

4 Ways to Fill The Gap

Are you disappointed when participants aren't able to attend all the sessions of your Christianity Explored course? In the third of our summer series, we explain how to bring everyone up to speed.

What can table leaders do when participants aren't able to attend all their CE sessions? Group members might end up missing the important talk on the cross, or turn up having missed the first three weeks on Jesus' identity. But filling them in on previous sessions without holding back the rest of the group is easier than you think.

With these shortcuts your table will soon be back on track!

Filler #1: Ask participants to read the session missed

This approach works for all but newcomers. Participants can bring any questions to the next session and raise them during the home study discussion time. As other participants can help to answer their questions, it has the bonus of showing how much the rest of the table has understood.

Filler #2: Arrange to meet before the next session

Meet with the participant during the week - or half an hour before the next session - to talk through any questions they have as a result of reading through the session in the study guide. This individual tutorial also allows you to feed back interesting issues raised during the discussion and explore the session more fully than in Filler #1.

Filler #3: Set up a table for newcomers arriving after week 1

New people turning up after the course has started, or those who miss a single session, can catch up in one week without distracting other participants. The course organiser needs to ensure that the table leader(s) here can condense previous sessions in a shorter period of time. The following week you should move participants to another table.

Filler #4: Lend out DVDs

If you have a spare copy of the DVD, then you could lend it out so participants get to view missed talks (loaning your sole copy is not recommended). This could be an expensive option, however, if your copy isn't returned. Another option is lending the Soul DVD instead. It covers similar material to CE and would be cheaper to replace.

Why not share your experience via our website contact page or Facebook?