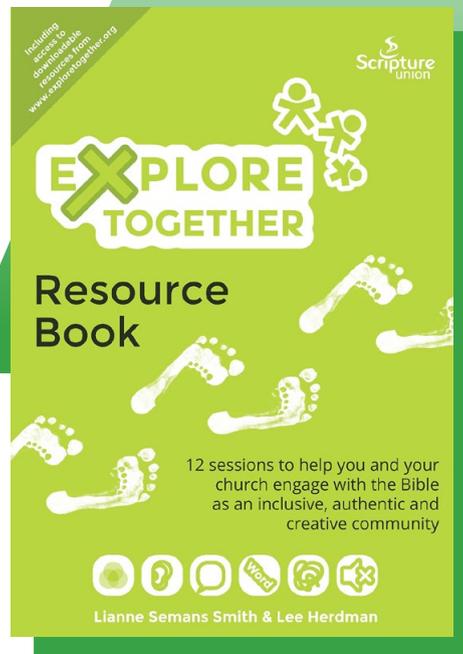


RESOURCE REVIEW



EXPLORE TOGETHER *Scripture Union*

Bletchley: Scripture Union, 2015 | ISBN: 978-1-78506-027-4 | pp: 32 | £4.99

Explore Together is a resource from Scripture Union that helps churches to plan and deliver all age worship gatherings.

Each session follows the same pattern of presenting a Bible passage, a theme and some questions which are then explored together in six zones before people are invited back to share responses to the questions.

People explore the passage, theme and questions together by selecting one or more of the following zones of activity:

1. the Colour Zone - which allows people to explore through colouring pens and materials;
2. the Listening Zone - where people hear songs, poems and testimonies;
3. the Chat Zone - for those that want an open discussion;
4. the Word Zone - for those that want to go deeper with the text;
5. the Busy Zone - that helps engage those that prefer building type activities; and,
6. the Quiet Zone - where people find a more contemplative space.

All the resources needed are provided, or at least identified. Sessions are free to download from their website - see for example: <https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/resource/explore-together-god-our-provider>.

Explore Together provides a familiar structure which works well for an all-age context because younger children often benefit from familiarity. Because the zones vary by learning style, the impact is not merely that different ages are brought together but also people of the same age are able to interact with the passage, theme and questions differently.

Depending on your outlook on theology and church life you may be more or less concerned at the absence of any formal 'teaching element' in the sessions. It would be helpful to read the article on page 14 about Intergenerational Church for more on that, but for now, there are a number of things to remember here. Firstly, it is of course possible to introduce other elements and make the resource your own (most resources are improved by adjusting them to suit you and your context). Secondly, *Explore Together* is not meant to be the only thing that churches do - it assumes that sessions form part of a wider programme of church services and discipleship and, thirdly, teaching doesn't have to be in a formal talking slot, it can be woven into other activities.

Explore Together is likely to be a bit of a culture shift for some churches and so the ground may need some prep work before embarking on this, but it has proven to be a valuable resource for many churches in the last few years and would be worth others giving it a go.

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