

## Mission: possible or impossible?



### Introduction:

The aim of this session helps young people identify and understand further the wider mission of the Church and the key role mission plays in Christian discipleship.

#### Aims & objectives:

- To explore young people's understanding and experiences of mission.
- To explain the Church's mandate for mission.
- To relate mission to their own context.
- To challenge the young people on their responsibility and response to mission.
- To commission young people for mission.

**Materials:** Gift paper for five items (listed below), pens and copies of the 'Activity' worksheet.



### Activity...

Mission possible

For this opening activity you will need to prepare by wrapping up the following items in gift paper and hiding them around the room before the young people arrive - a mobile phone, a bottle of water, a first aid kit, a newspaper and a packet of garden seeds.

When the group have settled ask the following question;

- What is their understanding of the word 'mission'?

Explain that the word 'mission' simply means 'a task that a person or a group is sent to perform'. Explain to the young people that they are going to be 'missional' and search for five wrapped parcels hidden in the room. Once all the parcels have been found, open them and ask the young people how they might link to the mission of the Church. After a few moments introduce the 'five marks of mission' and the explanation for each object on the next page:



#### Activity...

Mission possible



#### Engage...

Church = mission



#### Explore...

The Great Commission



#### Going deeper...

Responding to the call



#### Pause...

Jesus said 'Go!'



## Mission: possible or impossible?

### Five Marks of Mission:

- |    |  |                   |
|----|--|-------------------|
| 1) | to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom   | (Mobile phone)    |
| 2) | to teach and baptize and nurture new believers   | (Bottle of water) |
| 3) | to respond to human need through loving service  | (First aid kit)   |
| 4) | to seek to transform unjust structures in society  | (Newspaper)       |
| 5) | to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth | (Pack of seeds)   |

source: [www.anglicancommunion.org/ministry/mission/fivemarks.cfm](http://www.anglicancommunion.org/ministry/mission/fivemarks.cfm)

Split the group into twos/threes, give the young people copies of the 'Activity' worksheet that lists the 'five marks of mission'. Encourage the young people to arrange the 'five marks' from most to least important in their groups. After several minutes, invite each group to share their order and why. Although the order is not important, what is essential is that the young people have the opportunity to think about and discuss their own thoughts on mission. Conclude by facilitating a conversation that enables the entire group to agree on the top two priorities for mission (these will be used in the next activity).



### Engage...

Church = mission

**Materials:** Laptop/equipment to play a You Tube clip.

Watch the clip 'The Missional Church... simple' - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=arxfLK\\_sd68](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=arxfLK_sd68) and afterwards discuss how and why the clip relates to the group's top two priorities from the previous activity.



### Explore...

The Great Commission

**Materials:** Spare Bibles in case the young people forget to bring their own.

Ask the group to look up Matthew 28:16-20 (on the next page) in pairs and invite the young people to identify the core themes that Jesus is asking his disciples to accomplish.

After a time of feed back, explain to the group that a simple way to understand Jesus' instructions is splitting the word 'commission' into two: 'CO' is an abbreviation of the word 'corporation' which in this case represents the Church, and 'MISSION' which embodies the task of being sent out, as instructed by Jesus in Matthew 28:19.

Conclude stating that the Great Commission was not an exclusive command only intended for Jesus' disciples. Matthew 28 is vitally important to the Church today!



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### The Great Commission - Matthew 28:16-20 (NLT)

Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshipped him - but some of them doubted!

Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."



### Going deeper...

Responding to the call

**Materials:** Copies of the 'Going deeper' worksheet.

Arrange the young people into small groups (or pairs) and give them copies of the 'Going deeper' worksheet. The following questions will help the young people explore further the concept of mission in relation to the Great Commission in Mathew 28 and how it affects them as a group and personally:

- 1) What do you think the disciples were feeling when they realised the magnitude of what Jesus was asking them to do?
- 2) Which aspect of the Great Commission challenges you the most and why?
- 3) How should the Church/Christians keep responding to the Great Commission today?
- 4) Is there anything that excites you about your role in regard to mission? If yes, what?
- 5) How can your Christian friends/youth group/youth leaders support and encourage you to fulfil the Great Commission?



### Pause...

Jesus said 'Go!'

**Materials:** Laptop/equipment to play a You Tube clip. Holy oil (or olive oil if appropriate) and the sealed envelopes from the first session.

As this is the last session of the 'Live Life' preparation course, to celebrate the occasion this closing reflection will affirm the young people in their faith journey and commission them in active Christian service and mission. Ideally, try and get some holy oil to anoint the young people with the sign of the cross - why not invite the ordained minister to anoint each young person (or alternatively olive oil can be used by the group leader).

To begin the reflection, ask the group if anyone can remember what the opening icebreaker was on the very first session. Reveal the envelopes that have the young people's answers to the question 'What do Christians believe?'. Hand out the envelopes and allow a few moments for the young people to read their responses.





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Ask the group if anyone is surprised by their answers. Explain that in only ten sessions the group has learned a lot about the Christian Faith, what it means to be a Christian and some, if not all at the Confirmation service have publicly made a commitment to become disciples of Jesus Christ.

Watch the You Tube clip 'This is Discipleship' together - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rk8ERxqCZqQ>

After the clip has finished quietly arrange the group into a circle. Invite the young people to pause for a moment to think about the journey they have been on together and share any special memories, laughs, highlights, emotional moments etc. After a few moments of silence, invite the group to hold hands (refraining from giggling) and say the following words:

Jesus came and told his disciples;

"I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.

And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

(Matthew 28:18-20)

To conclude, the leader (or minister) goes around the circle and anoints each young person, signing a cross on their forehead using the prayer below and referring to the young person by their first name:

Lord God,

Teach (name) to love,

Prepare (name) to liberate,

Help (name) to lead,

And launch (name) into the world,  
to fulfil your great commission.

Amen.

