pieces of string might represent. Are some links stronger than others? Do some people (or groups) have more or less connections than others? What is it like to be very connected up or not at all? Why might it be important to have connections with others?



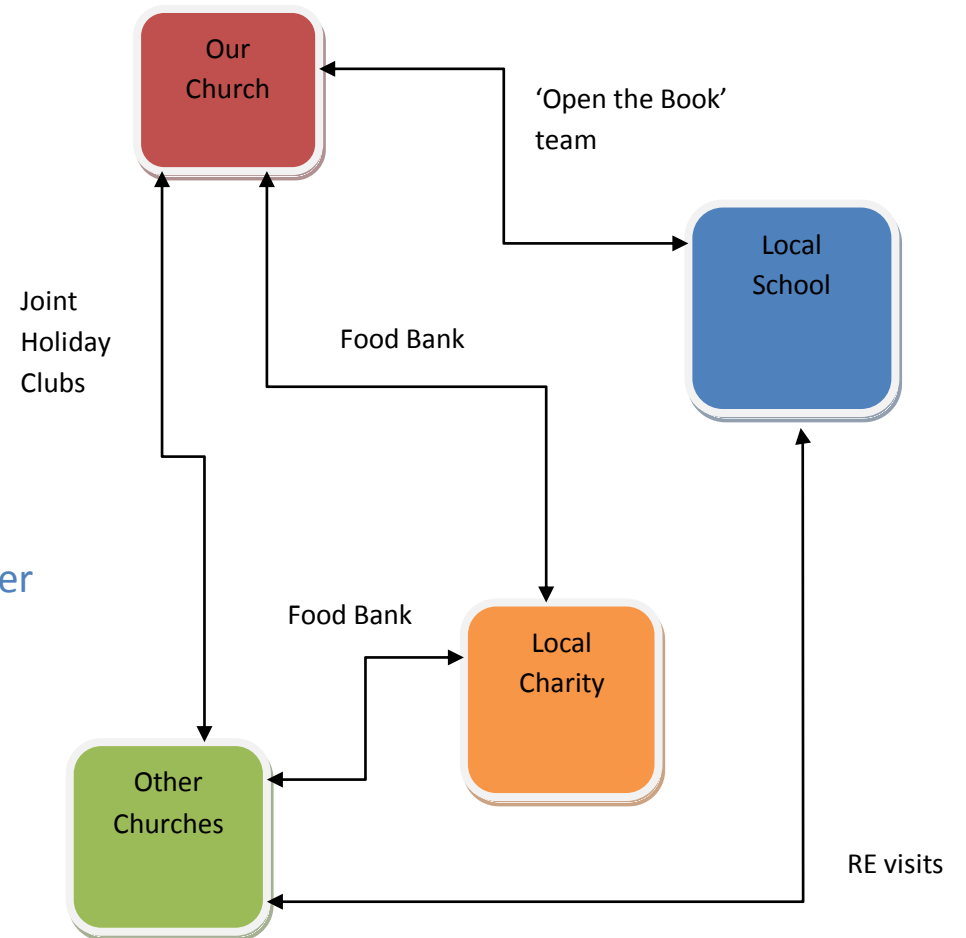


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A list of possible groups you might want to use to think about for your, or your church's connections:

- our church
- our deanery
- our diocese
- our youth group/Sunday School
- other churches in our area e.g. methodist, catholic
- community centre
- primary school
- secondary school
- shopping centre
- local charities e.g. ?
- national charities e.g. Oxfam, Age UK, YMCA, Shelter
- other countries
- any other organisations that people can think of e.g. sports teams, mother & toddlers etc





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Final Reflection: (J, I, S)

When we work on our own, we can end up just wanting our own way. When we work with others we need to listen to them as well.

You can pray for the other members of the 'body of Christ' – the other people in your church.

You can pray for the other people or organisations that you, or your church, might be in partnership with.

You can ask God to show you where or how you can join in his mission in the world – how you can be in partnership with him.

Christ Has No Body

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes with which he looks with
Compassion on this world.
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks with
compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

St. Teresa of Avila (1515–1582)