



Children
& Youth

2025-2026

INFORMATION HANDBOOK



Terrain

A YEAR EXPLORING WHO JESUS IS AND WHAT THAT MIGHT MEAN FOR YOU

Terrain



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Children & Youth Department
The Salvation Army
Territorial Headquarters
1 Champion Park
London SE5 8FJ

childrencyouth@salvationarmy.org.uk



Children
& Youth



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Don't just take our word for it. This isn't the first time we've run this and so we've got some beautiful words from past Terrainees!

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Head to this section to help you apply to be part of our next cohort of Terrain!

"THE GOSPELS
ARE NOT SIMPLY
ABOUT
JESUS
BUT ABOUT
JESUS
SPEAKING
TO US
ABOUT THE
JOURNEY
WE ARE ON."

ALEXANDER JOHN SHAIA



Terrain

INVITATION

Jesus entered into the world fully as human and as such gave us a blueprint of how to navigate some of life's big themes and questions.

But what is it about Jesus' life that has caused people to pay attention and attempt to replicate his way of living for 1000s of years?

Terrain invites you to a unique opportunity to change the view and allow Jesus to speak to you through experience, encounter and question. Over the course of a year Terrainees will go on a journey of discipleship looking at the four gospels which give us an insight into Jesus' life.

We'll use new and creative ways of discovering what these old texts have to say to us, and we'll use some ancient methods to help us notice what's happening on the new paths that we tread on each day.

Instead of inviting you to a new place, we want to help you see your now place differently. Four View weekends, monthly online catch-ups, mentoring and personal study will help you explore how we face change; move through suffering; receive joy and mature in service and notice these themes in your everyday.

Curious? Come and join us for a year of adventure and exploration as well as reflection and review! We want to wake up to the journey that we're on so that we can recognise the fullness of life Jesus has for us.

You would be so welcome.

To understand more of what Terrain looks like watch our video:



EXPLANATION

Terrain uses the work of theologian and author Alexander John Shaia as a map to help us get to know Jesus better and orientate towards the full life He might have for us.

Shaia suggests that each gospel is written to ask a specific question:

MATTHEW - HOW DO WE FACE CHANGE?

MARK - HOW DO WE MOVE THROUGH SUFFERING?

JOHN - HOW DO WE RECEIVE JOY?

LUKE - HOW DO WE MATURE IN SERVICE?

But what is TERRAIN?

Over the course of a year, Terrain intentionally creates space for young adults to be immersed in the life transforming gospels of Jesus Christ.

It does this through various ways of learning for a true holistic experience. These are:

1. LOCATION LEARNING

Much of Jesus' teaching was outdoors using the world around him as his classroom. Exploring what the Christian faith has to offer us whilst we are on location allows our learning to be routed in contextual experience rather than just theory. We hope to introduce you to tools to help get the most out of the places you find yourselves in, both together on one of our four residential weekends and in your current context.

(Check out the timeline on page 9 for more information about the residential weekends)

2. REFLECTIVE MENTORING

We believe that a really helpful way to grow is through mentoring. Whether you've been mentored before or not, this practice can be really important as it helps us to hear questions which we may not be prepared to ask ourselves. It gives us a trusted person to share our journey with and it helps you get the most out of the year.

Jesus often helped people learn in this way.

You will be assigned a mentor from your division, as well as have access to the Terrain team who will seek to develop your discipleship through questions to help you go deeper.



3. DEEP COMMUNITY

One of the joys of Terrain is that you do not journey alone, but alongside others who are seeking in a similar way to you. You will quickly understand that you belong and as you get to know your fellow Terrainees you will begin to see them all as a group of companions who will be there for you through the changes and the moments of pain, who will be there to cheer you on with successes and you'll learn to serve one another and the world. To belong to an encouraging, supportive group of people who see the value in the journey and have a shared experience is key to learning well from each other.

We are each created in God's image and so in each of us God can be seen and therefore we continually strive to see that in each other and this change of view encourages us to learn about God through our community.

Our community is formed through the shared experiences at our residential weekends and the commitment to our zoom learning community by way of meaningful engagement and preparation.

4. SOLO



Some of your greatest discoveries on the course may come as a result of solo time.

We will gift you space over the year to get to grips with this discipline through reading, listening, journalling, creative tasks and times of deliberate noticing.

We will practise and model solo time on each of our view weekends, but also set you tasks outside of our weekends to help this become a habit so that we are rooted in the gospels.

The programme is deliberately a 'year in' programme where you don't need to move away from where you are at the moment. We want you to explore what God is saying to you about your life in your context right now. It's an opportunity to focus on 'who you are, where you are'.

**"COME
AND
SEE!"**

JESUS
JOHN 1

 **Terrain**

EXPLANATION



EXPLANATION

COSTS

The following costs are required as a contribution towards your place on the programme.

For students or those not in employment - £275

For those employed - £550

This payment from you contributes towards:

- Four residential weekends away
- Food at all the residential weekends away
- Activities whilst away
- Staffing of weekends (including qualified instructors and professional guests)
- A copy of the four gospels and other resources

The programme is heavily subsidised by the Children and Youth Department and we believe it to be of excellent value. It's important for you and for us that the participant contributes in this way where they can in order to demonstrate personal commitment to the programme.


Should finance be a barrier to your involvement please think creatively.

You could:

- organise a local fundraiser
- speak to your corps/division to see if there is any possibility of sponsorship
- commit to a regular payment plan to make it manageable.

Note: You will also be responsible for the costs of travel to and from the residential weekends. The Terrain team will do what they can to support you in this by reminding you to book appropriate travel in good time and encourage car sharing where possible.





**“WE HAVE
NEVER
SEEN
ANYTHING
LIKE
THIS!”**

CROWD ABOUT JESUS
MARK 2:12

 **Terrain**

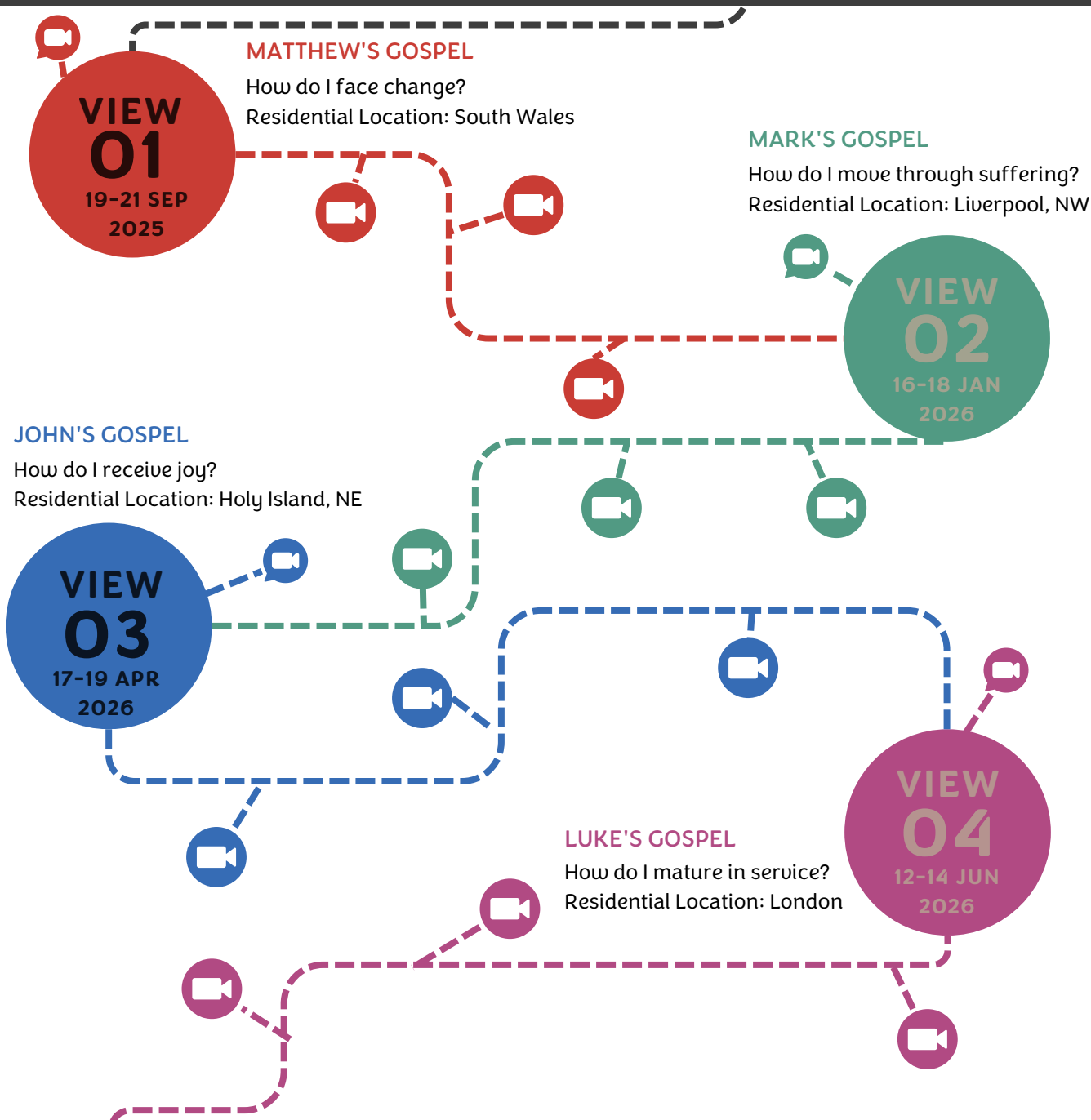
TIMELINE

The programme runs over the course of a year. In each quarter we will be looking at a different gospel and focusing on the question that Alexander John Shaia suggests comes from that gospel. We look at each theme together both in person on our View weekends and online through our zoom sessions. Additionally we have a shorter zoom in the week before each View weekend to ensure that all Terrainees are prepared appropriately.

OPENING ONLINE GATHERING



SEP 8TH
2025



EXPECTATION

The TERRAIN programme has been designed to work hand in hand with the context you currently find yourself in and we believe it will be complementary to the demands of your every day life. However there are some things that we think are important for you to commit to in order for you to get the most out of your year-in.

Before the course starts:

Listen to the introduction to the All Terrain Podcast to give you more of a flavour of the themes and questions. Listen [here](#).

Pray about your involvement in the course.

Check your availability for the four residential weekends and put them in your diary!

Complete the application form and return to the Children and Youth Department by the 25th July 2025.

Following acceptance onto the programme, you will be required to make your first (or full) payment by the 1st September to confirm your place.

During the course:

LOCATION LEARNING

Attendance and engagement at all four residential weekends (four weekends spaced out during the year), and our Re:View day.

Organise your own transport to each of the residential weekends. This may be done in collaboration with fellow Terrainees/DYS but it is your responsibility.

Come with the correct kit (see kit list) or advise Terrain Team if it is not possible to obtain any particular item in good time.

REFLECTIVE MENTORING

Arrange and attend regular mentoring sessions with your personal mentor. (1 hour per month)

DEEP COMMUNITY

Attendance and contribution to our monthly learning community gathering points on Zoom (2-3 hours per month).

Be respectful to all and value and encourage the contribution of everyone.

SOLO

Completion of reading of the gospels and any other related reading/listening(10 minutes per day/1 hour per week)

Be committed to ongoing personal development and growth.



SHARED BEHAVIOURS

In order to get the most out of the Terrain community we think a number of shared behaviours should be agreed to;

We understand that all contributions are valuable and so we seek to cherish each participant and what they bring to the group by giving them space to share and respect for difference.

We will each communicate in an honest and timely manner, particularly when things are being organised.

We will conduct ourselves with good Christian integrity throughout the year.

We will strive to challenge ourselves to be the best we can be which may mean operating outside of our comfort zones, but with the understanding that we'll be well supported throughout.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM THE TERRAIN TEAM

We are really invested in this programme and believe in it's ability to help you change the view for your life. The team are experienced in guiding you through this journey and want the best from you. We believe in accountability and commit the following to you;

We will provide you with clear communication so that you know what is expected of you at any one time.

We will run monthly zoom sessions to help the learning community maintain contact and momentum.

We will be available to you through Whatsapp.

We will always give you opportunity to ask questions and encourage curiosity.

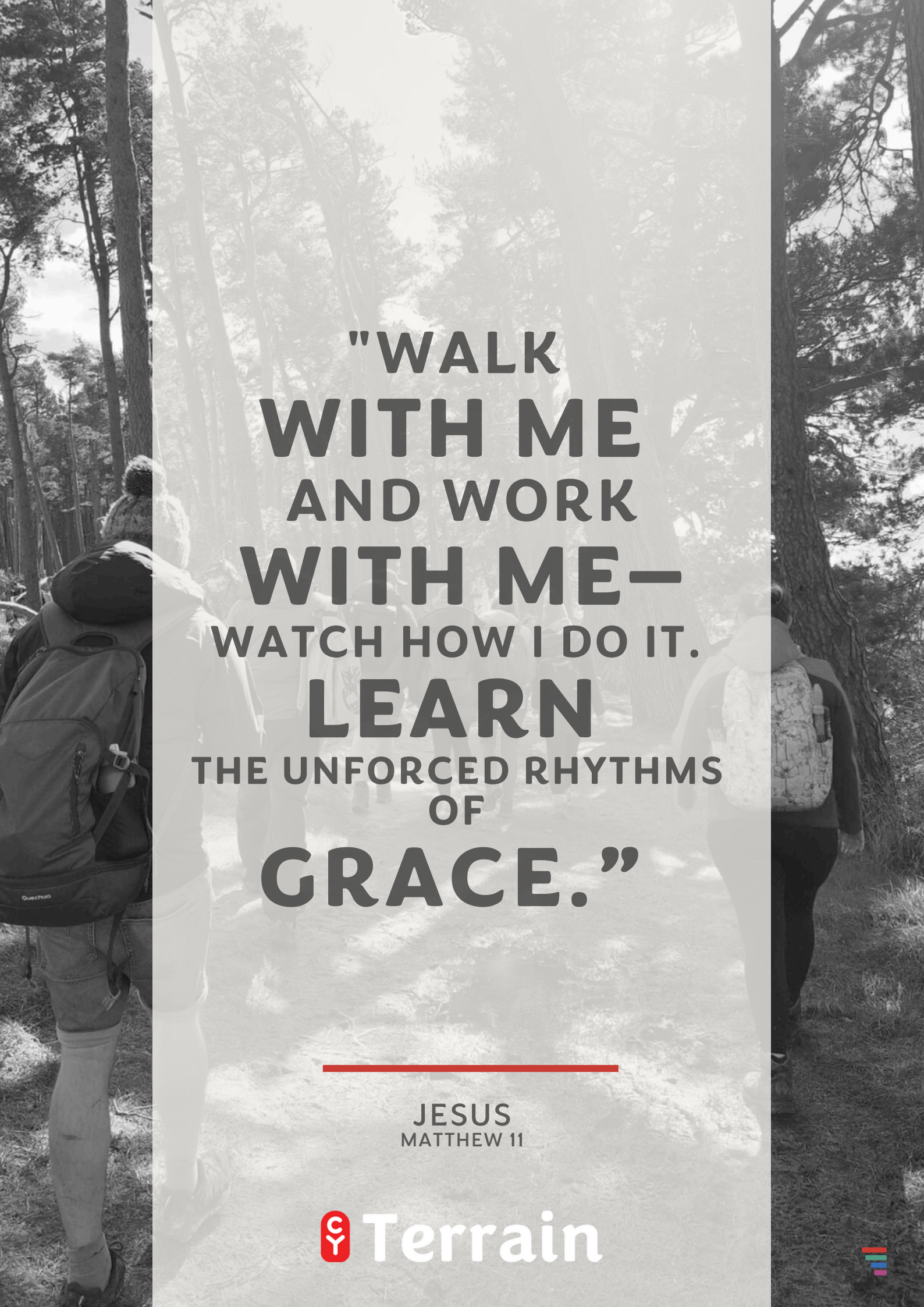
We will send you some items in the post throughout the year.

We will tailor the course to meet your needs, personalities and learning styles.

We will keep you safe throughout the programme through inclusion of specialists, experts and high support.

We remain committed to learning on the journey and so will be with you in the discovery of what Jesus is saying and follow the same rhythms and practices as the Terrainees.





**"WALK
WITH ME
AND WORK
WITH ME—
WATCH HOW I DO IT.
LEARN
THE UNFORCED RHYTHMS
OF
GRACE."**

JESUS
MATTHEW 11

 **Terrain**



RECOMMENDATION

The Terrain programme has been running for a number of years now and each time we run it Terrainees are positively impacted. Here's what some previous Terrainees have said about it:



Just do it, You will love it and meet some amazing people. The changes you will see in yours and others lives by collectively growing together in God are immeasurable.



If you would like an alternative and insightful way to 'tune in' to your faith and your own journey, go for it. The support we have been able to provide for one another has been something that I've appreciated so much.



Realistically, everything about Terrain on paper was the opposite of myself. I didn't like walking, didn't like breaking a nail or not washing my hair, had never squealed down the side of a big rock before, had never really read my bible all that much. It was not something that technically appealed to me; and that is the sort of person I would encourage to take part in Terrain. I would encourage the people who it wouldn't appeal to. I think a cohort of such a mixed bunch of people to become such close friends is something that you need. You may not know you need it, but you do. You need their insight and to hear about their experiences with God. You need to experience new things with them. You just do.



Do it, it's an incredible experience and chance for growth, I loved every minute of my Terrain year and cannot overstate how much it helped me to build myself and my relationship with God.



Do it because you'll come out knowing something you never knew you needed.



APPLICATION

TERRAIN 25-26

More Questions?

If you want to have an informal conversation to find out more about this programme and whether it would be right for you please either get in touch with the Children and Youth Department (childrenyouth@salvationarmy.org.uk) who will put you in touch with the team or even a past Terrainnee, or you could speak to your Divisional Youth Specialist.

To apply:

To be part of our next wonderful cohort of Terrainnees you can:

Request a digitally fillable pdf. application form from your Divisional Youth Specialist.

or

Complete an online form at the following link or via the scannable QR code.

<https://forms.office.com/e/p8fDzX2a7q>



Hard copy forms are available on request.

Please note

Acceptance on Terrain is conditional on:

- the endorsement of your DYS and Corps officer/Church leader
- the successful completion of the application form
- and an informal interview with the Terrain leadership team

We look forward to hearing from you!






**"I HAVE
COME
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FULL."**


JESUS
JOHN 10:10




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