

United by FAITH, HOPE & LOVE

Session One

Telling our stories

Welcome and refreshments. (10 minutes)

Introduction and opening prayer: Bishop Gregory (5 minutes)

Part One: Personal stories

A short video in which people of different ages and experiences tell us a little about their Christian journey. (5 minutes)

Discussion using the following questions: (15 minutes)

- How did you become a Christian?
- Describe one person or thing that has encouraged or nurtured your Christian faith
- What difference has your faith made to your life?

Part Two: Shared stories

A short video in which people of different ages and experiences tell us about the churches that they worship in. (5 minutes)

Discussion using the following questions: (15 minutes)

- Describe something that you particularly like about your church.
- Give an example of how your church or a church that you know demonstrates faith, hope and love to the wider community?
- Suggest one or more ways in which you or your church might encourage your neighbours, family or friends to share in your Christian journey?

Plenary (10 minutes)

Total time (65 minutes)

Session Two

Faith and how it shapes our lives

Welcome and refreshments. (10 minutes)

Introduction and opening prayer: Bishop Gregory (5 minutes)

Part One: Personal faith

Short video in which people of different ages and experiences tell us a little about their own faith (5 minutes)

Discussion using the following questions (15 minutes)

- What are the most important aspects of the Christian faith to you?
- What do you struggle with?
- Who do you talk to about things you do not understand?

Part Two: Shared faith

Short video in which people of different ages and experiences tell us about the things they have in common with the people they worship with (5 minutes)

Discussion using the following questions (15 minutes)

- What do we have in common as a church or churches?
- What are the most important aspects of the Christian faith that we share?
- How do our beliefs impact on what we do?

Plenary (10 minutes)

Total time (65 minutes)

Session Three

Hope and the expectation of change

Welcome and refreshments. (10 minutes)

Introduction and opening prayer: Bishop Gregory (5 minutes)

Part One: Personal hopes

Short video in which people of different ages and experiences share some of their hopes (5 minutes)

Discussion using the following questions (15 minutes)

- Why is hope important?
- What brings you hope at the moment?
- What, if anything, undermines your sense of hope?
- How does your faith affect the way you are feeling?

Part Two: Shared hopes

Short video in which people of different ages and experiences tell us about how their church attempts to nurture hope (5 minutes)

Discussion using the following questions (15 minutes)

- Does your church encourage hope?
- Do you have any shared hopes?
- What hope could your church bring to the different groups or generations in your community?

Plenary (10 minutes)

Total time (65 minutes)

Session Four

Love and the power to transform

Welcome and refreshments. (10 minutes)

Introduction and opening prayer: Bishop Gregory (5 minutes)

Part One: Personal Loves

Short video in which people of different ages and experiences talk about things they love (5 minutes)

Discussion using the following questions (15 minutes)

- Why is love important?
- What do you particularly love?
- How does your faith shape or support what you love?

Part Two: Shared Loves

Short video in which people of different ages and experiences tell us about how their church demonstrates love (5 minutes)

Discussion using the following questions (15 minutes)

- What might a loving church look like?
- What might a loving church feel like?
- What might a loving church do?

Plenary (10 minutes)

Total time (65 minutes)

Session Five

Choice and the creation of new possibilities

Welcome and refreshments. (10 minutes)

Introduction and opening prayer: Bishop Gregory (5 minutes)

Part One: Personal choices

Short video in which people of different ages and experiences talk about choices they have made and how they have impacted on their lives or lives of others (5 minutes)

Discussion using the following questions (15 minutes)

- Describe a choice that you made that affected your life positively or negatively.
- Describe a choice that someone else made that impacted upon you.
- What, if anything, tends to shape the choices that you make?

Part two: Shared choices

Short video in which people of different ages and experiences tell us about how the choices their church made affected their common life and their Ministries within their wider communities (5 minutes)

Discussion using the following questions (15 minutes)

- What choice or choices does your church need to make at the moment?
- What choice or choices might it need to make if it is to truly reflect faith, hope and love?
- What, if anything stops you from making the choices that need to be made?
- How will you overcome these barriers?

Plenary (10 minutes)

Total time (65 minutes)

