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Listening for Mission

Session 4: More In-depth Listening

Welcome

Summarise all that you have learned so far about the community you are seeking to serve. Add any new insights to the map you made in session 2.

Witness

If you have not already done some practical things to engage in in-depth listening with the people you seek to serve, continue your conversation from last time. Plan a date or dates for a meal or activity at which you can spend time with the people you wish to serve better.

Remember, these are the sorts of things you need to answer to serve a community well and share Jesus with them in a helpful way:

- Are there needs that can be met by loving service?
- What are the hardships and difficulties, joys and pleasures in people's lives?
- What do people most value? What do they place a low value on?
- how do people relate to God? Do they ever think of going to church? Do they pray?
- How do they get to know new people?

Add any new insights to the map you made in session 2.

If you have done this listening:

- Try drawing the community – representing them as a person or as a family or as an abstract shape on a large sheet of paper. What stands out about the community from this representation?
- Review the 8 questions from session 1 (Witness). Is there more to discover before you can make a decision? (For example, about possible partners.) Plan how and when you will do that.

- Is there anything else that God seems to be saying?

Word

Read Numbers 13 & 14.1-9 (Moses and the explorers).

- Whose idea is it to send explorers?
- What were they to do?
- What is the difference between the response of Caleb and the rest of the spies?
- How does this story speak into the mission God has given you?
In what ways are you like the explorers and in what ways different?

Pray for each other and about what God is saying to you.

Worship

Joshua and Caleb recognised when things looked difficult that God was their protection and the one who would enable them to carry out what he had sent them to do (verses 6-9). Spend a time in silence looking at a picture that expresses something of God's strength and power (e.g. sky at night, lightening, the sea, a big tree). Then sing and praise God in words for his strength, wisdom and power.

Agree someone to contact your small group coach or the Archdeacon of Rural Mission, Sally Gaze (archdeacon.sally@cofesuffolk.org) before the next session, to let them know how you are getting on.

NB: These small group notes are based on the Booklet "Listening for Mission" available from www.freshexpressions.org.uk.