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Listening for Mission

Session 2: Initial Research

Welcome

Watch the *Living Room* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6FtGPPr1nXM>

How did the team listen to the students and build up their own sense of community in the early stages?

Word

Read Nehemiah Chapters 1 and 2.

- What steps did Nehemiah take to find out about Jerusalem?
- What was his responses?
- How does Nehemiah "audit" (assess the situation in) Jerusalem once he has arrived?

How does this story speak into your situation as you seek to reach a particular community/ engage in a particular project for God?

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

Witness

Get a large-scale map of the local area. Plot on it your team members and any not-yet-Christians you are in contact with in the local community. Then put on the key meeting places.

or

If you are seeking to reach out to a network rather than a geographical area, draw a spider diagram of the network on a sheet of paper. Show on it the patterns and places where people meet, the methods and content of communication, people who connect others together and people who influence opinion.

Pray about what you learn from this exercise.

Worship

Jesus knows what it is like being human, with all our weaknesses.

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4.15-16)

For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich... Give thanks to Jesus that he reaches out to each of us, although we may, in some ways, feel poor. (2 Corinthians 8.9)

What do you think God is doing already in the community to which you want to reach out? Spend some time praising God for individual people and good things happening.

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