



## ACTIVITY Foundational Bible study 1 – God's purpose for humankind (Genesis 1:26–31; 2:8–25; 3:1–24)

### OBJECTIVE

The church understands God's purpose for his creation and the place of the church in the fulfilment of that purpose.



**Time** 6hr



**Set-up** Small groups, large group



**Materials** Flip chart on easel, markers for recording group discussion, Bibles and Bible study questions (see the next page for the questions)

### CONDUCTING THE ACTIVITY

- 1 ..... *30min* Facilitate the church to reflect on the vision-building that was completed during the last session of envisioning, reminding the participants that this is the beginning of their commitment to have the church 'awakened'.
- 2 ..... *15min* Explain to the large group the objective of the Bible study, the importance of each person actively contributing during the group discussion, and that the mode of discussion is to allow all the participants to 'hear' what the Bible has to say.
- 3 ..... *15min* In a creative way, divide the participants into groups (random or directed). Each group is to select a moderator to ensure people are focused and everybody participates, and a 'secretary' to record the group's conclusions on each question.
- 4 ..... *2hr* Send participants to their groups, each with a set of Bible study questions. As groups discuss, visit them briefly to ensure that the task is clear, the questions are understood, people are participating, and all groups are headed in the right direction.
- 5 ..... *2hr* When all groups are done with discussions, bring them together for presentations. Each group presents their response to each question. Compare presentations from all the groups to identify common thoughts, divergent but relevant discoveries, commitments etc.
- 6 ..... *30min* Summarise the Bible study, highlighting all the common principles that are contained in the Bible study.\*
- 7 ..... *30min* Facilitate the church to agree especially about the practical application to its life: 'From this Bible study, what do we commit ourselves to be and to do as individuals and as a church?'

\* NB: For a summary of this Bible study, see sample Bible study summary notes at the end of the church awakening section (page 66).



**Bible study 1: Genesis 1:26–31; 2:8–25; 3:1–24**

1. What did God declare that people would BE and DO?
2. What was life like for Adam and Eve before the Fall?
3. What happened during the Fall? What characterised life after the Fall?
4. In what ways do these characteristics present themselves in \_\_\_\_\_ today?
5. What is the church in \_\_\_\_\_ doing to reverse these characteristics?
6. What more should the church do to reverse these characteristics?



**EXPECTED OUTCOMES FROM FOUNDATIONAL BIBLE STUDY 1**

**Knowledge**

- God created people with a purpose – and the purpose is a good, pure, purpose.
- People understand that purpose – to live lives in full (in smooth relationship/fellowship with God and harmony with one another, and as stewards of God's environment).
- That purpose still stands – he intends that people live full lives because of Jesus Christ (John 10:10).
- Life in Eden was holistic; the Fall affected people holistically; efforts to restore humankind back to Eden should also be holistic.
- God has provided people with the resources to meet their needs (it is just that people do not recognise them/are not using the resources properly).

**Action**

The church

- commits to build relationship with God more – prayer/worship increase, people come to Jesus
- intensifies efforts to restore smooth relationship among people – people are reconciled with one another
- commits to be stewards of the environment – eg members plant trees, preserve nature, keep area clean
- takes greater responsibility in supporting the ministry – eg pays its quota, takes care of ministers
- becomes concerned about the situation of the community around it – may talk to the community to change the situation, or may itself actually take action.

Individuals

- desire to reduce their poverty – eg grow more food, increase family income
- participate in mercy ministry – eg accompany pastor in pastoral visits.



## ACTIVITY Foundational Bible study 2 – God’s vision for his people (Isaiah 65:17–25)

### OBJECTIVE

The church understands that God still desires to have people live a full life in spite of the Fall.



**Time** 6hr



**Set-up** Small groups, large group



**Materials** Flip chart on easel, markers for recording group discussion, Bibles and Bible study questions (see overleaf)

### CONDUCTING THE ACTIVITY

- 1 ..... 30min Facilitate the church to reflect on Bible study 1, which was completed during the last session, helping the participants to confirm the principles that were learned from the Bible study.
- 2 ..... 15min Explain to the large group the objective of the Bible study, the importance of each person actively contributing to the group discussion, and that the mode of discussion is to allow all the participants to ‘hear’ what the Bible has to say.
- 3 ..... 15min In a creative way, divide the participants into groups (random or directed) – or you may keep the groups from the previous Bible study. Each group is to select a moderator to ensure people are focused and everybody participates, and a ‘secretary’ to record the group’s conclusions on each question.
- 4 ..... 2hr Send participants to their groups, each with a set of Bible study questions. As groups discuss, visit them briefly to ensure that the task is clear, the questions are understood, people are participating, and all groups are headed in the right direction.
- 5 ..... 2hr When all groups are done with discussions, bring them together for presentations. Each group presents their response to each question. Compare presentations from all the groups to identify common thoughts, divergent but relevant discoveries, commitments etc.
- 6 ..... 30min Summarise the Bible study, highlighting all the common principles that are contained in the Bible study.\*
- 7 ..... 30min Facilitate the church to agree especially about the practical application to its life: ‘From this Bible study, what do we commit ourselves to be and to do as individuals and as a church?’

\* NB: For a summary of this Bible study, see sample Bible study summary notes on page 68.



**Bible study 2: Isaiah 65:17–25**

1. According to this passage, what did the Lord say he will do?
2. List the characteristics of the new creation described in this portion of the scriptures.
3. Compare these characteristics with the current situation in \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is the church in \_\_\_\_\_ doing now to bring about the new creation described in the passage?
5. What is the church supposed to be doing that it is not doing? Why?
6. What do you suggest the church should do to fill these gaps?
7. In the light of Isaiah 65:17–25, what should be the vision of the church towards its immediate community? How does this vision relate to the vision the church already developed?



**EXPECTED OUTCOMES FROM FOUNDATIONAL BIBLE STUDY 2****Knowledge**

The church understands that

- many centuries after the Fall, God declared his vision about his people – the same as his purpose in Genesis
- God is creating a situation where people live a full life (the church describes what a full life looks like for them)
- they are 'labourers together with God' (1 Corinthians 3:9, KJV) to make this new creation happen – participation is a principle in the kingdom of God
- the benefits of the new creation are holistic
- the benefits of the new creation begin now – this is the integral mission of the church.

**Action**

The church

- desires to participate in becoming a part of the new creation – the kingdom of God
- makes a new vision for a better future and sets strategies to achieve it
- commits to change its situation for the better – improved health, better shelters, more food
- takes action to improve relationships with God and with one another – more fellowship, commitment to Jesus, reconciliation with each other
- begins to advocate for the oppressed – seeks to improve justice within the church and with the community (eg begins to address issues such as stigma against people living with HIV), and may also lobby on behalf of the oppressed
- takes care of the needy – visits and supports the vulnerable people (orphans, widows, widowers, elderly, disabled, sick etc) within the church and in the community
- is concerned for the plight of the children in the church and in the community.

Individuals

- take care of their health – build latrines, dish-racks, better shelters etc
- develop a new hope – trust in the Lord more, face life more positively
- change their attitude about themselves – perceive themselves as of great value before God
- take care of the children – send them to school, clothe them better, ensure they are immunised.



## ACTIVITY Foundational Bible study 3 – pictures of the church (1 Peter 2:4–12)

### OBJECTIVE

Participants explore what the church is, and its function internally and in its immediate community.



**Time** 7–8hr for each section of the Bible study, including breaks



**Set-up** Small groups, large group



**Materials** Flip chart on easel, markers for recording group discussion, Bibles and Bible study questions

*NB: This Bible study is a long one. It is expedient to divide it into three sub-sections to be studied over more than one day. Some churches indeed prefer to undertake each sub-section in one day.*

### CONDUCTING THE ACTIVITY

- 1** ..... 30min Facilitate the church to reflect on Bible study 2, which was completed during the last session, helping the participants to confirm the principles that were learned from the Bible study.
- 2** ..... 15min Explain to the large group the objective of the Bible study, the importance of each person actively contributing during the group discussion, and that the mode of discussion is to allow all the participants to 'hear' what the Bible has to say.
- 3** ..... 15min In a creative way, divide the participants into groups (random or directed) – or you may keep the groups from the previous Bible study. Each group is to select a moderator to ensure people are focused and everybody participates, and a 'secretary' to record the group's conclusions on each question.
- 4** ..... 2hr Send participants to their groups, each with a set of Bible study questions. As groups discuss, visit them briefly to ensure that the task is clear, the questions are understood, people are participating, and all groups are headed in the right direction.
- 5** ..... 2hr When all groups are done with discussions, bring them together for presentations. Each group presents their response to each question. Compare presentations from all the groups to identify common thoughts, divergent but relevant discoveries, commitments etc.
- 6** ..... 1hr Summarise the entire Bible study, highlighting all the common principles that are contained in the sub-sections of the Bible study.\*
- 7** ..... 30min Facilitate the church to agree especially about the practical application to its life: 'From this Bible study, what do we commit ourselves to be and to do as individuals and as a church?'

\* NB: For a summary of this Bible study, see sample Bible study summary notes on page 69.



## Questions

**Bible study 3A: Spiritual house – 1 Peter 2:4–8**

1. In the natural, what do you understand by the words 'cornerstone' and 'house'?
2. What is the work of the cornerstone in a building? Why is the cornerstone important to a house?
3. What is the use of a 'house'? What can be said of the value of a house to its owner?
4. What do the words 'cornerstone', 'living stones' and 'house' mean to the church today?
5. Why did Peter choose to use the word cornerstone?
6. How do we apply these to our lives – 'cornerstone', 'living stones', 'spiritual house'?

## Questions

**Bible study 3B: Royal priesthood – 1 Peter 2:4–9**

1. What do you understand by the words (a) 'priesthood' and (b) 'community of believers'?
2. Compare the 'priesthood' in the Old Testament with the 'community of believers' as the 'royal priesthood' today.
3. What is similar/what is different between the two?
4. What do you understand by the word 'sacrifice'? What are the spiritual sacrifices we ought to offer?
5. How is the church in \_\_\_\_\_ functioning as a royal priesthood today?

## Questions

**Bible study 3C: Holy nation – 1 Peter 2:4–12**

1. What do you understand by the words 'holy' and 'nation'?
2. What is the difference between the church and the world?
3. Why should there be a difference between the church and the world?
4. How do we apply this to our lives?

## Questions

**Summary questions**

Considering these words (house, cornerstone, priesthood, holy nation)

- What is the work of the church?
- What characteristics, spoken of by Peter in this passage, should the church show?
- What is missing in the church in \_\_\_\_\_ to become the church that Peter shows in this passage?
- How could the church in \_\_\_\_\_ fill these gaps?



## EXPECTED OUTCOMES FROM FOUNDATIONAL BIBLE STUDY 3A: SPIRITUAL HOUSE

### Knowledge

The church

- realises that God sees it as holy – set aside by God for his purpose – that the church is special in God's sight
- realises that it is the platform from which God operates (because he dwells in it)
- recognises that Christ is its firm foundation, without which the church cannot stand
- recognises that each member is full of life when connected to Christ
- recognises that as a body, it is full of life when members are connected to each other.

### Action

The church

- commits to a closer relationship with Christ the cornerstone – a closer walk, intensified prayer
- values one another – greater concern for one another, encouraging each other
- builds relationship with one another – reconciliation, smoother relationship in the church.

Individuals

- commit to a life of holy walk with God – closer relationship with God
- commit to becoming a living testimony to the world around them.







## EXPECTED OUTCOMES FROM FOUNDATIONAL BIBLE STUDY 3B: ROYAL PRIESTHOOD

### Knowledge

#### The church

- realises that it is royal – called to rule and reign with Christ, and therefore is endowed with authority
- no longer moves as though weak and defeated
- realises the priestly ministry to its immediate community – to link people with God and to 'stand in the gap' (Ezekiel 22:30)
- is no longer careless about how it does things – it takes care to do things more accurately, transparently, thoroughly etc
- realises the authority that God has given it: takes its place of authority, begins to operate with greater confidence, studies the word of God more in order to build its faith, becomes more confident in handling issues.

### Action

#### The church

- calls its members to a closer walk with God – messages preached may change, activities may take a new face that involves encouraging a holy walk with Christ, people turn to Jesus more
- puts its record in order – accounts are corrected, people in leadership are more responsible
- increases its giving – offerings, tithes etc
- sees people increase in their care for one another, especially the needy and vulnerable
- commits to 'touch' its immediate community since it is a 'royal priesthood'.

#### Groups

- People begin to join hands to work together – to implement church projects, their own group projects, support/welfare projects etc.

#### Individuals

- take greater responsibility about their lives – take charge to transform their lives
- go out of their way to address issues affecting them – take initiative (to offer sacrifices to God), go beyond the expected, give more and in a sacrificial manner etc.





## EXPECTED OUTCOMES FROM FOUNDATIONAL BIBLE STUDY 3C: HOLY NATION

### Knowledge

The church

- appreciates it is a united body – one body under Christ its head
- appreciates that by grace it is set apart, to be different from the world
- understands its place in terms of the kingdom, recognises how special it is in God's plan
- understands the role it must play – to show forth the praises of him who called them out of darkness into his marvellous light (1 Peter 2:9).

### Action

The church

- lists what gives it its identity as God's 'nation' – assesses if it fits in that list
- commits to ensuring that identity is in place – bringing unity in the church, reconciling people, setting limits etc
- determines how best to bring glory to God, in word and in deed – eg the church may decide to have projects that meet the needs of the vulnerable
- sets strategies to help the helpless.

Individuals

- deal with aspects that cause division – pride, selfishness etc
- commit resources to help especially those 'of the household of faith' (Galatians 6:10, KJV)
- join hands and begin to meet their needs
- raise resources and use them to meet the needs of the vulnerable (especially in the church).





## ACTIVITY Foundational Bible study 4 – ministry of Jesus (Matthew 3:1–2; 4:12–17; 4:23–25; 9:35–38)

### OBJECTIVE

The church understands ministry as Jesus carried it out, and can thus minister the same way to the immediate community.



**Time** 6hr 30min per study



**Set-up** Small groups, large group



**Materials** Flip chart on easel, markers for recording group discussion, Bibles and Bible study questions

*NB: This is another long Bible study. You may opt to treat it as you did Bible study 3.*

### CONDUCTING THE ACTIVITY

- 1 ..... 30min Facilitate the church to reflect on Bible study 3, which was completed during the last session, helping the participants to confirm the principles that were learned from the Bible study.
- 2 ..... 15min Explain to the large group the objective of the Bible study, the importance of each person actively contributing during the group discussion, and that the mode of discussion is to allow all the participants to 'hear' what the Bible has to say.
- 3 ..... 15min In a creative way, divide the participants into groups (random or directed) – or you may keep the groups from the previous Bible study. Each group is to select a moderator to ensure people are focused and everybody participates, and a 'secretary' to record the group's conclusions on each question.
- 4 ..... 2hr Send participants to their groups, each with a set of Bible study questions. As groups discuss, visit them briefly to ensure that the task is clear, the questions are understood, people are participating, and all groups are headed in the right direction.
- 5 ..... 2hr When all groups are done with discussions, bring them together for presentations. Each group presents their response to each question. Compare presentations from all the groups to identify common thoughts, divergent but relevant discoveries, commitments etc.
- 6 ..... 1hr Summarise the Bible study, highlighting all the common principles that are contained in the Bible study.\*
- 7 ..... 30min Facilitate the church to agree especially about the practical application to its life: 'From this Bible study, what do we commit ourselves to be and to do as individuals and as a church?'

*\* NB: For a summary of this Bible study, see sample Bible study summary notes on page 72.*



**Bible study 4A: Repentance – Matthew 3:1–2; 4:12–17**

1. Why do you think Jesus was repeating the message of John the Baptist?
2. What did the message of John the Baptist focus on (see Luke 3:3–14)?
3. a) What sins did John tell the people to repent of if they wanted to enter the kingdom of heaven?  
b) If John the Baptist came today to the church of \_\_\_\_\_ what sins would he tell people to repent of?
4. Why is it a must for people to repent?
5. According to the preaching of both John the Baptist and Jesus Christ, what do you think are the characteristics of the kingdom of God?
6. Show how the church in \_\_\_\_\_ is demonstrating or not demonstrating these characteristics today.
7. If the church is failing to demonstrate these characteristics, why? What should it begin doing to change?



**Bible study 4B: Healing – Matthew 4:23–25**

1. a) According to Matthew 4:23–25, what was Jesus doing?  
b) What does it tell us about his ministry?
2. What drew many people to come and listen to Jesus?
3. What does the ministry of healing that Jesus did tell us about the kingdom of heaven?
4. As Christians of \_\_\_\_\_ church, how can we show by our actions the work of healing as Jesus did?
5. In what ways is the church of \_\_\_\_\_ doing healing ministry?
6. In what ways has the church of \_\_\_\_\_ failed to do healing ministry?
7. What does the church need to do in order to be effective in its healing ministry?



**Bible study 4C: Compassion – Matthew 9:35–38**

1. a) How does Matthew 9:35–38 compare with Matthew 4:23–25?  
b) What motivated Jesus to do what he did?
2. What do we understand by the words 'people were scattered'?
3. What steps do we usually take when we are confronted by the needy?
4. What is our motivation in helping people in need? Is our motivation the same as that of Christ?
5. Why do you think Jesus said, 'the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few' (Matthew 9:37)?
6. How are we as Christians expected to respond to the needs of those around us?



## EXPECTED OUTCOMES FROM FOUNDATIONAL BIBLE STUDY 4

### Knowledge

The church

- understands the ministry that Jesus did, and that this is the same ministry it is called to engage in
- understands its shortcomings in doing ministry
- examines its motives for doing ministry – understands God's motive for ministry (compassion).

### Action

The church

- repents of its shortcomings and commits to carry out ministry the way Jesus did it
- sees people come to Jesus, repent of their sins and commit to follow him
- implements strategies that improve people's physical and spiritual health.

Individuals

- change their motives for doing any act of mercy – do it only for the glory of God, driven by compassion
- support the needy out of compassion rather than for self-glory
- truly repent of their sins and live lives that demonstrate they have repented.



# ACTIVITY Foundational Bible study 5 – the church as salt and light of the world (Matthew 5:13–16)

## OBJECTIVE

The church understands its role towards its immediate community and starts to play it out.



**Time** 5hr 45min



**Set-up** Small groups, large group



**Materials** Flip chart on easel, markers for recording group discussion, Bibles and Bible study questions

## CONDUCTING THE ACTIVITY

- 1** ..... *30min* Facilitate the church to reflect on Bible study 4, which was completed during the last session, helping the participants to confirm the principles that were learned from the Bible study.
- 2** ..... *15min* Explain to the large group the objective of the Bible study, the importance of each person actively contributing during the group discussion, and that the mode of the discussion is to allow all the participants to 'hear' what the Bible has to say.
- 3** ..... *15min* In a creative way, divide the participants into groups (random or directed) – or you may keep the groups from the previous Bible study. Each group is to select a moderator to ensure people are focused and everybody participates, and a 'secretary' to record the group's conclusions on each question.
- 4** ..... *2hr* Send participants to their groups, each with a set of Bible study questions. As groups discuss, visit them briefly to ensure that the task is clear, the questions are understood, people are participating, and all groups are headed in the right direction.
- 5** ..... *90min* When all groups are done with discussions, bring them together for presentations. Each group presents their response to each question. Compare presentations from all the groups to identify common thoughts, divergent but relevant discoveries, commitments etc.
- 6** ..... *45min* Summarise the Bible study, highlighting all the common principles that are contained in the Bible study.\*
- 7** ..... *30min* Facilitate the church to agree especially about the practical application to its life: 'From this Bible study, what do we commit ourselves to be and to do as individuals and as a church?'

\* NB: For a summary of this Bible study, see sample Bible study summary notes on page 74.



**Bible study 5: The church as salt and light of the world – Matthew 5:13–16**

**5A: The world**

1. In Matthew 5:13–16, what do you think Jesus meant by the word 'world'?
2. What are the behaviours of the world?
3. What are the outcomes of being in the world?
4. What should the church do to the world?

**5B: Salt**

1. What is salt? And what is it used for?
2. Jesus said, 'You are the salt of the earth'? What did he mean?
3. In what way is the church in \_\_\_\_\_ showing its saltiness?
4. What does it mean for salt to lose its taste?
5. In what ways is the church in \_\_\_\_\_ losing its saltiness? How can it restore it?

**5C: Light**

1. What is light? What are its uses?
2. When Jesus said, 'You are the light of the world', what did he mean?
3. In what way is the church in \_\_\_\_\_ showing the light to the world?
4. In what way is the church in \_\_\_\_\_ failing to show its light?





## EXPECTED OUTCOMES FROM FOUNDATIONAL BIBLE STUDY 5

### Knowledge

#### The church

- understands the distinction that must exist between it and the world (salt and light)
- understands that it has a direct role to play in its immediate community – to heal it and to show it the way
- recognises the transforming role that it must play to its immediate community
- builds the urgency to begin doing something to heal and guide its immediate community
- decides it must show the difference between it and the world
- determines ways of ministering in a practical, holistic way to its immediate community ('becoming salt and light').

### Action

#### The church

- engages actively with its immediate community. For example, it:
  - participates in the decisions of its immediate community – influences the decisions being made
  - addresses issues affecting people, with boldness
  - influences decisions that affect the life of the community
  - sees members put into positions of leadership in the community because the community trusts the church.

#### Individuals/community

- Community members perceive the church as caring and relevant to the community.
- Church members become a part of the leadership structure of the community.







## ACTIVITY **Resource mobilisation Bible study 1 – Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead (John 11:1–44)**

### OBJECTIVE

The church understands the biblical perspective of meeting needs using God-given resources.



**Time** 4hr



**Set-up** Small groups, large group



**Materials** Flip chart on easel, markers for recording group discussion, Bibles and Bible study questions

### CONDUCTING THE ACTIVITY

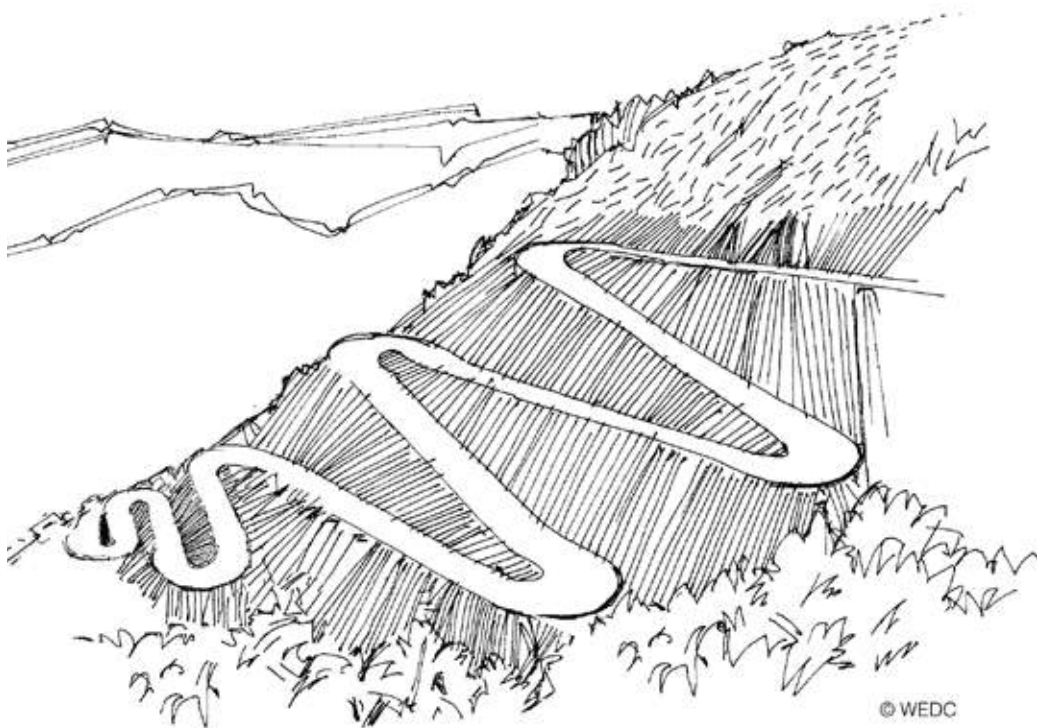
- 1 ..... 30min Reflect on the previous session covered, ie defining 'resources' and identifying them. Explain that all the three Bible studies on 'resources' are meant to help answer the question, 'What does the word of God say about resources and how needs can be met?' Explain to the large group the objective of the Bible study, and the importance of each person actively contributing during the group discussion, as per the previous Bible studies.
- 2 ..... 30min In a creative way, divide the participants into groups (random or directed) – or you may keep the groups from the previous Bible studies. Each group is to select a moderator to ensure people are focused and everybody participates, and a 'secretary' to record the group's conclusions on each question.
- 3 ..... 1hr Send participants to their groups, each with a set of Bible study questions. As groups discuss, visit them briefly to ensure that the task is clear, the questions are understood, people are participating, and all groups are headed in the right direction.
- 4 ..... 1hr When all groups are done with discussions, bring them together for presentations. Each group presents its response to each question. Compare presentations from all the groups to identify common thoughts, divergent but relevant discoveries, commitments etc.
- 5 ..... 30min Summarise the Bible study, highlighting all the common principles that are contained in the Bible study.\*
- 6 ..... 30min Facilitate the church to agree especially about the practical application to its life: 'From this Bible study, what do we commit ourselves to be and to do as individuals and as a church?'

\* NB: For a summary of this Bible study, see sample Bible study summary notes on page 77.



**Bible study 1: Jesus raises Lazarus – John 11:1–44**

1. a) What is happening in this story?  
 b) Who are the players in this story?  
 c) What specific actions does each of them do?
2. a) How did the raising of Lazarus take place? List the steps that Jesus took to raise Lazarus.  
 b) How does what Jesus did compare with what the other actors did in raising Lazarus?
3. a) In this story, what was the need?  
 b) What were the resources?  
 c) How were the resources used to meet the need?
4. a) Why did Jesus use the steps he used in raising Lazarus?  
 b) Could he have performed this miracle differently? Why did he not do it differently?
5. a) What does the process that Jesus followed tell us about the way he worked with people?  
 b) What does this passage tell us about how we should facilitate people to meet needs?





## ACTIVITY Resource mobilisation Bible study 2 – Jesus feeds five thousand people (Mark 6:30–44)

### OBJECTIVE

The church understands the biblical perspective of meeting all needs using God-given resources even when they seem so little.



**Time** 4hr



**Set-up** Small groups, large group



**Materials** Flip chart on easel, markers for recording group discussion, Bibles and Bible study questions

### CONDUCTING THE ACTIVITY

- 1 ..... 30min Reflect with the large group on the resource mobilisation Bible study 1, covered during the last session; and explain the objective of the Bible study, the importance of each person actively contributing during the group discussion, and that the mode of discussion is to allow all the participants to 'hear' what the Bible has to say.
- 2 ..... 30min In a creative way, divide the participants into groups (random or directed) – or you may keep the groups from the previous Bible studies. Each group is to select a moderator to ensure people are focused and everybody participates, and a 'secretary' to record the group's conclusions on each question.
- 3 ..... 1hr Send participants to their groups, each with a set of Bible study questions. As groups discuss, visit them briefly to ensure that the task is clear, the questions are understood, people are participating, and all groups are headed in the right direction.
- 4 ..... 1hr When all groups are done with discussions, bring them together for presentations. Each group presents their response to each question. Compare presentations from all the groups to identify common thoughts, divergent but relevant discoveries, commitments etc.
- 5 ..... 30min Summarise the Bible study, highlighting all the common principles that are contained in the Bible study.\*
- 6 ..... 30min Facilitate the church to agree especially about the practical application to its life: 'From this Bible study, what do we commit ourselves to be and to do as individuals and as a church?'

\* NB: For a summary of this Bible study, see sample Bible study summary notes on page 79.

**Bible study 2: Jesus feeds five thousand people – Mark 6:30–44**

1. What is happening in this story?
  - a) Who are the players in this story?
  - b) What specific actions do the actors do?
  - c) What is the need? What are the resources?
2. List the steps that Jesus took to perform the miracle.
3. In this story, what did the disciples focus on? What did Jesus focus on?
4. How were the resources used to meet the needs identified?
5.
  - a) Why do you think Jesus used those steps?
  - b) Could he have performed this miracle differently? Why did he not do it differently?
6. What does this passage tell us about the way we should facilitate the church and the community to meet their needs?





## ACTIVITY **Resource mobilisation Bible study 3 – Elisha, the widow and her oil (2 Kings 4:1–7)**

### OBJECTIVE

The church understands that with God's help, and using the local resources, needs can be adequately met.



**Time** 4hr



**Set-up** Small groups, large group



**Materials** Flip chart on easel, markers for recording group discussion, Bibles and Bible study questions

### CONDUCTING THE ACTIVITY

- 1 ..... 30min Reflect with the large group on the resource mobilisation Bible study 2, covered during the last session, and explain the objective of the Bible study, the importance of each person actively contributing during the group discussion, and that the mode of discussion is to allow all the participants to 'hear' what the Bible has to say.
- 2 ..... 30min In a creative way, divide the participants into groups (random or directed) – or you may keep the groups from the previous Bible studies. Each group is to select a moderator to ensure people are focused and everybody participates, and a 'secretary' to record the group's conclusions on each question.
- 3 ..... 1hr Send participants to their groups, each with a set of Bible study questions. As groups discuss, visit them briefly to ensure that the task is clear, the questions are understood, people are participating, and all groups are headed in the right direction.
- 4 ..... 1hr When all groups are done with discussions, bring them together for presentations. Each group presents their response to each question. Compare presentations from all the groups to identify common thoughts, divergent but relevant discoveries, commitments etc.
- 5 ..... 30min Summarise the Bible study, highlighting all the common principles that are contained in the Bible study.\*
- 6 ..... 30min Facilitate the church to agree especially about the practical application to its life: 'From this Bible study, what do we commit ourselves to be and to do as individuals and as a church?'

\* NB: For a summary of this Bible study, see sample Bible study summary notes on page 81.



**Bible study 3: Elisha, the widow and her oil – 2 Kings 4:1-7**

1. What is happening in this story?
  - a) Who are the key actors?
  - b) What is each actor doing?
  - c) How is each character/actor behaving in this story?
2. What is the need/problem?
3. What are the resources?
4. How are the resources used to meet the need?
5. What does this story tell us about:
  - a) the way people perceive their problems and resources?
  - b) how to mobilise resources to meet the need?
6. What should the church (or individuals) therefore do to meet their needs?



# ACTIVITY Relationship-building Bible study – who is my neighbour? (Luke 10:25–37)

**OBJECTIVE**

The church understands the biblical perspective for relationship-building with its immediate community and prepares to engage the community in a formal manner.



**Time** 6hr 30min



**Set-up** Large group, small groups



**Materials** Flip chart on easel, markers for recording group discussion, Bibles and Bible study questions



## CONDUCTING THE ACTIVITY

- 1 ..... 30min Facilitate the church to reflect on the process so far. Specifically, emphasise the principles behind the process – developing the vision, learning from the foundational Bible studies, seeing how to mobilise resources. Show that all this aimed to lead the church to understand its link to its immediate community.
- 2 ..... 30min Explain to the large group the objective of this section of the church awakening stage, and of the current Bible study, and the expected outcomes.



- 3 ..... 2hr In a creative way, divide the participants into groups – or you may keep the groups from the previous Bible studies. Send the groups to discuss the Bible study, as you did with all the other Bible studies.
- 4 ..... 2hr When all groups are done with discussions, bring them together for presentations. Each group presents their response to each question. Compare presentations from all the groups to identify common thoughts, divergent but relevant discoveries, commitments etc.
- 5 ..... 1hr Summarise the Bible study, highlighting all the common principles that are contained in the Bible study.\* Be sure to get the church to agree especially about the practical application to its life.
- 6 ..... 30min Facilitate the church to commit to go out to its immediate community and 'be a neighbour' to it. This starts with the church leaders building relationships with the leaders of the immediate community – the church leaders agree on the day to prepare for meeting the community leaders. Once this has taken place successfully, the church meets its immediate community to deepen the relationship.

\* NB: For a summary of this Bible study, see sample Bible study summary notes on page 82.

## Questions



### **Bible study: Who is my neighbour? – Luke 10:25–37**

1. What is happening in this story?
  - a) Who are the people involved in this story?
  - b) What does each person in the story do?
2. What behaviour does each category of person display?
  - a) What do you think motivates each one of them to behave the way they do?
3. Who do you think each of these people represents in our situation today?
4. According to this story, what does Jesus require the church to do?
5. In our situation, who then is our neighbour?

## Expected outcomes



### **EXPECTED OUTCOMES FROM THIS BIBLE STUDY**

The church:

- understands that it is expected to be the 'Samaritan' rather than the 'priest' or the 'Levite'
- understands that it is obligated to step out of its comfort zone (coming off the donkey) to reach its immediate community, although this may be uncomfortable and dangerous
- addresses internal needs (eg church widows and orphans, the neediest members)
- examines its internal relationships and begins to improve them
- commits to begin building relationships with people/groups outside the church so as to open doors to begin ministering to them holistically
- prepares to meet and build relationships with its neighbours (community, other denominations etc).



Other Bible studies could be added to this Bible study, such as the woman at the well (John 4:1–42). In addition, be sure to refer to the resource mobilisation Bible study 3 – Elisha, the widow and her oil, placing emphasis on the relationship between the widow and her neighbours. This should demonstrate the need to strengthen relationship between the church and its immediate community.

*NB: Following this/these Bible study/studies, the church should take sufficient time and use a variety of means to prepare to build relationships with as many stakeholders as possible. On the following pages are examples of two such sessions: preparing to meet leaders of other denominations, and preparing to meet the community leaders.*

