

Living for God – My Frontline

The graphic materials for this session were produced by the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity; used as part of the Diocese of Truro's programme of Accompanied Ministry Development with permission.

AIMS AND OUTCOMES

- Help everyone realise that God places us all in a special place and that we live for him there – it's not just ministers and missionaries who are 'full-time Christian workers'
- Provide an opportunity for everyone to share something of the pleasures and pains of their 'frontline' and pray for each other.

RESOURCES

- Use this Leader's Guide to structure the session and inform your input.
- Download the Powerpoint presentation (produced by LICC and used with permission) from the AMD website.
- If you are leading a large group (more than 10 people), then consider using a projector and dividing the group into smaller groups for the 'Think About It' discussions.

Make sure you have a working version of the presentation before the session and that the technology and the space you plan to use are appropriate for your audience.

With very small groups it may be possible to use a printed out copy of the presentation.

SESSION PLAN

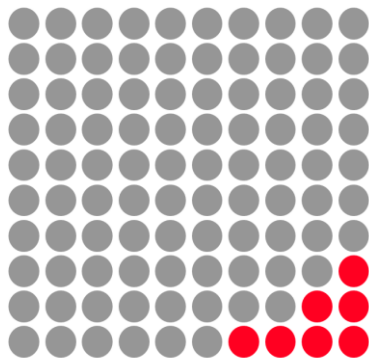
- State the theme: 'Living for God.'

THINK ABOUT IT

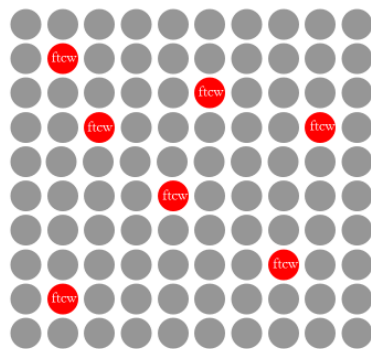
Where do you think Christian ministry takes place?

How much Christian ministry do you think you do?

- Present the following two diagrams
 - ❖ Say that the red dots indicate church goers and the grey dots non-church goers. **[SLIDE]**



[SLIDE]



THINK ABOUT IT

What do you think is indicated by the positioning of the dots?

- ❖ 'The Church gathered' – in a corner and under pressure, or simply the place where all the action takes place, a limited connectedness with the wider world.
- ❖ 'The Church scattered' – 'out' in the world, scattered from one another, but relating to many more people.

THINK ABOUT IT

What are the implications for Christian ministry of the positioning of the dots?

- ❖ Discuss what difference it makes to the church's mission to think not of the church as being in the corner – either only engaged in mission together to people we don't know or somewhat defensive – but also as scattered.

THINK ABOUT IT

What might be the results of making God known where you are?

- ❖ Note: think practically about what it might mean to 'make a difference' in the place where group members live their lives (including their life at work, where relevant).

[SLIDE]



THINK ABOUT IT

How important is it to think about Christian ministry as being about the whole of life?

- ❖ Now think about the importance and opportunities for making a difference. One way to do this is to think about the amount of time we typically spend in church and elsewhere. A week lasts for 168 hours. If we sleep for about 7 hours a night we are left with 120 hours in the week when we do something else. If we spend 10 hours doing 'churchy stuff' (and that is many more hours than many of us spend) then there are 110 hours where we live 'outside church.' But not apart from God.

[SLIDE]



THINK ABOUT IT

Make a weekly timetable of how you spend a typical week.

Think about what you are doing for much of that time: that is where you are a follower of Jesus. Share with the others in the group what being a follower of Jesus in the two or three most significant places means for you.



- ❖ The place where we spend most of our time, or the contexts for which we have most responsibility are our 'frontlines.' God is interested in them. And we are disciples in them.
- ❖ Ask how we can demonstrate the love of God. Why not be very specific and practical?

THINK ABOUT IT

How can the church help us live on our Frontline?

How does our Frontline shape our experience of church?

- ❖ Help people link their Frontline with Church.

[END SLIDE]

FRONTLINE

THINK ABOUT IT

Pray together for our discipleship and witness on our 'frontlines'.