

4 Ways to Follow Up

You've led the last session and washed up the final coffee cup. What next for your participants? In the last of our summer series, we help you to point people in the right direction.

The books are closed, the biscuits are finished and you turn off the lights for the last time. But Christianity Explored is only ever the start of the journey, so how can you stop new Christians from falling away and encourage those on the brink of committing?

Follow Up #1: Meet up as a table group or individually

Get together socially for dinner as a table group. How about a week or so after the course finishes? Invite participants to other events and suss out who may want to study the Bible one-to-one (best carried out in same sex pairs). For practical help, see the excellent *One to One: A Discipleship Handbook* by Sophie de Witt.

Follow Up #2: Invite participants to church services and events

Participants should feel more comfortable now about attending a Bible teaching church. In the UK, websites such as www.eauk.org/churchsearch can help. Otherwise, invitations to family fun days and quiz evenings offer an opportunity for participants to see what church does and to meet others. Be creative – if a few people like films, why not organise a movie or DVD evening? For those already part of a church family, try to identify areas of service where they can develop their gifts. Many CE table leaders are ex-participants!

Follow Up #3: Run the Discipleship Explored course or repeat Christianity Explored

For new Christians or those who are very close to making a commitment, Discipleship Explored (DE) works through the book of Philippians over eight weeks. It follows the same format as CE, so your table group should feel right at home. Discipleship Explored is also a great group study where existing members of the church family can grow deeper in knowledge and love of Jesus. You should invite participants who still have questions to take the Christianity Explored course again.

Follow Up #4: Pray for participants

It's vital but so easy to forget: pray for each participant, for their understanding of the gospel, their desire to continue to explore and their questions to be answered.

Don't forget to flag all your follow-up plans on the final session of your course so that participants can add dates to their diaries. For further tips, see the leader's edition of the study guide. And tell us what's worked for you via our website, Twitter or Facebook.

