

Leaders' guide for *Being Together* and *Christmas Countdown* resources



When and where do we get these resources?

Being Together is being released on Friday 28 August 2020 and will be available from the leaders' zone on the website, where you'll be able to download it. We'll also send an email to all leaders with the resources to download. *Christmas Countdown* is due for release mid-October 2020 in the same way as *Being Together*.

There will be no Team Challenge available to groups this year.

This is different for us but please remember all our new resources and ways of working are pointing to the same great God as before! Although our programme content is important, connection with children, young people and their families is even more so. So feel free to tailor these resource tools for your own context and community allowing space for things like dialogue, prayer, outreach, and points of connection in a COVID-19 secure manner.

Why are these resources different from the 'normal' programme?

These resources are different from **n:vestigate/n:gage/n:counta/n:spire** programme materials because they're hybrid materials that you could use face-to-face, at home with a parent/carer, or online e.g. on Zoom.

We've also blended the age groups – e.g. there is a *Being Together* resource for 4s to 11s and one for 10s to 18s. This is because we're assuming some of the fixed groups/online work will be made up of children of different ages.

What are the resources about?

Being Together is based on the fact that 2020 would have been an Olympic year but the sporting event was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This was a loss for the athletes who were mentally and physically ready – a bit like us having to cope with our plans changing for the year. The Olympic theme would have been United by Emotion – we're exploring this in a child/youth-friendly way linked to the range of emotions we're feeling this year such as the loss of opportunity/normality and not just bereavement. Although we'll be tackling these serious topics, we'll do so in a fun way so the children and young people we work with can laugh and enjoy being with their friends after such a difficult time in lockdown.

The weekly themes are:

- Week 01 – Being part of a team
- Week 02 – Physical and mental health
- Week 03 – Emotions
- Week 04 – Loss
- Week 05 – Diversity/unity

Christmas countdown will be a look at the themes of advent as we journey together towards Christmas. Considering God coming close to us... and linked to the fact we might not have been physically close to those we love this year but we can be close to them in other ways.

The weekly themes are:

- Week 01 – Love
- Week 02 – Joy
- Week 03 – Peace

Week 04 – Hope

Week 05 – Christmas story

How do these resources work?

Each resource has 5 weeks worth of material, leaving you 2 weeks spare (of a full term) for your own activities as long as they're in line with our COVID-19 guidance. *Being Together* is for use between September and October half-term. Then *Christmas Countdown* after October half-term in the run-up to Christmas.

Each of the weekly sessions contains enough material to last up to an hour. Don't feel you have to do all the activities if you're meeting for less time than this – pick and mix to suit your girls and your context.

What else do we need to think about?

- The resources are supported by some videos, which are available to GBEW leaders only on our YouTube channel via private links in the booklets, such as craft demos/Bible studies.
- At the start of each GB session, you might want to build in some prayer time as a group or 'check-in' time to find out how you're members are feeling on that particular day.
- Take into account any children or young people who may have had a bereavement recently – particularly during Week 04 of *Being Together*. You may need to tweak the activities accordingly.
- There are leaders' notes in the resources to help you plan ahead with resource sheets and equipment; particularly if you need to post or email it to them.
- If your online session makes it hard to facilitate a craft session, you could always show one you made earlier like *Blue Peter* used to!
- Both *Being Together* resources offer you a chance to do some socially-distanced fundraising for your group.
- GB has also produced a list of socially-distanced games if you want to add one to your session. This was emailed to all leaders and also available to download with the new resource materials.
- Please think about continuing to charge for your sessions, even if they're online.

Do I need to complete a separate risk assessment?

No, as long as we've approved your COVID-19 risk assessment and checklist and given you approve for face-to-face meetings. If you're online only at this time you can use the same risk assessment template but we don't need to see it at GBCO.

Are there badges available for them?

There is a generic GB@home pin badge (GBA00510 – 52p each) which can be given as a gift or as an award for any member who engaged with GB during the lockdown period.

There is also a Being Together (GBA00511 – 52p each) and a Christmas Countdown (GBA00512 – 52p each) pin badge – all available from GB Trading. These will be limited edition as they'll only be needed for this time frame. We think they'll be collectors' items in the future.

There is no limit as to how much 'work' has to be done to earn these badges. We want all our members to feel encouraged and loved during this period regardless of how much they've been able to engage with their GB group.

What about after Christmas?

We're working on it! We'd like to launch some new

n:vestigate/n:gage/n:counta/n:spire programme materials which can be used face-to-face, at home with a parent/carer, or online e.g. on Zoom.