

# OUTLINE FOR LEADING OR USING 'BEING A BLESSING AS A COMMUNITY' AS TWO UNITS

These notes are designed to be used alongside the Facilitator's notes. They will give you the content focus in a full or simplified form and an outline for running 'Being a blessing as a community' in two parts.

The facilitator notes and worship powerpoints give you instructions on anything you will need beforehand, preparation checklist and prayers for leaders, the outcomes of the two units, possible opening and reflection discussion questions, signposting suggestions to extra materials, closing prayer suggestions, and review questions for leaders.

One way of dividing the session this may be to use the content of the first unit in a Sunday service, and the second in a group.

However you do it, making sure you include feedback to one another, modelling and the opportunity to respond remains central to the approach of the course.

## UNIT SEVEN: BEING A BLESSING AS A COMMUNITY

Begin with worship (you can use the suggested activity and powerpoint).

### FEEDBACK AND OPENING QUESTION

In their pairs from the end of the last session, ask people to feedback to each other how their experience of their response action(s) from last week has been - the emphasis is on mutual encouragement in accountability, not guilt!

Then in pairs ask people to discuss an opening question for 3 minutes. You can use the suggestion in the facilitator's notes or devise your own.

### CORE TEACHING CONTENT

Use the powerpoint to present, or read/discuss these questions in the booklet:

- What is the joint calling of God's people?
- What does it mean to be a blessing and how is it helpful in mission?
- How does the Holy Spirit help me to be a blessing?
- How do we receive the Holy Spirit in our lived experience?
- How can our life together be a form of blessing?



## MODELLING/REFLECTION

You can show part of the video, covering the question: How has your church been on mission?  
Discuss this question together, offering your own experience as much as possible.

## DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

Matthew 25: 31-46 (Available on separate Worship Aims Bible passage powerpoint)  
See the facilitator's notes and instruction sheet for how to do DBS.

## PERSONAL RESPONSE AND ACTION FOR COMING WEEK.

Give each person time to reflect privately on the questions: "What is God saying to me and what is my response?" Any actions they take will be self-generated. But the following week they will be encouraged at the beginning to report back to one other person.

Explain that there is no requirement for a response, it is not a test, but an opportunity. We have set aside this time in the expectation that God will draw close to us. Ask people to share their responses in pairs. If they wish to help one another by writing down any actions and praying for each other then encourage them to do so. There is no group feedback, but as facilitator you can share what you feel able in order to model gentle accountability and trust.

## SIGNPOSTING, CLOSING PRAYER AND REVIEW.

See facilitator's notes.

# UNIT EIGHT: WHERE DO WE START BEING A BLESSING?

Begin with worship (you can use the suggested activity and powerpoint).

## FEEDBACK AND OPENING QUESTION

In their pairs from the end of the last session, ask people to feedback to each other how their experience of their response action(s) from last week has been - the emphasis is on mutual encouragement in accountability, not guilt!

Then in pairs ask people to discuss an opening question for 3 minutes. You can use the suggestion in the facilitator's notes or devise your own.

## CORE TEACHING CONTENT

Use the powerpoint to present, or read/discuss these questions in the booklet:

- In what ways could being part of the "Church of England" help us be a blessing?
- How might we start to discover where we can be a blessing together in our communities?
- How might we go to others?
- How might we grow together in the practice of hospitality?
- How might we work with other church communities to be a blessing?

**OR**

You can cover this material in a simplified way using the three minute video on the mission of the church [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z\\_4u8TRorUw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_4u8TRorUw) and read through the bookmark "Different forms of mission-shaped church".



## **MODELLING/REFLECTION**

You can show part of the video, covering the question: How has knowing your gifts helped you reach out? Discuss this question together, offering your own experience as much as possible.

## **DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY**

Acts 2: 42-47 (Available on separate Worship Aims Bible passage powerpoint)  
See the facilitator's notes and instruction sheet for how to do DBS.

## **PERSONAL RESPONSE AND ACTION FOR COMING WEEK.**

Give each person time to reflect privately on the questions: "What is God saying to me and what is my response?" Any actions they take will be self-generated. But the following week they will be encouraged at the beginning to report back to one other person.

Explain that there is no requirement for a response, it is not a test, but an opportunity. We have set aside this time in the expectation that God will draw close to us. Ask people to share their responses in pairs. If they wish to help one another by writing down any actions and praying for each other then encourage them to do so. There is no group feedback, but as facilitator you can share what you feel able in order to model gentle accountability and trust.

## **SIGNPOSTING, CLOSING PRAYER AND REVIEW.**

See facilitator's notes.

