

# Prepare TO Dare!

Dare TO Share

Intro Course  
for Youth Groups

DARE TO  
SHARE

throw someone a *lifeline*  
july 2nd - 6th 2010

SUMMER MADNESS  
IRELAND'S PREMIER CHRISTIAN FESTIVAL

## Prepare To Dare!

This pack has been written using the framework of **The 360 Adventure** to **introduce the theme for Summer Madness 2010** and to help you get **youth groups** thinking about **"Dare to Share"**. We hope it will help you invest in the **lives of young people** in a way that prepares your group for Madness and **increases the impact of the festival** on their lives.

**The 360 Adventure** is a locally developed **youth discipleship resource** with **intentional relationships, mission** and **Christ-like transformation** at its core. It is written by **Exodus** and supported and developed by a **partnership of churches and agencies**.

For more info visit [www.the360adventure.org.uk](http://www.the360adventure.org.uk).



## Understanding the Resource

360 Adventure sessions use a range of activities to encourage balanced growth.



### Body Builders:

Fun ideas to help people relax and to build Godly community.



### Food for Thought:

Groups agree and follow a Bible reading plan between session and discuss their devotional times in creative ways.



### 'Connect 3':

Groups of 3 or 4 to allow deeper sharing, discussion and prayer. Groups are single gender and leaders join a group



### Prayer Focus:

Creative activities to encourage individual & group prayer.



### Leader's Choice:

Time to bring in an activity that you feel will help the specific needs of your group.



### Recorded Delivery:

Short video talks which present key thoughts and promote discussion on the issues being addressed.

### Course Overview

<b>Group Session 1:</b>	Dare to Share... the Adventure
<b>Food For Thought 1</b>	Storytelling in the Bible
<b>Group Session 2:</b>	Dare to Share... Your Story
<b>Food for Thought 2</b>	Outreach in the Bible
<b>Group Session 3:</b>	Dare to Share... His Life

## Before You Start

We think the sessions work best when delivered in **90 - 120 minutes** by a **leader and one or 2 co-workers** and are run on **successive weeks** for groups of **5-10 young Christians aged 14+**. This may not be the profile of your group exactly so before you begin you should:

- **Dream** - Consider your hopes for your group through the course and the festival.
- **Allocate** - which leader will lead the group - how will other leaders be involved?
- **Plan** - Where and when will you meet? Who will be involved? How might you adapt it the materials?
- **Download** the recorded delivery from:  
<http://www.mediafire.com/?sharekey=49aca0fd9555cd1fe7c82ed4b8f0c380cd86fdf46bfc3c2ff1940a51b339e393>
- **Prepare** - Read the activities, watch the recorded deliveries, write questions, consider Connect 3s.
- **Commit** - To the tasks, readings and activities the group will be doing.

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**Objectives:**

- To introduce the Summer Madness theme.
- To build a sense of ownership in the upcoming sessions.
- To start the Food for Thought reading plan.

**Things to Bring:**

- Food for Thought Cards
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**Session Content****Notes****Activity 1 - Moment of Madness:**

15 mins

- 1) Challenge the group to work out how many days, hours and minutes it is until Summer Madness 2010 starts at **7pm on Friday 2nd July**.
- 2) Ask everyone who has been to Summer Madness before to tell the group **one moment of madness** - a highlight from a previous year.
- 3) Ask those who have not been to ask one question to another group member about

**Key teaching points/helpful hints:**

- Has everyone signed up for Madness - **don't miss the discounts for booking early!**
- You may want to show Summer Madness promo materials or video to envision people - these are available from <http://www.summermadness.co.uk>.
- Encourage a range of 'moments of madness' that show the breadth and depth of the festival.
- If no group members have been to the festival before discuss why they are/ may be going and what they are hoping for.

**Activity 2 - Dare to Share:**

10 mins

- 1) Tell the group of the "**Dare to Share**" theme for Summer Madness
- 2) Ask for thoughts on what the **focus of the festival** might be.
- 3) Explain that you will be following the "**Prepare to Dare**" course for the next few weeks and outline your **hopes and expectations** for the group during the course.

**Key teaching points/helpful hints:**

- Keep this activity positive but be clear.
- As well as your own hopes it is important to highlight in particular:
  - ◇ Participation, Openness, Attendance and Commitment to tasks.

**Activity 3 - 'Food for Thought':**

20 mins

- 1) Divide into Connect 3s and ask each group to write;
  - 1) A list with reasons why Christians should read the Bible and
  - 2) A list with reasons why Christians find it hard to read the Bible.
- 2) Take **feedback** - verbally or using a flipchart.
- 3) Explain that as part of '**Prepare to Dare**', group members will follow a **2 week Bible reading plan** and then discuss their responses at the next group meeting.
- 4) Give each group member a **Food for Thought card** from **page 5 of this pack**.
- 5) Ask group members to prepare for the next session by **reading passages** over 5 days of the next week and **recording their thoughts**.

**Key teaching points/helpful hints:**

- The goal for Food for Thought is to help leaders and group members to develop a regular devotional life and to find a deepening relationship with God.
- The reading plan has been developed as a tool with readings selected specifically for this course. If you feel other readings would be more suitable you can use those.
- Personal devotions:
  - i) Help us learn to feed ourselves.
  - ii) Allow us to listen to God.
  - iii) Give guidance and direction.
  - iv) Help us know the will of God for the ordinary issues of life.
  - v) Enable us to minister to others out of what God teaches us.
  - vi) Equips us to live in our world - putting on the armour.
- Opportunities to share at meetings are a chance to teach and encourage each other.
- You might provide a journal for group members to help with the activity.
- We encourage journaling because:
  - i) It helps us keep our concentration.
  - ii) We can reflect at a later date and see our progress.
  - iii) It is easier to share with others at group meetings.

**Session Content****Notes****Activity 4 - Prayer Focus - Dare to Share:**

5 mins

Ask four group members to pray for:

- The group as you embark on this course
- Enthusiasm and discipline with the readings
- Summer Madness 2010.
- Other group points

Key teaching points/helpful hints:

- Some discussion of specific prayer points may be helpful.

**Activity 5 - Leader's Choice:**

10 mins

**Additional Group Business:**

- Leaders should choose a **story method** for **Session 2 Activity 4** and prepare the relevant materials.

**In Practice:**

- Group members should follow **week 1** of the **Food for Thought plan**.
- If you are doing Story option 1 in **Session 2** ask group members to bring 3 important items.


 Food  
for  
Thought
**Prepare To Dare**

Please follow this Bible reading plan and make notes on your thoughts so we can talk about it at our next group meeting

**Week 1 - Storytelling in the Bible**

Day 1 - Joseph	Genesis 45:1-15
Day 2 - Nehemiah	Nehemiah 1:1-11
Day 3 - Peter	Acts 11:1-18
Day 4 - Paul	Acts 26:1-32
Day 5 - John	Revelation 1:9-20

**Week 2 - Evangelism in the Bible**

Day 1 - Jesus	John 1 :1-21
Day 2 - Jesus	John 4:4-26&39-42
Day 3 - Peter	Acts 2:14-40
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**Objectives:**

- To discover the value of our story.
- To see Biblical examples of shared stories.
- To enable group members to share their stories.

**Things to Bring:**

- Newspaper stories
- Recorded Delivery Equipment
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**Session Content****Notes****Activity 1 - Body Builder - 50 words:**

15 mins

- 1) Before starting prepare **sections** of about **50 words** from newspaper stories.
- 2) Split into **pairs** and assign a number 1 and number 2.
- 3) Have the number 1's stand on **one side** of the room in a line, and the number 2's stand **opposite** their partner on the other side of the room.
- 4) Give each number 1 a story section, and each number 2 a pen and paper.
- 5) When you say go the **number 1s** read the section and their **partners** write down what they are saying.
- 6) The **first pair** to have their article complete **sits down** and everyone else must stop.
- 7) Check how accurate the communication was and discuss the challenges faced.

**Activity 2 - Recorded Delivery - Tales of the Unexpected:**

20 mins

- 1) Watch the **Tales of the Unexpected** story.
- 2) Discuss the following questions with the group:
  - How the story encouraged them.
  - How it challenged them.
  - What parts of the story they felt they could identify with.

**Key teaching points/helpful hints:**

- The Recorded Delivery can be **downloaded from** <http://www.mediafire.com/?sharekey=49aca0fd9555cd1fe7c82ed4b8f0c380cd86fdf46bfc3c2ff1940a51b339e393>
- **Tales of the Unexpected** is a new project based encouraging young people to share and celebrate stories of God at work in their lives.
- More stores are available from <http://www.talesoftheunexpected.org>

**Activity 3 - 'Food for Thought' - Storytelling:**

20 mins

- 1) Split into **5 groups** - not Connect 3's
- 2) Assign each group, **one of the stories** of the characters from the **Food for Thought** readings and ask them to choose another.
- 3) Ask each group to consider the following questions for their 2 stories:
  - **What does this characters story reveal to you about who God is?**
  - **What impact did/ could their story have had?**
- 4) Take brief feedback from each group.

**Key teaching points/helpful hints:**

- Characters are - Joseph, Nehemiah, Peter, Paul, John
- Some parts of the stories may be difficult to understand give space for group members to ask questions about what they have read.

**Activity 4 - Your Story - Option 1 - Three is the Magic Number:**

20 mins

- 1) Ask each group member to use **three objects** to share **key turning points** or defining experiences in their life.
- 2) Simply wait and allow each person to show the items and explain their significance.

**Key teaching points/helpful hints:**

- Objects might include a photo, a cd a verse, a book
- This often is a powerful exercise as people recall experiences that have been significant. Don't get embarrassed by tears.
- This is a longer activity so be sure you've left at least 5 minutes per person to share.
- Don't make comments on what people have shared unless it is essential.
- You will need to model openness and depth if you expect group members to share deeply.
- Generally it is best to let people share when they are ready- Don't stress about silence.

## Session Content

## Notes

### Activity 4 - Your Story - Option 2 - Cardboard Testimonies:



20 mins

- 1) Give each group member an **A4 piece of card** or paper and a **marker**.
- 2) Take a few minutes of **silence** and ask them to think about a time or event when they felt **God acted in their life**
- 3) Ask them to **write** on one side of the paper one or two words that **describe what they were like before the event**.
- 4) On the other side write **what they were like after**.
- 5) Go round the group and have each person one at a time **hold up their page for a few seconds** and then turn it over to **reveal the other side**.
- 6) If you think the group is ready for it **ask people to explain** what they wrote or ask one another questions.

#### Key teaching points/helpful hints:

- The time may be when they came to faith or another significant event
- Writing should be as big as possible.

### Activity 4 - Your Story - Option 3 - Make it Stick:



20 mins

- 1) Provide people with a piece of **paper**, lots of old **magazines** and **glue**.
- 2) Ask the group to split their pages into 3 with the following headings
  - **My life before I knew God**
  - **My relationship with God now**
  - **What I hope my relationship with God will be like in the future**
- 3) Group members should **find pictures** from the magazines and **stick them to their pages** to represent each heading.
- 4) Ask people to **explain their collage** to the group.

#### Key teaching points/helpful hints:

- Make sure all magazine content is appropriate for the group.
- You may want to adapt the headings or just have the last 2.



### Activity 4 - Your Story - Option 4 - Life Through a Lens:



30 mins

- 1) **Outline** to the group the idea of sharing their story as a **video**.
- 2) Take a few minutes of **silence** and ask group members to think about a **time or event when they feel God** acted in their life.
- 3) In 'Connect 3's - nominate one **interviewer**, one **cameraman**, and one **storyteller**
- 4) After 5 minutes **rotate roles**, and then again so everyone has the **chance to tell their story**.
- 5) Upload each story onto a computer and playback a selection of them.

#### Key teaching points/helpful hints:

- This activity requires a video camera, webcam - or a videophone.
- Videophones may be easiest if you have a larger group, as several stories can be recorded simultaneously.
- You may find that using another story option first will help focus each member's story before filming.
- Some members of the group may find it beneficial to have a copy of their story to show to their friends, or use to encourage a type of video-journaling.
- You can upload user-submitted stories to the **Tales of the Unexpected Youtube stream**. For anyone under the age of 18, **permission should be sought from their parent or guardian before this is done**.



10 mins

### Activity 5 - Leader's Choice:

## Session Content

## Notes



### Activity 6 - Roadblocks Challenge:



10 mins

- 1) Ask everyone to take time in the next week to chat with a **couple of friends** who aren't Christians about **what holds them back from** choosing to follow Christ.
- 2) In **Connect 3's** talk about **who they will speak to and about ways to approach this** in a non-threatening manner.
- 3) **Pray** in these groups for one another—**celebrating the stories** you have heard and for the **Roadblocks Challenge**.

#### Key teaching points/helpful hints:

- This will prove challenging to most people remember to lead by example.
- It may help to encourage and remind people with a text during the week.
- See **Session 3 Activity 4** for the follow up.

### Additional Group Business:

- Is there any **follow up**—pastoral or practical required following the **story activities**?

### In Practice:

- Group members should **talk to 2 friends** about roadblocks to faith before **Session 3**.
- Group members should follow **week 2** of the **Food for Thought plan**.

**Objectives:**

- To review the types of 'Roadblocks' people have to faith.
- To shape an approach to evangelism which navigates common 'roadblocks'.

**Things to Bring:**

- Dare to Prayer Cards
- Recorded Delivery Equipment
- 

**Session Content****Notes****Activity 1 - Body Builder - What's it Worth?**

15 mins

- 1) Tell everyone to imagine they are about to be **sent to a desert island**.
- 2) Allow each person to say which **three things** they would bring with them as they go.
- 3) Highlight that this activity shows a little of what we put value in and ask group members to complete the following sentence in 10 words:  
**The Christian faith worth passing on because...**

**Key teaching points/helpful hints:**

- As an alternative group members can write their 3 things down and then the rest of the group can try and guess who wrote what.
- It might be good to come up with a combined statement - This group believes **the Christian faith worth passing on because...**

**Activity 2 - Recorded Delivery - SHARE:**

15 mins

- 1) Watch the 'SHARE' talk
- 2) Discuss the themes and ideas raised as a group.
  - **What is the main point of the talk?**
  - **What aspects of God's goodness do group members feel they might share?**
  - **Who do group members care about but don't make the step to SHARE?**

**Key teaching points/helpful hints:**

- The Recorded Delivery can be **downloaded from** <http://www.mediafire.com/?sharekey=49aca0fd9555cd1fe7c82ed4b8f0c380cd86fdf46bfc3c2ff1940a51b339e393>
- The talk may seem light-hearted but it highlights how we often wait and even pray for others with out being prepared to SHARE.
- You might also want to show your group the "Pizza Evangelist" video.

**Activity 3 - 'Food for Thought' - Evangelism:**

15 mins

- 1) What Roadblocks (challenges to faith) were demonstrated in the Food for Thought readings?
- 2) What approach did the different people take to evangelism?
- 3) Which approach to evangelism would you have found most natural for you and most difficult for you.

**Key teaching points/helpful hints:**

- Readings are:  
Peter—day of Pentecost, Paul - unknown God?, Jesus and Nicodemus, Jesus and woman at the well and the rest of the village, Phillip and the Ethiopian eunuch
- Remember to include the woman at the well as an evangelist.

**Activity 4 - Roadblocks Feedback:**

20 mins

- 1) Ask group members to share how they had got on with the **Roadblocks Challenge**.
- 2) Ask for responses from group members - any surprises, any encouragements?
- 3) In Connect 3 groups write '**Prepare to Share**'. Ten practical tips to sharing our faith in 2010.
- 4) Take feedback from each group and encourage the group to record key points

**Key teaching points/helpful hints:**

- The Roadblocks Challenge was speaking to friends who aren't Christians about their obstacles to faith - **Session 2 Activity 6**.
- This exercise may produce a number of tough questions; be happy to take time to discuss these even if there is not an easy answer.
- Were people antagonistic or happy to chat about their views?

## Session Content

## Notes



### Activity 6 - Prayer Focus:



15 mins

- 1) Give each group member one "Dare to Prayer Card" from page 11.
- 2) Ask them to write down the names of five friends or family members who aren't Christians who they will commit to praying for over the next few months.
- 3) Allow each group member to state one or 2 people they are particularly keen to pray for.
- 4) Praying round the group ask each person to pray for the 1 or 2 people named by the group member on their right.

#### Key teaching points/helpful hints:

- This might include people they talked to for the Roadblocks Challenge or friends they might invite to Summer Madness.
- It might be good to come up with a combined statement - This group believes the Christian faith worth passing on because...



### Activity 7 - Leader's Choice:

You may want to do a review of learning, growth, challenge hopes from group members before a final prayer of commission.



10 mins

### Additional Group Business:

- Consider how you might encourage people to **continue praying** for their 5 friends and family members.
- Don't forget to book into **Summer Madness!**

### In Practice:

- Could group members **invite a friend** who isn't a Christian to **Summer Madness** or an **event at your church**.

# Dare To Prayer

Five people who **aren't Christians** who I will **commit to praying** for:

'But my life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing **the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus** - the work of **telling others the Good News** about God's wonderful kindness and love'. **Acts 20:24**

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