

Chapter 7: *Treasure*

1. How do you understand the command to be a steward of creation?
2. Identify some of the small steps that could be taken to care for the environment by you - as individuals; a church; the wider community?
3. Is it too late to stop climate change?
4. The 5 marks 'protect the wholeness of mission'. How many of them do your church succeed in doing and which ones are neglected?

Additional Material

Read the following verses and allow a few moments for people to think about them.

Genesis 12: 1-4a

'The Lord said to Abraham, "Leave your country, your family and your relatives, and go the land that I will show you. I will bless you and make your descendants into a great nation. You will become famous and be a blessing to others. I will bless anyone who blesses you, but I will put a curse on anyone who puts a curse on you. Everyone on earth will be blessed because of you." So Abraham left, as the Lord had told him.'

What does this passage tell you about mission? How relevant is it to the mission of the church today?

'Mission is discovering what God is already doing and joining in with it.' (Rowan Williams)

Have a discussion about where you can see God at work in your community and how your church could join in with it.

Union of Welsh Independents *Y Ffordd/The Way*



Mission

Year 3, Part 1
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How to use the material

The film has 7 chapters, and we suggest that you divide the film as appropriate for your group and the number of sessions you intend holding. Questions for each chapter can be found on pages 2, 3 and 4 but there may be other questions of interest to your group.

Chapter 1: *What is Mission?*

Chapter 2: *The Five Marks of Mission*

Chapter 3: *Tell*

Chapter 4: *Teach*

Chapter 5: *Tend*

Chapter 6: *Transform*

Chapter 7: *Treasure*

Page 4 of this leaflet contains some additional material to use in your sessions. Before concluding each session, please allow time to discuss the following question:

What can we do as a church, following this discussion?

Questions for Discussion

Chapter 1: What is Mission?

1. Which definition of mission appeals to you and why?
2. Would you describe your church as a missionary church? How does this show itself?
3. Is it appropriate to do mission to people of other faiths?
4. Which of the following words best describes your feelings about mission - challenge, opportunity, obstacle, burden or fear?

Chapter 2: The Five Marks of Mission

1. Is the traditional understanding of mission too narrow and restrictive?
2. Are there elements of Christian mission that are missing from the Five Marks of Mission?

Chapter 3: Tell

1. Which definition of 'telling' in the film appeals to you and why?
2. Are there other means of 'telling' other than using words?
3. What do you think holds the church back from 'telling'?
4. Which contemporary ways of 'telling' should the church be using today?
5. Do you feel that you hear the Christian viewpoint on the matters of the day spoken clearly from the pulpit of your church? Is it being communicated to people outside the church in a simple and clear way?

Chapter 4: Teach

1. How much emphasis is given to nurturing faith within the life of your church?

2. How does your church help people to grow in faith and come to a deeper understanding of Jesus? Would you say that this is being done successfully?
3. What are the opportunities in your church for people to take part and be proactive in mission?
4. How has your faith changed or developed during your time as a member of the church?

Chapter 5: Tend

1. What is the unique contribution made by your church to the life of the community around it?
2. How does your church care for:
 - a) its members; b) people outside the church?
3. 'Our love of God should flow into all the relationships that we have.' Discuss.
4. What are the opportunities given by your church for people to talk to each other and listen?
5. How does your church deal with the problem of loneliness - within the church and the local community?

Chapter 6: Transform

1. How does your church challenge the systems and structures that represent oppression, violence and injustice?
2. How willing are we, as individual Christians, to be transformed?
3. The church in Pen-rhys 'celebrates community' and 'shows that the life of the community is important.' Is this true of your church?
4. What should the church be prepared to stand up for?
5. Discuss Jesus words in John 10:10, 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.' Compare other translations of this verse.