



Piloting the Suffolk Fresh Expressions Community

Session Five: Healthy Meetings Listening for Mission

Aim

To help potential leaders in the Suffolk Fresh Expressions Community know how to help their groups discover a specific vision for the mission God has given them.

WELCOME (10 mins)

Tell the group about someone you know who is a really good listener. How has their good listening made a difference to you?

WORSHIP (10 mins)

Praise God for listening to us. As you engage with the DVD and bible tonight ask God what he is saying to you for your situation.

WORD (30 mins)

Listening is part of loving.

As Christians, we are called to...

- Listen to God through prayer
- Listen to our Church and its traditions
- Listen to people their hopes fears, needs and joys
- Listen to and be aware of ourselves – our feelings and experiences

This is sometimes called 360 degree listening because we are listening all around.

- Watch the story of 'Taste and See' on the Expressions DVD 1.
- Pool your ideas on how listening in different directions plays a part in the story.
- Look at the story of Jesus in Luke 2.46. What exactly does Jesus do here?
- Make a list of examples from the Old and New Testaments of people listening/researching before embarking on something God wants them to do.

WITNESS (15 mins)

- a) Have you identified the mission vision for a small group you, are currently part of or hope to start? For example, is it to reach out to a particular group of friends, a workplace, school or neighbourhood?
- b) Do you think everyone in your small group shares this vision? How are you working towards this vision together?
- c) What activities have you undertaken in your local small group to listen for mission? How will you keep on listening as you go?

Share initial answers then make some time to prayerfully listen to God about where you are called and how you might truly listen to the people to whom you are called. For example, use the words which Eli told Samuel to say to God, "Speak Lord, your servant is listening" Then play some quiet music and seek to receive anything God might want to show you. Pray for each other and particularly about any issues which have cropped up for you tonight.

Challenge

Take some steps to listen with others in a small group to God and/or to your community. Here are some useful questions to work through in your small group.

- Each share your personal vision for reaching out to the people you have identified
- What do you think God is doing already in this community?
- Where do you think the needs are and the points of darkness or difficulty?
- What gifts and resources do we bring?
- Who might our partners be? (churches? School? Charities?)
- What will be the cost of doing what you have in mind? (financial/ emotional/time)
- What will make you shout "Hallelujah!" in one year's time and in five years?
- How can we find out more about the community we think we may be called to serve.

NB – This is the first in a series of small group notes available on the Diocesan Website. They are based on the Booklet 'Listening for Mission' available from www.freshexpressions.org.uk.

At £5 for 5 copies. Your group might like a copy each.

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.



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
**Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich**

Evaluation

NAME _____

CONTACT DETAILS _____

WHERE YOU FEEL CALLED TO REACH OUT

- a) How far have you got in identifying the mission vision for a small group you are currently part of or hope to start? For example, is it to reach out to a particular group of friends, a workplace, school or neighbourhood?
- b) Do you think everyone in your small group shares this vision? How are you working towards this vision together?
- c) What activities have you undertaken in your local small group to 'listen for mission'? How will you keep on listening as you go?
- d) How can the Suffolk Fresh Expressions Community help you in your mission? (If possible make an appointment with the community leader to discuss this).