You could ask the members of the group tobring along their own pictures and stories of examples of leaders who are good/bad, strong/weak, wise/foolish etc.

**2. Ask the group to think of hymns which say something about leadership. Which is their favourite and why?**

**3. We often talk about ‘leading by example’. Ask the group members to think of someone from their own experience who led by example. What did they learn from them?**

***Union of Welsh Independents***

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***Y Ffordd/The Way***

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**Leadership in the Church**

*Year 2, Part 2*

***How to use the material***

**The film has 4 chapters with an introduction at the beginning. We suggest that you divide the film as is appropriate for your group and number of sessions. The questions for each chapter can be found on pages 2 and 3.**

**Introduction**

**Chapter 1:** *Introducing the Leader*

**Chapter 2*:*** *The work of the Leader*

**Chapter 3*:*** *Training for Leadership*

**Chapter 4:** *The Challenge to Lead*

Pages 3 and 4 of this leaflet contain additional material to use in your sessions. Before concluding each session, please allow time to discuss the question:

***What can we do, as a church, following this discussion?***

***Questions for discussion***

***Introduction and Chapter 1:* Introducing the Leader**

*(We ssuggest that you begin this session with a reading of John 15: 1-16)*

1. Think about the image of the Vine and the branches. What message do you see here? Is it an easy image for people to understand today? Could you think of a more meaningful image?
2. What is responsible for the decline in the number of ministers?
3. What are the strengths and weaknesses of leading the church where you grew up or are a member of?
4. ‘A true leader shows direction, acts on decisions made and inspires people.’ Discuss.
5. Do the members of the group have any experience of other forms of leadership within the church apart from the congregational model? Do other models of leadership have anything to offer us?

***Chapter 2*: The Work of the Leader**

1. Does your church give enough opportunities for all the talents of the members to contribute to its life?
2. ‘The leader’s task is to get everyone working together.’ Discuss
3. Can you think of an example when your church responded to a specific need within the church? Are there any other specific needs within the church that you think the church should respond to?
4. What makes you frustrated about the life of your church? What do you believe is the greatest challenge to your church?
5. In which ways does your church serve the local community?

***Chapter 3*: Training for Leadership**

1. Do you think that a person leading a congregation needs formal training?
2. What are the strengths of ‘learning through experience?‘ Are there any possible weaknesses?’
3. What has helped you to strengthen your relationship with God, Jesus and the church?
4. Can you think of a recent example of a vision being presented effectively *(Don’t limit it to the church)*? What do you think was mainly responsible for it?
5. Identify the problems within your community that need to be dealt with. Could the church contribute to solving them? Who would you need to work with?

***Chapter 4*: The Challenge to Lead**

1. What is the biggest challenge facing a church leader today?
2. How mindful of the future is your church? What is being done to ensure succession planning?
3. When was the last time that your church ‘stepped out of the boat?’
4. ‘By sharing in a decision, everyone can own it’. Do you feel that you own the decisions made by your church? If not, why?
5. What would hold you back from offering yourself as a leader?

**Additional Material**

1. **Ask someone to read aloud Romans Chapter 12, verses 3 – 13. If time allows ask someone else from the group to read the verses again (Perhaps using a different translation, or if the first reader was male ask a female to take the second reading). Allow some time for the members of the group to read the verses quietly. Ask if there is anything that needs clarifying or if anyone has any questions about the passage.**

**Discuss: a) What does the passage tell us about our individual roles within the church?**

**b) What does the passage tell us about church leadership?**

**2. Cut out pictures from the newspapers of various leaders who are in the news.** Discuss with the group the different types of leadership that they represent and what the stories about them tell us about the way that they lead.

3