

# Confident Christians in all of Life

Bishops' Study Day – exploring *Setting God's People Free*

17 November 2020

## Session 1: First Thoughts

Confessions of an adman



'The glory of God is a human being fully alive; and to be alive consists in beholding God.'

*Irenaeus*

Beginning at the end: 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.'

## Three companions for the day

- Someone over 70 \_\_\_\_\_
- Someone between 19 and 40 \_\_\_\_\_
- Someone between 6 and 11 \_\_\_\_\_

'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.'

*John 10:10*

## Thelma & Victoria – everyday faith in action

## Biblical foundations

The scope of the gospel – Colossians 3:23-24, Genesis 1, Colossians 1:15-20

## The way he gave us – Matthew 28:18-20



Pastoral care and pastoral equipping

‘Churches have to realise that the core of their calling is to be discipling communities, whatever else they do.’  
*Bishop Graham Cray*

Case study: Ed – PC/PE in action:

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*I began to ask myself two questions:*

*What kind of disciple does Jesus want to send out into the world?*

*What kind of church will help to make that kind of disciple?’*

Vicar, Shrewsbury

## Session 2: Ministry in the Everyday – Exploring a Bible Passage

The three passages (each group will be assigned one) offer a window into how God's people responded to the situations they found themselves in:

- A young captive working for the commander of an enemy army – 2 Kings 5:1-19a
- A farmer responding to a migrant worker – Ruth 2:1-16
- A missionary on a sea voyage – Acts 27

It would be great if someone could record some of your observations and share them in the chat later.

Perhaps read the passage out loud round the group and then kick off with some of these questions:

1. What struck you about the passage?
2. What circumstances are the lead characters presented with?
3. What is the scope of their ministry in the context? What do they do? Say?
4. What do you think the impact of their ministry might have been?
5. What applications do you see for:
  - people in your congregation
  - people they might engage with in

## Session 3: Leading Culture Change

### Two culture shifts

1. Until laity and clergy are convinced, based on their baptismal mutuality, that they are equal in worth and status, complementary in gifting and vocation, mutually accountable in discipleship, and equal partners in mission, we will never form Christian communities that can evangelise the nation.

2. Until, together, ordained and lay, we form and equip lay people to follow Jesus confidently in every sphere of life in ways that demonstrate the Gospel we will never set God's people free to evangelise the nation.

### Thinking about culture

'Culture is the way we do things round here.' Archbishop Derek Worlock



'It was the only thing I wanted because I didn't know there were other ways to love God completely. I now know of course that you can be a bus conductress or a television person and love God completely.'  
*Sister Wendy Beckett*

Culture is the concrete manifestation of our beliefs.

Ethos & Christos

Culture in action – some examples

- The curious case of the mission board in the middle of the church hall
- Mirrors for mission

### Creating a whole-life culture

- Doing the same things in a whole-life way
- Doing new things that carry the whole-life DNA

## **Some key (unsurprising) ingredients**

- Cast a whole-life vision
- Focus on the frontline/everyday
- Expand the pastor/people contract
- Grow a core team
- Make one-degree shifts
- Share real life stories

## **D x V x F > R**

### **A word about one-degree shifts**

- A picture tells a thousand words
- The agenda item that won't go away
- The coffee rota

The thing about skimmed milk

### **A word about real-life stories – Psalm 145:4**

A spiritual discipline of praise

A spiritual discipline of encouragement

Case study: the boy unmentioned; a Cornish cameo

TTT – this time tomorrow

## Building confidence: unleashing the power of 'already'

- Already right where I am?
- Already fruitful where I am?

A 6M framework for everyday fruitfulness:

M1: Modelling godly character

M2: Making good work

M3: Ministering grace and love

M4: Making culture

M5: Being a Mouthpiece for truth and justice

M6: Being a Messenger of the gospel

Trifocals for the kingdom:

- Eyes to see what God has already done
- Eyes to see what might be
- Eyes to see what God is doing

## Session 4: Culture Change & the Main Drivers of Church Life

How then shall we live? And the question of time

Baxter for today: 'skimmed milk' for empowering pastors

**Change driver 1: gathered worship (for scattered ministry)**

The rich opportunities in the service

- Welcome
- Songs & graphics
- Communion

- Confession
- Petitions

- Offering

The rich opportunities in the church year

- Plough Sunday
- Rogation Sunday
- Harvest

## **Change driver 2: preaching**

Psalm 144:1 and its implications

A blind spot in our hermeneutics? Case study: work

Preaching (to the whole-life Christian)

Case study: Isabel

## **Change driver 3: small groups**

Why they matter to this cause

## **Change driver 4: whole-life personal prayer**

## **Closing reflection: everyday faith in the boats people are in – Acts 27**

The scope of ministry

The character of the God who is with us

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## Sources & Resources for Everyday Faith

There are lots of resources on work and whole-life discipleship on the LICC website ([licc.org.uk](http://licc.org.uk)) including recommended books, links, Bible studies, sermons, and short films. You can also sign up for our weekly emails, 'Word for the Week' and 'Connecting with Culture', or our 40-day prayer journeys. The resources below can be ordered online, by phone, or by email from LICC.

### For Leaders

*Imagine Church: Releasing Whole-Life Disciples*, Neil Hudson

*Scattered & Gathered: Equipping Disciples for the Frontline*, Neil Hudson

*Leading a Whole-Life Disciplemaking Church*, Neil Hudson & Tracy Cotterell

*Whole Life Worship*, Sam & Sara Hargreaves

*Whole Life Preaching*, available free online at [licc.org.uk/preaching](http://licc.org.uk/preaching)

*Frontline Sundays*, available free online at [licc.org.uk/frontlinesundays](http://licc.org.uk/frontlinesundays)

*Making Disciples for Everyday Life*, frequently asked questions from church leaders, Joe Warton



### LICC Church Workshops

The team offer a range of workshops across the year – on leading a whole-life church, whole-life preaching, whole-life worship. Check the LICC website, or sign up for monthly updates at [licc.org.uk/signup](http://licc.org.uk/signup)



### The One About Vol.1 & 2

In these two collections of true stories, Mark Greene offers us a window into the rich, varied, and sometimes surprising ways God works in our everyday lives – a great way to help you think about what Monday to Saturday discipleship might look like. Find supporting resources and share your own story at [licc.org.uk/theoneabout](http://licc.org.uk/theoneabout)

### For Individuals

*Whole Life, Whole Bible*, Antony Billington

*Fruitfulness on the Frontline*, Mark Greene

*Thank God It's Monday*, Mark Greene



### For Groups

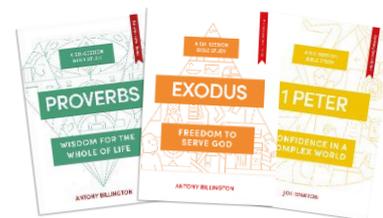
*Life on the Frontline*, 6-part DVD resource, Neil Hudson

*Fruitfulness on the Frontline*, 8-part DVD resource, Mark Greene

*The Whole of Life for Christ*, 7-part Bible study, Antony Billington & Mark Greene

*Transforming Work*, 8 sessions over a year for Christians in the workplace

*The Gateway Seven*, a study series on seven books of the Bible, covering seven genres, with a whole-life discipleship focus



### Online Resources

Stories of Christians on the frontline: [licc.org.uk/resources/theme/culture/?category=30](http://licc.org.uk/resources/theme/culture/?category=30)

Whole Life Worship guide & films: [licc.org.uk/wholelifeworship/](http://licc.org.uk/wholelifeworship/)

Stories from the Diocese of London: [london.anglican.org/videos-ambassadors/](http://london.anglican.org/videos-ambassadors/)

Resources from the Diocese of Guildford: [cofeguildford.org.uk/about/dvm/adult-discipleship-development](http://cofeguildford.org.uk/about/dvm/adult-discipleship-development)

Setting God's People Free: [churchofengland.org/SGPF](http://churchofengland.org/SGPF)

Everyday Faith from the Church of England: [churchofengland.org/everydayfaith](http://churchofengland.org/everydayfaith)

### Reflections on today's Bible passages:

Boaz: The Whole-Life Disciple at Work – Ruth 2: [licc.org.uk/boaz](http://licc.org.uk/boaz)

Learning from the Servant Girl – 2 Kings 5: [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Everyday Mission Under Pressure – Acts 27: [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

LICC vision film: [licc.org.uk/about](http://licc.org.uk/about)