



## Piloting the Suffolk Fresh Expressions Community Session Four: All Involved – Leadership Skills

### **Aim**

To evaluate the skills used by the leader(s) and contributions of members so that leaders learn to better facilitate the contributions of all.

### **WELCOME**

What areas do you find most satisfying about your work and in which areas do you get positive feedback from others?

OR

Which leader from any sphere of life do you most admire and why?

### **WORSHIP**

Read Romans 12.1-2: This urges us to offer ourselves to God "Because of all that he has done for you" or in another translation because of "His mercies" Spend some time thanking God for all that he has done for you.

### **WORD**

Read Romand 12.1-8

1. List the eight motivational gifts described in this passage.
2. Work together in pairs or threes to create a practical definition of each gift.
3. Share these definitions in the larger group.
4. In pairs see if you can ideation your motivational gifts (it may be something not in the list of eight - that's ok) Share specific ways in which you could grow in using your gifts and pray for each other as appropriate.

### **WITNESS**

How can the gifts in your group be used to help your friends and others find faith in Jesus?

### **Challenge**

Ask the Suffolk Fresh Expressions Community Leader or another church leader to chat with you about using and developing your gifts in the service of Christian Witness.

## **ROMANS 12** (New Living Translation)

<sup>1</sup> And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. <sup>2</sup> Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

<sup>3</sup> Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. <sup>4</sup> Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, <sup>5</sup> so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

<sup>6</sup> In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well.

So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you.

<sup>7</sup>If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well.

<sup>8</sup> If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging.

If it is giving, give generously.

If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously.

And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

<sup>9</sup> Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.

<sup>10</sup> Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honouring each other.

<sup>11</sup> Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.

<sup>12</sup> Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.

<sup>13</sup> When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them.

<sup>15</sup> Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep.

<sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with each other.

Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people.

And don't think you know it all!

<sup>17</sup> Never pay back evil with more evil.

Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honourable.

<sup>18</sup> Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the LORD.

<sup>20</sup> Instead, "If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads."<sup>[h]</sup>

<sup>21</sup> Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS

It may be helpful to see the various spiritual gifts in the bible as described in three ways: Imagine a pile of three boxes, the box/tin of chocs (bottom), a yellow pages (middle), and a tool box (on top).

**1. A Box of Tools** – The top box is the most visible. Some gifts in the bible are sometimes called '**manifestational gifts**' – they are the most obviously the work of the Holy Spirit, the most impressive, the most supernatural. Some are listed in 1 Corinthians 12.4-11: Although these gifts are the most impressive, they are in some ways the most superficial. They are like a box of tools – that you don't carry around with you all the time but are sometimes exactly what you need for the job in hand.

**2. Yellow pages or a book of jobs** – Particular roles/vocations are also mentioned in Paul's letters as being God's gifts to the church. Some are listed in 1 Corinthians 12.28 and Ephesians 4.11. Whatever role we are called to, that can be a way in which God makes us a gift to his Church. These are things that we are called to do – they may not always be things we enjoy or are good at. Sometimes they are and that feels good – sometimes, we feel that we are making a sacrifice in offering a particular job.

**3. The Chocolate Box** – This box reminds us that each person in the church is different at the centre. Each has a different flavour and that is wonderful! The upper boxes of what we do is based on something much more foundational - God's gift to each of us – the gift of who we are. It is less what we do but why we do it that says most about who we are. These gifts are not just to us as individuals – but to the church and to the wider world. They are gifts which we discover and enjoy most when we offer them back to God the giver.

These gifts are sometimes called '**motivational gifts**' because they tell us something about what is in our hearts. Romans 12.1-8 talks about offering our whole selves to God as a living sacrifice, understanding ourselves well as part of Christ's body and using our own special gift well. It is good to understand our own god-given motivations with their accompanying strengths and weaknesses because it will help us to serve God and others better. It may also help us to appreciate others and their unique gifts more. We learn to show the traits of more than one gift – but it is useful to think where your roots are – what really motivates you.

## Evaluation

1. Make a list of all the ways that each of us has contributed to the small group meeting.
2. Alongside each contribution, write the it which was exercised to do this.
3. In terms of overall facilitation, what worked and what could have been done differently?
4. How can a small group be led so that each person is encouraged to contribute?
5. How did the way the group was led facilitate what God wanted to do in the meeting?

## Growing in God

This initiative is the result of the partnership of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich with Rural Ministries. It is open to Christians of any denomination or stream.

