



**Equipment:**

You will need - DVD player, TV, pens, leaders' guide and course members' sheets for everyone in the group.



**Timings:**

This material within the session is timed to run for around 60 minutes to leave plenty of time for informal discussion at the beginning of the session to help people relax and feel at ease in the group.



**Session Aims:**

- Continuing to create a positive learning atmosphere in the group
- We are made in God's image and reflect his generosity
- All we have comes from God
- This place can't function without you – we have gifts, skills and abilities



**Welcome: (8 minutes)**

Welcome people to the session and welcome those who are joining the group for the first time. If you have new members in the group, get everyone to briefly introduce themselves. Briefly recap what was covered in session 1.

Ask the group to chat in pairs and tell each other what they would love to do for someone else (assuming no money or resource issues) that would make a real difference in their life.



**Prayer: (2 minutes)**

Hand out the course members' sheets and invite everyone to join in praying:

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,  
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;  
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.  
All things come from you,  
and of your own do we give you. Amen.**



**DVD 2:1 (4 minutes)**

Watch the first part of the Session 2 DVD. Please note that there is a subtitle option on the DVD if that would be useful to members of the group. Pause the DVD when the screen goes black.

DVD content

- In a team of volunteers everyone has a part to play
- Different skills and roles are necessary so that everything works
- In the church, prayer is our oil and our time and talents are the fuel
- Our combined efforts help build the Kingdom of God



**Bible: Romans 12 1-8 (20 minutes)**

Explain that though the passage that is about to be read follows on from doctrinal teaching, in this section Paul is giving the early church some practical instruction about how they are to live as disciples, loving and serving each other. Ask a member of the group to read out the passage, you may like to ask someone in advance to avoid putting someone on the spot!

*Romans 12 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)*

**12** *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

*<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. <sup>4</sup>For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup>We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; <sup>7</sup>if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup>if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*

After the passage has been read, ask the group for any immediate comments or thoughts about the passage. Then consider the following questions

Worship v 1-2

- What ideas does Paul use to describe our offering of worship? What do you make of these?

Service v 3-8

- Paul uses the image of a body to describe the church. Why do you think he uses this image?
- When our physical bodies don't work, we often take steps to put things right. How can we ensure that the church works well as a body?
- Do you think any gifts are more important than others? You might like to discuss your responses.



**Exercise: Round or square pegs? (10 minutes)**

God give us gifts, not to build ourselves up, but to build his church up, so to build up God's church, we will need to use the gifts he gives us.

As members of a church family, sometimes we can be so concerned to make sure that we help to make everything happen, that we lose sight of the specific gifts that God has given each of us as his church. Sometimes we might be so anxious to jump in to make sure the job gets done, that we can stop other people doing the one thing God's especially equipped them to do.

Ask the members of the group to look at the exercise "Round or square pegs" in the members' booklets (Supplementary Sheet 1 to this week's Leaders' Guide).

We know that in church as in family life, there are things that just have to get done, but as part of God's family how are we making sure we make the best use of every part of the body and each gift?

Look at the list of things that need to be done in most churches (there are blank lines in case your role isn't shown)

- Tick the "Good Fit" column if you're doing it and it's a good fit
- Tick the "Bad Fit" column if you're doing the role and you feel it's not your thing – it's frustrating and you feel like a 'square peg in a round hole'.
- If you're not involved but feel God prompting you to have a go, tick the "Have a Go" column

If there are things people feel they would like to have a go at, or are unhappy doing, encourage them to speak to your church leader.



**DVD 2:2 (2 minutes 30 seconds)**

Watch the last section of the DVD and then turn off the DVD.

[DVD content](#)

Serving God wherever we are – in the home, church, community or workplace



**Exercise: Serving God on our Frontline (8 minutes)**

If God has made us and equipped us with gifts, then he's equipped us for what we do Monday to Saturday as well as Sunday. Our communion services end with us being "sent out" into the world to live as disciples. God is calling us to serve him where he's put us. Our "Front Line" might be in the home, in an office or factory, meeting other parents at the school gate or in the clubs and societies we belong to.

Our 'Frontlines' are the places where we spend most of our time outside the church, and where we are in contact with non-Christians.

Ask the members of the group to look at the exercise "Frontline" in the members' booklets (Supplementary Sheet 2 to this week's Leaders' Guide).



**Prayer: (3 minutes)**

Spend some moments in silence reflecting on the sheets from the two exercises. You might like to play some quiet music in the background. Then have someone read the following verses

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will. <sup>5</sup>In Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup>We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. **Romans 12:1,2,5,6a***



**Take Away activity: (1 minute)**

Encourage course members to reflect on the gifts and skills that God has given them and how they are using them to serve God as part of the body.

If people would like to spend more time exploring their Gifts, then there is a 6-session course 'Shaped for God's Purpose' that can be downloaded from the Blackburn Diocesan Website. Other Gifts and Skills audits are available, and your church leader may be able to recommend one to you

**Exercise: Round or square pegs?**

**Session 2 - Supplementary Sheet 1**

We know that in church, as in family life, there are things that just have to get done, but as part of God's family, how are we making sure we make the best use of every part of the body and each gift?

- Tick the "Good Fit" column if you're doing it and it's a good fit. (there are some blank lines if what you do isn't on the list)
- Tick the "Bad Fit" column if you're doing the role and you feel it's not your thing – it's frustrating and you feel like a 'square peg in a round hole'.
- If you're not involved but feel God prompting you to have a go, tick the "Have a Go" column.

	What we do	How I feel about this role		
		Good Fit	Bad Fit	Have a go
<b>Helping people feel welcome and cared for</b>	Welcomer/Sidesperson			
	Refreshments			
	Pastoral Care			
<b>Preparing for worship</b>	Cleaning rota			
	Arranging flowers			
<b>Helping make worship happen</b>	Reading bible in services			
	Leading intercessions			
	Occasional preacher/Service leader/Reader			
	Organist/choir/Musician/singer			
	Sound desk/Audio Visual			
	Servers/ Preparing linen			
	Bread/wafers and wine available/laid out			
<b>Helping people find and grow in faith</b>	Sunday School/Children's/Youth work			
	Leading study or enquirers groups			
	Planning faith sharing events			
	Personal faith sharing			
<b>Enabling Ministry</b>	Warden/Treasury/Secretary			
	Parish Safeguarding Officer			
	PCC Member			
	Helping with administration			
	Helping with website			
	Helping with Facebook			
	Preparing Notice sheets			
<b>Practical and necessary</b>	Maintenance			
	Gardening			
<b>Serving the local and worldwide community</b>	School assemblies/governor			
	Local community groups			
	Serving others			
	Foodbank/Foodmarket			
	Community project groups			
	Social justice			



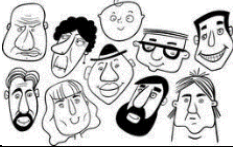


**Session 2 - Supplementary Sheet 2**

Your Frontline is the place where you spend the majority of your time outside the church, the place where you are in contact with non-Christians.

Your personal Frontline could be your workplace, your home, or your neighbourhood and might change from one year to the next.

Wherever it is, there will be people there who are loved by God and situations where God might use you to make a difference. Just as no two people are the same, no two person's frontlines will be identical. Whether you are young or old, in paid employment or not, sick or well, you will have your own Frontline.

What gifts and skills has God given you that you can see you are already using or could start to use as you live out your faith on your Front Line.

	<p>Where do you spend most of your time?</p>
	<p>Where do you connect with people outside church?</p>
	<p>Where is your front line?</p>
	<p>What gifts and skills has God given you that you can see you are using as you live out your faith on your Front Line.</p>
	<p>How might God be asking you to serve him on your Front Line?</p>