

How to Use these Resources.

Introduction

The aim of these resources is to help those using them to understand more deeply the relationship between God's mission to which we are called and our own social responsibilities to others and to the whole creation. Resources are designed around topics in mission and in social responsibility and you can choose which ones you want to explore.

This can be done by using the resources creatively, perhaps as a pilgrimage or as a means of encounter with a particular topic in multiple ways.

The purpose of the pilgrimage is to focus on the idea of personal and communal *dispossession*. What do we need to let go of to encounter God's purpose for us more clearly? What can we give away or offer to others? What do we need to dump or abandon as being unhelpful or even toxic to our growth as human beings beloved of God? What burdens can we leave behind?

Each resource in this series is set out in the form of a coloured grid to help you decide what you would like to look at, what combination of things you might like to do and how many of them you can manage in the time you have available. The resources can be thought of as different dwellings, like houses in a village, and the grid boxes as different rooms or spaces into which a traveller or pilgrim may go.

The only required spaces for you to visit in the different dwellings are the entrance and exit. The entrance space offers welcome to the theme of the dwelling and encourages you to think hard about what you bring with you. The exit requires the traveller to reflect on what was achieved, encountered and what challenge and change has taken place.

The actual pathways through the dwelling are entirely up to the explorer and how long is spent in any one space and what is done with it is at the individual's discretion.

As you enter the resource spaces you should take with you:

A rucksack with your baggage

A diary or means of writing a blog

As you travel through the resource you can leave items behind or acquire new or different ones. You can also jot down notes and ideas in your diary or on your blog.

There are four coloured pathways within the grid.

The **YELLOW** pathway offers spaces in the dwelling which are word based for those who enjoy reading, discussing and reflecting on text, conversation, quotations, and conversations. You can wander through all of these or just pick one that interests you. The means of encounter will be by means of words, voices and listening.

The **GREEN** pathway is activity based. Each of the spaces offers different kinds of things to do, look at pictures, watch a video or Youtube clip, learn from other websites or web based resources, and there is the opportunity to reflect and enjoy by cooking a meal.

The **BLUE** pathway is liturgically based. Spaces are provided for prayer, music, bible study, reflections and stories.

The **PINK** pathway is for self examination of the spiritual journey. There is opportunity to dump baggage, follow in the footsteps of Jesus, and reflect on any notes collected in your diary.

The final space is for exit from the resource and offers opportunity for you to lighten your rucksack, give gifts, and examine how you might have changed in your thinking and ideas.

Detailed suggestions for group leaders

It is possible to use each resource as a basis for designing a space or series of spaces for group work. Depending on what is available, spaces can be used consecutively or a number of spaces can be set up, perhaps at different points in a church or hall. For example, spaces with text or images could be in a hall while a prayer space is set up in the church. Large numbers of different combinations are possible depending on your own situation and resources available. Display boards are very useful. Different sets of spaces can be combined for study days, Lent or Advent courses or a single space can be used over a number of days or weeks. Churches in a team, circuit or group can compare their journals or blogs after completing topic spaces, perhaps at a group, team, deanery, district or even diocesan level. These resources are very suitable for children and young people, who can take the lead in providing many of the materials needed for the spaces to operate.

Below, possibilities for each of the spaces in each resource are described in detail:

1. **Welcome.** A space can be set up for introduction to the topic. For example, a medicine cabinet with items from the chemist can be set up for the health topic, with people invited to see what medicines they have at home or in bags. Part of the welcome process might be to find out what people feel they need to carry when they travel – first aid, pills, treatments, complementary medicine etc. In this space, there needs to be a message of welcome, either through a banner or through role play.
2. **Words and Listening.** This space can be used for conversations in pairs or groups. Quotations relating to the topic can be displayed on boards, screens, or handed out on paper. People should be encouraged to think about one or two quotations and react to them in discussion. Thoughts and ideas about the task can be entered in a journal or a blog for review later.

3. **Theological Space.** This space can be used to engage with theologians writing about the topic. Again, text and pictures can be handed out on sheets, or displayed on boards or offered on a screen. Otherwise a reader can offer excerpts. The purpose of this form of engagement is to begin to think more deeply about how the topic relates to God's purposes for the world and to our own faith. Questions are offered as a guide to discussion and conversation on the topic in question and groups are encouraged to note their thoughts and ideas in their journals or blog to review later.
4. **Conversation Space.** This space offers an interview, podcast or other conversation with someone deeply committed to the topic. This can be read or listened to in a suitable format. This enables groups to listen to the talk and respond to the views and ideas expressed in it. Questions are offered to enable groups to come up with ideas and responses which can be noted down in the journal or blog.
5. **Scripture passages.** This space is part of the liturgical journey and takes the form of Bible study with suggestions for discussion, role play and creative engagement with text relating to the topic of the resource.
6. **Prayers.** This space gives an opportunity to allow groups to engage in a time of prayer together, offering to God insights, reflections and prayerful engagement with the topic of the resource. The suggested prayers can be used, or there can be a time of open prayer or prayer activities such as lighting candles or pinning images to a board.
7. **Hymns and Music.** In this space, hymns and music suggestions relating to the topic are offered. A music group might be encouraged to lead a time of worship, or groups might be encouraged to write songs or adapt hymns. There are suggestions for hymns, passages of classical music, as well as modern music which could be accessed as MP3 files from a computer or from an iPod or other playlist.
8. **Reflections and Story Telling.** In this space, stories and images relating to the topic are offered for spiritual reflection. These might be arranged as a display or as part of a prayer walk around the space or as waystations in a simple labyrinth walk. People are encouraged to look at the pictures and engage with the stories. The stories might be accessed as a voice file or on a screen.
9. **Images.** In this space groups can be invited to engage with images or objects surrounding the topic. This is an activity space with less text in which visual experience is more important and includes an element of challenge. Reactions or ideas can be noted down in journals or blogs.
10. **Resources.** In this space, people can be encouraged to go to other resources, such as suggested websites, books, CDs or DVDs. This space can be used as a research project (perhaps over a period of time). Perhaps people from local businesses, charities, agencies, companion links or mission partners could be invited to give a talk or bring things to show. The important part of this space is to think beyond the local and broaden horizons as to what others are thinking and doing about the resource topic.

11. **DVD.** In this space people are invited to watch all or part of a video or DVD, perhaps a film, Youtube clips, music video or information resource and to react to its content. This can be done as part of a film club for example. Again use of this space could be extended over a period.
12. **Recipe.** In this space, groups are invited to prepare a meal and a recipe related to the topic that is suggested. The meal can be for the group or it can be offered more widely as part of a course or church or house group event. It could be used as a means of thanking or appreciation for people involved in the resource topic who live locally or are otherwise part of your community. The important issue is hospitality around the theme of the resource.
13. **Gift-Giving and Baggage Dumping.** In this space, part of the self reflection and analysis spaces, there should be provided opportunity to think about what has been learned. This can take the form of an act of confession or repentance, or an examination of the rucksack (what don't I need any more?) or as a process of giving things away or giving particular gifts. It can take the form of a Lenten discipline or promise to take on or change one thing. This can be done individually or as a church or as a community. This is an important space because it brings to the fore the theme of dispossession which is an essential part of the engagement process for these resources.
14. **Diary/blog.** This space offers an opportunity to review diaries, journals or blog entries. Key words or concepts or images could be isolated and put up on paper or screens. Different groups might be able to compare thoughts and ideas. Another possibility is to give the resource its own visitors book so that people can record their impressions as they visit different spaces. Or a group can compile a scrapbook or treasure chest of prayers, words, images or artifacts for review in this space at a particular time.
15. **In the footsteps of Jesus.** In this space, spiritual reflection is directed to a particular place Jesus went and what he encountered and accomplished there. The purpose of this space is to link the experience of the resource to Jesus' story and to compare the experience of individuals and groups to the biblical material concerning Jesus' mission and actions.
16. **Dispossession.** This space is the exit or closure activity from the resource. People are invited to consider how the project has challenged and changed their ideas, emotions, faith and self-reflection. People closing out the resource should consider what baggage they might have had that they now want to leave behind, including any assumptions and prejudices they might have had about the topic and to consider what useful things they have learned. This space can be used for commitments to change, perhaps only in a small way, or to be more aware of relevant issues about the topic in the future.