



Make Room at the Inn: Facilitator's Guide

The videos can be watched collectively on a large screen or on individual devices via the QR codes. Provide paper, pens and sticky notes for folk to use. It may be helpful to watch the videos yourself before hand too!

Timing Overview (for a 60–75 min session)

- Welcome & prayer – 5 mins
- Theme intro & video – 5 mins
- Group discussion – 25–30 mins
- Action planning – 15 mins
- Closing summary & prayer – 5–10 mins

Links to the individual films



1. Opening (5 mins)

Welcome people and explain the purpose:

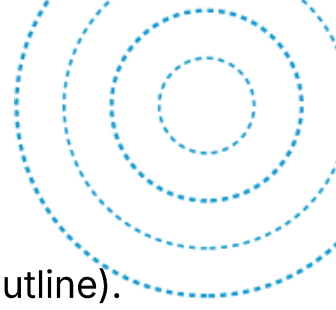
"We're using the *Make Room at the Inn* resource to help us think about how we can become more inclusive as a church. Each week/session we'll explore one theme, talk together, and make a small plan for action."

Optional prayer:

God of welcome, show us your heart and help us see your people through your eyes. Teach us to make room at the inn.
Amen.



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2. Theme Introduction (5 mins)

Read the **short extract** for the week aloud (provided in the outline).

If possible, **play the short video clip** (2–3 mins) for the theme.

Invite participants to sit with **one word** or phrase that struck them.

3. Group Discussion (25–30 mins)

Use the **Head–Heart–Hands** framework

Head (Understanding):

“What stood out to you in this extract/video? Was there anything surprising or challenging?”

Heart (Empathy):

“How might someone with this lived experience feel when they arrive at our church? How might we unintentionally make it harder or easier for them to belong?”

Hands (Action):

“What’s one practical step we could take to broaden our welcome in this area?”

Tip for facilitator: Let the conversation flow, but gently draw it back to the focus if needed. Don’t worry if you don’t cover everything, depth matters more than breadth.

4. Action Planning (15 mins)

Ask groups/pairs to write down **one small, realistic action** they could trial.

Encourage **specificity** (e.g. “Check the hearing loop monthly” instead of “be more accessible”).

If in a large session: ask each table/group to share one idea aloud.

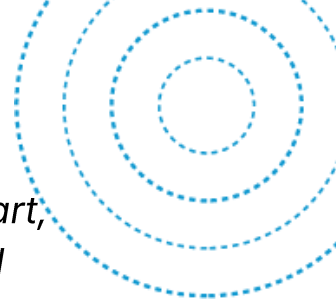
If in a local setting: ask each person to share one action they’d like to try.



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Facilitator note: Capture these actions visibly, e.g. on flipchart, post-its on the wall, or typed up afterwards. This helps build accountability.



5. Closing (5–10 mins)

Summarise key insights from the discussion.

Offer a short **reflection**. Eg: Inclusion doesn't always mean huge projects. It often begins with small, intentional acts of welcome. Over time, these acts reshape our culture into one that better reflects Christ's welcome, radical love and generous hospitality.

Ask:

What steps will we take as a church this year?

How will we ensure this is a journey we continue moving along?

Can we build into our practice times to audit and record progress, celebrating achievements, articulating challenges and rejuvenating our focus?

Closing prayer:

God of grace, thank you for the gifts of each person here.
Bless the small steps we've named today, and help us grow them into signs of your love. Amen.

Notes for Facilitators

- **Keep it practical:** the goal isn't just discussion, but naming next steps.
- **Hold the space:** allow silence, but also draw things back if people drift.
- **Encourage honesty:** remind people this isn't about blame or criticism, but growth and a broadening of compassionate welcome.
- **Celebrate small wins:** even tiny actions make a difference.



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