

Name of Resource - Joining the Family Contact Person - Shirley Weston (shirley@hopechurch.co.uk)

As a church we look forward to the possibility of welcoming people from Muslim backgrounds into the fellowship. In addition we want to be a welcoming church to people from different ethnic backgrounds.

Join the Family is a 6 week course based on booklets and a DVD that looks at the expectations and experiences of people from Muslim communities who have joined a church in the UK. They share openly and frankly about their negative and positive experiences and participants are encouraged to look at some general principles about how we 'do church in the West'. It is challenging and inspiring and likely to lead to some interesting discussions.

Topics for discussion include:

- What draws Muslims to follow Jesus?
- What is the cost for people from these communities?
- How do they grow in him?
- How many people from Muslim backgrounds enrich the church?
- How do people from Muslim backgrounds develop an integrated identity?

Although 'Joining the Family' is based on Muslim background believers joining the church, the principles could be applied to the general idea of being an inclusive and welcoming church.