



FAITH *Shared*

SESSION 5: HOW DOES YOUR CHURCH INVITE PEOPLE TO BE PART OF ITS STORY?



INTRODUCING

At the end of last week, you asked the group to reflect on:

1. Where do they connect with people outside the church?
2. How do the wider community connect with the church?
3. What is the nature of the interactions?

After giving people some time to refresh their minds about these questions, ask people to share their thoughts. It would be good to think creatively about how you could use the space. Maybe have a board at each end of the space you are meeting in with question 1 at one end and question 2 at the other. Give people a number of post-it notes each and ask them to put their ideas on the boards.

It doesn't matter if people replicate answers, the point is to get a variety of opinions rather than looking for correct answers.

Once people have done this, ask them to spend some time looking at what everyone else has put up, and ask them to sum up their interactions with the wider community.

EXPANDING

Video exploring and explaining the five marks of mission and how they broaden our view of what mission to the wider community is.

EXPLORING

- The aim is, using the table below as an example, reflect on what your church is already doing, the Mark of Mission it engages with, and the impact. You will likely need more rows, so this is just here as an example.

Activity/Event	Which Mark of Mission is it engaging with?	What impact is it having?

Once you have filled out the table with as many things from your church life as you can think of, look back over them and pick out any that don't engage with a mark of mission. Spend some time thinking about how it could be adapted to, or if it can be.

Alternatively, or as well, you could spend some time looking over other activities/events and thinking about how you could deepen their impact.

- Specifically think about how evangelism is part of these activities, and how it could be made more prominent.

Making it stick

- Sometimes when we think about the things that we could do as a church, we stop there and don't take the actions needed to follow through on our plans. If you feel you have spotted an area in which your church could do some good within your wider community set up further planning times to make it a reality.

PRAYING

Using the audio prayers on the Faith Shared webpage, give the group some time and space to reflect on the ideas that you have been exploring through this session.