



Reaching out.

You will need:-

- Bibles
- 'Praying on the Way' pg 50/51 with Image of a door. For initial prayers
- 'Exploring Way of Life' pg 28 Paper and pens for (a).
- Flip chart paper and pens for (b)
- Poem on A4 sheet for every participant. Pens. For (e)
- For (g) lining paper with the Lords' prayer written along the length of it, with space under each for newspaper articles. A selection of local newspapers and newsletters.

a. In small groups:10 mins

Think back over the last week and bring to mind all that you have done for others in different ways. Remember all the different contexts and situations you have been in and what each has required of you. As you think back over the week can you see God's presence in the different situations and contexts you are involved in?

In what ways did you or could you have clearly shared you faith?

Feed back.

b. In small groups 20 mins:

Write down in a list all the activities in which the people of the church are involved during the week.

By each activity list the possible opportunities for sharing faith in that context.

What new opportunities can you identify?

c. Give each participant a copy of the 5 Marks of Mission and read through them. In the light of the 5 Marks of Mission, what further opportunities for sharing our faith are there in the activities you have listed? 10 mins

d. Prepare a church vision document for sharing our faith: 30 mins

Read the following questions and record the answers on flip chart paper.

What new opportunities for witness have we identified within our community?

What new people groups have we found?

What local needs have we found and how can we meet them?

- Do we need to relocate our activities to where the people are?
- How can we engage people in a group in a serious consideration of the Christian faith?
- How can we encourage a firm commitment to Christ and disciple new converts?
- Do we believe that God has a future for our church?
- Prioritise your answers into short/medium/long term plans.
- What one small step can you make now on your journey forward?

Read Acts 8:26-40 Philip and the Eunuch;

Consider together Philip's response to meeting the Eunuch, his observations and subsequent actions. How might this story inform our outreach?

- e. Individual response: 'To think about': 15 mins

Give each person a copy of the following text printed at the top of a piece of A4 paper (leaving a fair amount of empty paper).

'There is an old Christian tradition
That God sends each person into this world
With a special message to deliver,
With a special song to sing for others,
With a special act of love to bestow.
No one else can speak my message,
Or sing my song,
Or offer my act of love.
These are entrusted only to me'.

From John Powell, Through Seasons of the Heart (Collins 1988)

Invite people, on their own, to reflect on the words of this reading, and to write down anything they feel prompted to do, to say, to explore, to be, in response to God's call.

What might be the first step(s) you need to take?

What response might you want to make to God at this stage?

What help might you need from Him?

f. At the end of the time, invite people to fold up the paper like a letter, and to put their name on the outside and place it somewhere where they will find it in the future.

g. Prayer to finish.

During this time of prayer we will use the Lord's prayer to engage with current issues both locally and globally. Spread out on the table or floor the newspapers and magazines. You will also need the large piece of paper or card (a long strip of wallpaper paper is ideal for this). On the paper write out the lines of the Lord's prayer (eg 'Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name' or 'lead us not into temptation' etc). Leave plenty of space in between the lines. Invite the group to tear or cut out headlines or images or adverts etc from the papers and to stick them around the lines from the Lord's prayer. Suggest that they do this in silence in order that they can have the space to reflect on which part of the Lord's prayer are relevant to the items of news that have caught their attention. The cutting out and sticking down can then become a communal silent 'moving out' prayer of the group as a whole. Different news items can overlap to make this a multi layered prayer collage. Once the paper is covered and there is no more room, draw the prayer time to a close by praying the MOVING OUT Prayer once again.



5 MARKS OF MISSION



5 Marks of Mission

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

To teach, baptise and nurture new believers

To respond to human need by loving service

To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

(Bonds of Affection-1984 ACC-6 p49, Mission in a Broken World-1990 ACC-8 p101) - See more at:

<http://www.anglicancommunion.org/ministry/mission/fivemarks.cfm#sthash.F0bSwU1Z.dpuf>

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