

## **Leaning theology avoiding academic culture**

### **Part 1. Christology**

#### **Topics 1-3**

## Topic 1. Our Father in Heaven.

	<p><b>a. Personal Recollection</b>  <i>Suggest we give a moment thought to:</i>  <b>How is it that we experience God's presence in our lives?</b>  <b>Does God invade our lives or do we have to find God?</b></p>	
<b>experience</b>	<p><b>b. Experience in the Group - Sharing</b>  <i>Each person is to asked to speak as they can. (as they volunteer to speak.)</i>  <b>Ask them to give examples.</b>  <b>Ask others if they have (or have had) similar experience.</b>  <b>Ask them in what way their experience might be a little different to each other and if so in what way</b></p>	
<b>explore</b>	<p><b>c. Linking with other themes and questions – Group discussion</b>  <i>When everyone has spoken ask how what they have said relates to:-</i>  <b>Prayer</b>  <b>Beauty</b>  <b>Wonder</b>  <b>Hope</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Biblical expression of God's presence Ps 139  Which characters do we identify with and why?</p> <p>How do I experience God as different to humanity?  In what ways is God invisible and in what ways is God made known to me?</p>	
<b>reflection</b>	<p><b>d. Learning</b>  <i>Record what each person has learned from the session and what they want to think about more.</i></p>	
<b>respond</b>	<p><b>e. Action</b>  Ask each to suggest either personal or group action in response to what has been learned.</p>	

## Topic 2. Holy is your Name

	<p><b>a. Personal Recollection</b>  <i>Suggest we give a moment thought to:</i></p> <p><b>How do I experience God as different to humanity?</b>  <b>In what ways is God invisible and in what ways is God made known to me?</b></p>	
<b>experience</b>	<p><b>b. Experience in the Group - Sharing</b>  <i>Each person is to asked to speak as they can. (as they volunteer to speak.)</i></p> <p><b>Ask them to give examples.</b>  <b>Ask others if they have (or have had) similar experience.</b>  <b>Ask them in what way their experience might be a little different to each other and if so in what way</b></p>	
<b>explore</b>	<p><b>c. Linking with other themes and questions – Group discussion</b>  <i>When everyone has spoken ask how what they have said relates to:-</i></p> <p><b>Sacraments - Communion</b>  <b>Baptism - Forgiveness</b>  <b>Healing - wholeness</b></p> <p>What is a sacrament?          Jesus the living sacrament.          How can we be sacramental?          Biblical examples?          Local examples?</p>	
<b>reflection</b>	<p><b>d. Learning</b>  <i>Record what each person has learned from the session and what they want to think about more.</i></p>	<p><i>Reflection on participation in a sacrament other than the Eucharist</i>  <i>Watch an appropriate film and contribute to group discussion in relation to the sacrament within it</i></p>
<b>respond</b>	<p><b>e. Action</b>          Ask each to suggest either personal or group action in response to what has been learned.</p>	

### Topic 3. – Your Kingdom come.

	<p><b>a. Personal Recollection</b>  <i>Suggest we give a moment thought to:</i></p> <p><b>What do we think is God’s Justice?  How are mercy and justice connected?</b></p>	
<b>experience</b>	<p><b>b. Experience in the Group - Sharing</b>  <i>Each person is to asked to speak as they can. (as they volunteer to speak.)</i></p> <p><b>Ask them to give examples.  Ask others if they have (or have had) similar experience.  Ask them in what way their experience might be a little different to each other and if so in what way</b></p>	
<b>explore</b>	<p><b>c. Linking with other themes and questions – Group discussion</b>  <i>When everyone has spoken ask how what they have said relates to:-</i></p> <p><b>Lament.  Not forgetting (rememberance)  Telling stories to each other (and especially children.)</b></p> <p><b>Have we an example of God’s justice being done in recent times?  Does sadness have a part to play in knowing how we want things to be better?</b></p> <p><i>What do I believe about God – introduce doctrine</i></p>	
<b>reflection</b>	<p><b>d. Learning</b>  <i>Record what each person has learned from the session and what they want to think about more.</i></p>	<p><i>What kind of Christ do we serve – word cloud</i></p>
<b>respond</b>	<p><b>e. Action</b>  Ask each to suggest either personal or group action in response to what has been learned.</p>	

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**Part 2. Ecclesiology**

**Topics 4-6**

## Topic 4. **Our Father** – the church

	<p><b>a. Personal Recollection</b>  <i>Suggest we give a moment thought to:</i></p> <p><b>How does the experience of Church mean anything to me?</b></p> <p><b>Has it changed over time?</b></p>	
<b>experience</b>	<p><b>b. Experience in the Group - Sharing</b>  <i>Each person is to asked to speak as they can. (as they volunteer to speak.)</i></p> <p><b>Ask them to give examples.</b>  <b>Ask others if they have (or have had) similar experience.</b>  <b>Ask them in what way their experience might be a little different to each other and if so in what way</b></p>	
<b>explore</b>	<p><b>c. Linking with other themes and questions – Group discussion</b>  <i>When everyone has spoken ask how what they have said relates to:-</i></p> <p><b>Fellowship</b>  <b>A people of prayer</b>  <b>A body</b>  <b>Over different times as well as over all the world.</b></p> <p><b>OT tabernacle and temple models</b>  <b>NT examples</b></p> <p><b>(Include something about the development of the Anglican Church because we need to know where and how we fit)</b></p>	
<b>reflection</b>	<p><b>d. Learning</b>  <i>Record what each person has learned from the session and what they want to think about more.</i></p>	<p><i>Time line of church development</i></p>
<b>respond</b>	<p><b>e. Action</b>          Ask each to suggest either personal or group action in response to what has been learned.</p>	

## Topic 5. Your will be done.

	<p><b>a. Personal Recollection</b>  <i>Suggest we give a moment thought to:</i></p> <p><b>How do I experience church as a people of love</b>  <b>Is it tough love as well as gentleness?</b></p>	
<b>experience</b>	<p><b>b. Experience in the Group - Sharing</b>  <i>Each person is to asked to speak as they can. (as they volunteer to speak.)</i>  <b>Ask them to give examples.</b>  <b>Ask others if they have (or have had) similar experience.</b>  <b>Ask them in what way their experience might be a little different to each other and if so in what way</b></p>	
<b>explore</b>	<p><b>c. Linking with other themes and questions – Group discussion</b>  <i>When everyone has spoken ask how what they have said relates to:-</i></p> <p><b>Care</b>  <b>Service</b>  <b>Kindness</b>  <b>Ministry</b></p> <p><i>How the church developed as the organisation of care – through monasteries to emphasise this is what church is and does.</i></p>	
<b>reflection</b>	<p><b>d. Learning</b>  <i>Record what each person has learned from the session and what they want to think about more</i>  <i>. everyone has spoken ask how what they have said relates to:-</i></p>	<p><i>Shadow a hospital or school chaplain to experience church as love</i></p>
<b>respond</b>	<p><b>e. Action</b>          Ask each to suggest either personal or group action in response to what has been learned.</p>	

## Topic 6. On earth as in Heaven.

	<p><b>a. Personal Recollection</b>  <i>Suggest we give a moment thought to:</i></p> <p><b>How is church a people of Justice?          How do we be just and act fairly ?          How do stick up for those who are down?</b></p>	
<b>experience</b>	<p><b>b. Experience in the Group - Sharing</b>  <i>Each person is to asked to speak as they can. (as they volunteer to speak.)</i></p> <p><b>Ask them to give examples.          Ask others if they have (or have had) similar experience.          Ask them in what way their experience might be a little different to each other and if so in what way</b></p>	
<b>explore</b>	<p><b>c. Linking with other themes and questions – Group discussion</b>  <i>When everyone has spoken ask how what they have said relates to:-</i></p> <p><b>Being free          Being equal          Being family</b></p> <p><b>How do biblical themes of Righteousness and Justice put politics on the Christian agenda?</b></p>	
<b>reflection</b>	<p><b>d. Learning</b>  <i>Record what each person has learned from the session and what they want to think about more.</i></p>	<p>Make a poster presentation of the church as a mission or social action agency</p>
<b>respond</b>	<p><b>e. Action</b>          Ask each to suggest either personal or group action in response to what has been learned.</p>	

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**Part 3. Eschatology**

**Topics 7-9**

**Topic 7. Give us today the bread for tomorrow.**

	<p><b>a. Personal Recollection</b></p> <p>What difference does the security of God presence make? Does the future assurance of being with God have an effect on how I act and feel now?</p>	
<b>experience</b>	<p><b>b. Experience in the Group - Sharing</b> <i>Each person is to asked to speak as they can. (as they volunteer to speak.)</i></p> <p>Ask them to give examples. Ask others if they have (or have had) similar experience. Ask them in what way their experience might be a little different to each other and if so in what way</p>	
<b>explore</b>	<p><b>c. Linking with other themes and questions – Group discussion</b> <i>When everyone has spoken ask how what they have said relates to:-</i></p> <p>Hope Cross and Resurrection</p> <p>What might ‘transformation’ look like? Personal and/or community transformation?</p>	
<b>reflection</b>	<p><b>d. Learning</b> <i>Record what each person has learned from the session and what they want to think about more.</i></p>	Identify signs of cross and resurrection in locality.
<b>respond</b>	<p><b>e. Action</b> Ask each to suggest either personal or group action in response to what has been learned.</p>	

**Topic 8. Who is, and was,.....**

	<p><b>a. Personal Recollection</b></p> <p>A time when was I helped to live a godly life when it would be easy to give up.</p>	
<b>experience</b>	<p><b>b. Experience in the Group - Sharing</b>  <i>Each person is to asked to speak as they can. (as they volunteer to speak.)</i></p> <p>Ask them to give examples.          Ask others if they have (or have had) similar experience.          Ask them in what way their experience might be a little different to each other and if so in what way</p>	
<b>explore</b>	<p><b>c. Linking with other themes and questions – Group discussion</b>  <i>When everyone has spoken ask how what they have said relates to:-</i></p> <p>Hope that grows.          God fully human. – how would we think about word in the creeds?          Human Becomings or Human beings?</p>	
<b>reflection</b>	<p><b>d. Learning</b>  <i>Record what each person has learned from the session and what they want to think about more.</i></p>	<p>Pictures of being a prophet in todays world</p>
<b>respond</b>	<p><b>e. Action</b>          Ask each to suggest either personal or group action in response to what has been learned.</p>	

**Topic 9. .... and is to come.**

	<p><b>a. Personal Recollection</b></p> <p>Can 'church' be a sign of God's eternal heaven for the world? What experience have you that might get close to this idea?</p>	
<b>experience</b>	<p><b>b. Experience in the Group - Sharing</b>  <i>Each person is to asked to speak as they can. (as they volunteer to speak.)</i></p> <p>Ask them to give examples.          Ask others if they have (or have had) similar experience.          Ask them in what way their experience might be a little different to each other and if so in what way</p>	
<b>explore</b>	<p><b>c. Linking with other themes and questions – Group discussion</b>  <i>When everyone has spoken ask how what they have said relates to:-</i></p> <p><b>Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood shall have eternal life.          Eats = Now. Shall have = Future. Now but not yet.</b></p> <p><b>Prophetic witness.</b></p> <p><b>Look at Amos 1 1-12. Link discussion with how we think Amos would be received today.</b></p>	
<b>reflection</b>	<p><b>d. Learning</b>  <i>Record what each person has learned from the session and what they want to think about more.</i></p>	<p>Group write a job description for Amos.</p>
<b>respond</b>	<p><b>e. Action</b>          Ask each to suggest either personal or group action in response to what has been learned.</p>	

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**Part 4. Salvation**

**Topics 10-12**

## Topic 10. Forgive us as we forgive.

	<p><b>a. Personal Recollection</b></p> <p>What does dying to myself and rising to new life mean to me?</p>	
	<p><b>b. Experience in the Group - Sharing</b>  <i>Each person is to asked to speak as they can. (as they volunteer to speak.)</i></p> <p>Ask them to give examples.  Ask others if they have (or have had) similar experience.  Ask them in what way their experience might be a little different to each other and if so in what way</p>	
<b>explore</b>	<p><b>c. Linking with other themes and questions – Group discussion</b>  <i>When everyone has spoken ask how what they have said relates to:-</i></p> <p>( Combating pride)  ( Personal ethics )  ( Doing the right thing. Even in the face of Hostility/ridicule.</p> <p>Being <i>upright</i>.  i.e. The spirit of justice and righteousness  (something you join rather than do???)</p>	
<b>reflection</b>	<p><b>d. Learning</b>  <i>Record what each person has learned from the session and what they want to think about more.</i></p>	Note the group feeling about when doing, or not doing, the 'right thing'
<b>respond</b>	<p><b>e. Action</b>  Ask each to suggest either personal or group action in response to what has been learned.</p>	

## Topic 11. Keep us from the time of trial.

	<p><b>a. Personal Recollection</b></p> <p>How does church experience 'dying and rising to new life' together?</p>	
<b>experience</b>	<p><b>b. Experience in the Group - Sharing</b>  <i>Each person is to asked to speak as they can. (as they volunteer to speak.)</i></p> <p><b>Ask them to give examples.</b>  <b>Ask others if they have (or have had) similar experience.</b>  <b>Ask them in what way their experience might be a little different to each other and if so in what way</b></p>	
<b>explore</b>	<p><b>c. Linking with other themes and questions – Group discussion</b>  <i>When everyone has spoken ask how what they have said relates to:-</i></p> <p><b>Community discipline/ disciple-ing???</b>  <b>Shared pattern of life.</b>  <b>Celebrating God's care.</b></p> <p><b>Serving the community</b></p> <p><b>Understanding different ethical starting points.</b></p>	
<b>reflection</b>	<p><b>d. Learning</b>  <i>Record what each person has learned from the session and what they want to think about more.</i></p>	<p>Set up a group debate about ethical topic.          Reflect on the different ethical positions people start from.</p>
<b>respond</b>	<p><b>e. Action</b>          Ask each to suggest either personal or group action in response to what has been learned.</p>	

## Topic 12. Save us from the evil one

	<p><b>a. Personal Recollection</b></p> <p>In the interest of God's rightness/justice, when do we humbly give way and when do we stand up for Jesus?</p>	
<b>experience</b>	<p><b>b. Experience in the Group - Sharing</b>  <i>Each person is to asked to speak as they can. (as they volunteer to speak.)</i></p> <p>Ask them to give examples.          Ask others if they have (or have had) similar experience.          Ask them in what way their experience might be a little different to each other and if so in what way</p>	
<b>explore</b>	<p><b>c. Linking with other themes and questions – Group discussion</b>  <i>When everyone has spoken ask how what they have said relates to:-</i></p> <p>Standing up for a cause          Demonstrate for what is right          Act different to norm          Political action.</p> <p>Serving society.</p>	
<b>reflection</b>	<p><b>d. Learning</b>  <i>Record what each person has learned from the session and what they want to think about more.</i></p>	<p>Set up a group debate about ethical topic.          Reflect on the different ethical positions people start from</p>
<b>respond</b>	<p><b>e. Action</b>          Ask each to suggest either personal or group action in response to what has been learned.</p>	

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**Part 5 Anthropology**

**Topics 13-15**

### Topic 13. The Kingdom is yours.

	<p><b>a. Personal Recollection</b></p> <p><b>Who am I in relation to God?</b>  <b>What impact does this have on me?</b></p>	
<b>experience</b>	<p><b>b. Experience in the Group - Sharing</b>  <i>Each person is to asked to speak as they can. (as they volunteer to speak.)</i></p> <p><b>Ask them to give examples.</b>  <b>Ask others if they have (or have had) similar experience.</b>  <b>Ask them in what way their experience might be a little different to each other and if so in what way</b></p>	
<b>explore</b>	<p><b>c. Linking with other themes and questions – Group discussion</b>  <i>When everyone has spoken ask how what they have said relates to:-</i></p> <p><b>Made in the image of God.</b>  <b>Known before I was born.</b>  <b>Held in God’s hand.</b>  <b>Being part of God’s present and future.</b></p> <p><b>Does the way I see my belonging with God change as my life changes?</b></p>	
<b>reflection</b>	<p><b>d. Learning</b>  <i>Record what each person has learned from the session and what they want to think about more.</i></p>	<p>Create a series of prayers suitable to each age group that expresses our belonging to/with God</p>
<b>respond</b>	<p><b>e. Action</b>          Ask each to suggest either personal or group action in response to what has been learned.</p>	

## Topic 14. The power is yours.

	<p><b>a. Personal Recollection</b></p> <p><b>Who are we together?</b>  <b>How do we describe ourselves as the people of God?</b></p>	
<b>experience</b>	<p><b>b. Experience in the Group - Sharing</b>  <i>Each person is to asked to speak as they can. (as they volunteer to speak.)</i></p> <p><b>Ask them to give examples.</b>  <b>Ask others if they have (or have had) similar experience.</b>  <b>Ask them in what way their experience might be a little different to each other and if so in what way</b></p>	
<b>explore</b>	<p><b>c. Linking with other themes and questions – Group discussion</b>  <i>When everyone has spoken ask how what they have said relates to:-</i></p> <p><b>Loving Jesus as a group of God’s people.</b>  <b>The cost to one another. Giving support.</b>  <b>Jesus giving up power.</b>  <b>Not insisting on our own way.</b>  <b>Working to get things done without taking power from others???</b>  <b>Serving - The place of distinctive ministries.</b></p>	
<b>reflection</b>	<p><b>d. Learning</b>  <i>Record what each person has learned from the session and what they want to think about more.</i></p>	<p>Create an advertising ‘Strap line’ that express the right use of power for a church congregation.</p>
<b>respond</b>	<p><b>e. Action</b>          Ask each to suggest either personal or group action in response to what has been learned.</p>	

## Topic 15. The Glory is yours.

	<p><b>a. Personal Recollection</b></p> <p><b>What does God calls us to do?</b>  <b>Where do we see God working in his world</b></p>	
<b>experience</b>	<p><b>b. Experience in the Group - Sharing</b>  <i>Each person is to asked to speak as they can. (as they volunteer to speak.)</i></p> <p><b>Ask them to give examples.</b>  <b>Ask others if they have (or have had) similar experience.</b>  <b>Ask them in what way their experience might be a little different to each other and if so in what way</b></p>	
<b>explore</b>	<p><b>c. Linking with other themes and questions – Group discussion</b>  <i>When everyone has spoken ask how what they have said relates to:-</i></p> <p><b>The new Kingdom of God is now as well as not yet.</b>  <b>The glory of God is the life of man. My sense of just being.</b>  <b>God’s desire for justice for the whole earth.</b></p> <p><b>What does it mean to work for God’s Justice in society.</b>  <b>Think globally – act locally.</b></p>	
<b>reflection</b>	<p><b>d. Learning</b>  <i>Record what each person has learned from the session and what they want to think about more.</i></p>	
<b>respond</b>	<p><b>e. Action</b>          Ask each to suggest either personal or group action in response to what has been learned.</p>	

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**Part 6. Culture**

**Topics 16-18**

## Topic 16. Us and Now

	<p><b>a. Personal Recollection</b></p> <p>How we do things in this place? What is our inheritance/tradition?</p>	
<b>experience</b>	<p><b>b. Experience in the Group - Sharing</b> <i>Each person is to asked to speak as they can. (as they volunteer to speak.)</i></p> <p><b>Ask them to give examples.</b> <b>Ask others if they have (or have had) similar experience.</b> <b>Ask them in what way their experience might be a little different to each other and if so in what way</b></p>	
<b>explore</b>	<p><b>c. Linking with other themes and questions – Group discussion</b> <i>When everyone has spoken ask how what they have said relates to:-</i></p> <p><b>Changes</b> <b>Our tradition is the history of our changing</b> <b>What stays the same?</b> <b>Believing,</b> <b>Belonging</b> <b>Behaving</b></p>	
<b>reflection</b>	<p><b>d. Learning</b> <i>Record what each person has learned from the session and what they want to think about more.</i></p>	<p>Interview three people from the church to see how they see themselves belonging, believing and belonging</p>
<b>respond</b>	<p><b>e. Action</b> Ask each to suggest either personal or group action in response to what has been learned.</p>	

## Topic 17. ...And Forever.

	<p><b>a. Personal Recollection</b></p> <p>How do I understand the cultures of the local community our congregation serves. How well are we connected?</p>	
<b>experience</b>	<p><b>b. Experience in the Group - Sharing</b> <i>Each person is to asked to speak as they can. (as they volunteer to speak.)</i></p> <p>Ask them to give examples. Ask others if they have (or have had) similar experience. Ask them in what way their experience might be a little different to each other and if so in what way</p>	
<b>explore</b>	<p><b>c. Linking with other themes and questions – Group discussion</b> <i>When everyone has spoken ask how what they have said relates to:-</i></p> <p>Church as sacrament Church as herald Church as servant Revelation ch 1-ch3.</p>	
<b>reflection</b>	<p><b>d. Learning</b> <i>Record what each person has learned from the session and what they want to think about more.</i></p>	<p>Use f deprivation and CUF poverty indicators. Are we surprised? By what? Does this tell us things we didn't know? What does it not tell us that we would like to know?</p>
<b>respond</b>	<p><b>e. Action</b> Ask each to suggest either personal or group action in response to what has been learned.</p>	

## Topic 18. AMEN.

	<p><b>a. Personal Recollection</b></p> <p><b>Where does god cry out and call for Justice?</b></p>	
<b>experience</b>	<p><b>b. Experience in the Group - Sharing</b>  <i>Each person is to asked to speak as they can. (as they volunteer to speak.)</i></p> <p><b>Ask them to give examples.</b>  <b>Ask others if they have (or have had) similar experience.</b>  <b>Ask them in what way their experience might be a little different to each other and if so in what way</b></p>	
<b>explore</b>	<p><b>c. Linking with other themes and questions – Group discussion</b>  <i>When everyone has spoken ask how what they have said relates to:-</i></p> <p>Appealing to local culture  Challenging local culture.  How to live the Lord's Prayer</p>	
<b>reflection</b>	<p><b>d. Learning</b>  <i>Record what each person has learned from the session and what they want to think about more.</i></p>	<p>Produce posters on how church lives out</p> <p>Your name is holy  Your kingdom come  Your will be done  Give us today bread  Forgive us  Deliver us from evil  Power is yours  Amen.</p>
<b>respond</b>	<p><b>e. Action</b>  Ask each to suggest either personal or group action in response to what has been learned.</p>	

