

• Other Resources

See the back of the 'Serving Others - a Simple Guide' leaflet.

Leading the Way is a resource produced by the Diocese of Truro Discipleship Team. It is designed to help individuals, congregations and communities to explore the way of life which will enable them to flourish in Jesus Christ.

LEADING THE WAY

Way of Life - a pattern for Christian Living

**Journeying Out
Serving - others**



“Door. Bridget Macaulay. Used with permission

Participants' Notes.



⇒ How might we make our building more welcoming and useful to our local community?

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* Prayer

All that has been done in this session will be drawn together in prayer. This prayer can be found on the front of ‘Community Engagement - a Simple Guide’. It might be done responsively in 2 groups like this, group 1 bold print, group 2 normal print, together in italics:

Dear Lord,
Help us to follow your example,
by looking out for those who, each day,
feel that they are marginalised,
who cannot find hope,
who believe that they have little to offer,
who are overcome by the challenges of poverty.
Help us to widen our horizons,
to make space for the stranger,
to watch out for those who feel invisible,
to give time to the outsider,
to talk to the person facing silence,
to restore justice and value.
Give us the courage to undertake this,
the determination to join with others in seeing grace in
every human face,
and the faith to embrace the opportunity in your name.

Amen.

⇒ Where is God at work in our community? Did we identify any particular projects in the ice-breaker session? How might we join in? Who would the partners be that we would offer to work with?

⇒ Are there issues and needs in our community which are not being addressed? Can we identify any that God might be calling our Church to engage with? Who else might we work with on this?

⇒ What are the barriers/opportunities for hospitality, sharing and serving?

⇒ What values and interests do we have as a Church which could be a meeting point with others who are not church members but also wish to serve?

* Beginning where we are

Your group leader will lead a prayer.

Almighty God,
you have taught us through your Son
that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we may love you with our whole heart
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post communion prayer 16 after Trinity

* Icebreaker

You will be encouraged to think about your locality and your community - to think of areas/ issues of particular need, and also to identify where/how the church is serving the community.

* Introduction

The leader will introduce 'serving others' as an important aspect of our discipleship. You can read further on this topic in the 'Simple Guide' which you will be given to take home.

* Bible 'conversation'

Prayer

Gracious and holy Father, please give me:

Intellect to understand you;
reason to discern you;
diligence to seek you;
wisdom to find you;
a spirit to know you;
a heart to meditate upon you;
ears to hear you;
eyes to see you;
a tongue to proclaim you;
a way of life pleasing to you;
patience to wait for you;
and perseverance to look for you.

Amen

* Bible Text

Isaiah 58:6-12

⁶ 'Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:

to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter -
when you see the naked, to clothe them,
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

⇒ How well do we know each other? Are we in a position to recognise need within our own congregation?

⇒ How do we serve the needs of people within our congregation?

• Community

To be in a position to serve our community we need an intimate knowledge of the contexts in which our churches are set. Engaging with our community needs to be an intentional part of our ministry and seen as an essential part of holistic mission and our journey OUT.

⇒ Reflecting back on the reading from Isaiah, are there any points which relate to our community and ways in which our church might serve?

- **Congregational.**

As a congregation we are made up of individuals with differing gifts, skills and needs. We have different interests and come from diverse backgrounds but we are the body of Christ in this place and can be used by him to minister to and serve one another.

⇒ What are the policies and values of this church? Even if we don't have an explicit 'Mission Statement' or Mission Action Plan, what are the priorities which drive our decisions?

⇒ Where do those policies and values reflect those held by the local community and how /where could we engage with them of under those headings?

⇒ What might God want our church to be like in five years' time?

⁸ Then your light will break forth like the dawn,
and your healing will quickly appear;
then your righteousness will go before you,
and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.
⁹ Then you will call, and the LORD will answer;
you will cry for help, and he will say: here am I.
'If you do away with the yoke of oppression,
with the pointing finger and malicious talk,
¹⁰ and if you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,
then your light will rise in the darkness,
and your night will become like the noonday.
¹¹ The LORD will guide you always;
he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land
and will strengthen your frame.
You will be like a well-watered garden,
like a spring whose waters never fail.
¹² Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins
and will raise up the age-old foundations;
you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,
Restorer of Streets with Dwellings

*Notes

* Questions

• Personal

We are called to love our neighbours, not just our fellow Christians. Encounters with others are part and parcel of our daily lives both in our homes and outside them.

⇒ Where do I meet people, strangers in chance/daily encounters? ? Think through the last (typical) week; where did I meet people, and what sort of exchanges did I have with them?

⇒ Can I think of anything I recently learnt in a specific encounter with someone.

In our everyday lives during the week we are part of a network of Christian disciples making a difference to those around us, acting as salt and light.

⇒ How does my faith affect my encounters with others? Is there a bible verse/passage which particularly influences me here?

⇒ Can I think of particular individuals or families in my neighbourhood who are in need? What could I practically do to help them?

⇒ Are there ways that God may be calling me to be more involved with my neighbours and acquaintances?