

# Session 6: Next steps

## Turning ideas into action

### Key takeaways:

- Have concrete next steps for your church
- Know who is doing what
- Commit it to the Lord in prayer



### Opening Prayer [5 minutes]

Thank God for your church, your community, and the things you have learned through this Toolkit. Ask God to guide your time of reflection and planning.



### Feedback from previous session [5 minutes]

If you did the optional next step from the previous session, take a few minutes to share anything you learned.



### Read aloud [2 minutes]

These are some of the final words Jesus said to his closest followers before he was crucified. Jesus uses a picture of a vine and branches to describe his relationship with his disciples. “Bearing fruit” means doing good and becoming the sorts of people God wants us to be.

*'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.'*

(John 15:5–8)

The business world is obsessed with growth and results. People want to know how you build an organisation that lasts and they spend thousands of pounds developing 'growth strategies' which will generate the biggest impact.

Jesus' growth strategy is simple. It's like a vine with branches. If we remain in him by his spirit – trust in him, listen to his words, and depend on him in prayer – we will bear fruit. There will be growth. If we don't remain in him, we'll wither and die. There won't be growth.

As we make our plans for social action and church growth, let us remain in the vine. Jesus is our source of life, strength and growth. Without him we can do nothing. But with him, we will bear much fruit (do much good) as his disciples. The Father will rejoice as people experience His love and the church grows in numbers and maturity.



**Discuss**  
[15minutes]

- How does the image of Jesus as our vine encourage you?
- What does it mean to 'remain in' Jesus? How can we do this?



**Watch film**  
[90 seconds]

**What is one thing you have learned through the Growing Good sessions?**

You may wish to look back at your notes from previous sessions.



**Group activity**  
[35 minutes]

Take this time to reflect on the things you have learned from the Growing Good sessions, what God has laid on your heart, and what next steps you might take individually and as a church. Make sure someone takes notes on your discussion.

**First, take a few minutes for individual reflection:**

**Is there any image, idea, or action that God has put on your heart?**





**Group activity** Now share with the group what you have  
**[35 minutes]** reflected on, and discuss together:

**Who will be involved in making that happen?**

**What is one thing your church can do to put into practice what you have been reflecting on?**

**What is your next step?**

**What resources will you need?**

**What will you commit to pray for?**

As you discern next steps, check out the Recommended Resources on the next page. You can also find these and other resources on the Growing Good website.



Pray  
[15 minutes]

Thank God for all you've learned in the course, and that your effort in the Lord is not in vain! Pray for the things you've written down, that it will make a difference in your church and community.



Listen  
[4 minutes]

### Your Labor is Not in Vain

[The Porter's Gate, Paul Zach]



Feedback

We would love to hear your feedback on the Growing Good Toolkit and how we can make it better. After you have used the material, please share your thoughts with us in this short survey.

[Provide feedback](#)

## Recommended resources

- Present your Growing Good learning and next steps to church leadership: see page 5
- Plan and evaluate the impact of your project: [Impact and Evaluation Toolkit](#)
- Reflect more on the theology of social action: [Living Theology Forum](#)
- Equip your church to link social action more closely with evangelism: [Stepping Stones into Growth](#)
- Grow in speaking confidently about faith in everyday life: [Faith Pictures](#)
- The Additional Resources section of the Your Toolkit page has more resources

# Sharing learnings and next steps with your church leadership.

Use this page to present what you learned from doing the Growing Good course together, and next steps you'd like to recommend to the church.

What we did:

What we learned:

What we did:

What we learned:

Next steps we've considered:

What input/support we need to take the next step:

Additional notes: