

Personal preparation always enhances group discussion. We would advise each member to reflect on the passages prior to the meeting. A simple but effective way of engaging with Scripture is to use this method.



What illumination did I get from this passage?
What especially struck me here?



What problems did I have with this passage?
Anything I don't understand, questions I want to ask?



How can I apply what I learned from this passage?
What do I - or we - need to do now?

Each individual Parish may also want to use the 5 marks in other ways during Lent

- ★ Use the Marks as the basis for a series of sermons.
- ★ Use the Marks as a basis for Intercessions
- ★ Have an all-age workshop to make banners about the 5 Marks
- ★ Write a series of mini-articles in the Church bulletin about what the 5 Marks of Mission mean for you locally

A prayer to end a church service, facing the open doors:

To a troubled world	peace from Christ
To a searching world	love from Christ
To a waiting world	hope from Christ.

A Lent course for the Anglican Church of Bermuda, 2014

*Written by the Bishop of Bermuda with help from the
Diocesan Evangelism and Education Committee based on the
Five Marks of Mission*

Why are we here as individuals and as Churches? What are we aiming for? Developed and affirmed from 1984 to the present, the Five Marks of Mission have been adopted across the world-wide Anglican Communion. The Marks enable Christians of different countries and cultures to have a common focus as they share in God's mission in the world and they act as a 'checklist' for all we do as a Church. As we go forward as a Diocese in Bermuda we will be using these in the process of forming a Mission Action Plan for each parish and for the Diocese as a whole so that we know where we are aiming and whether we are on target.

What is mission?

What comes to your mind when you hear the word *mission*? Maybe the work of the Church overseas, and mission partners whom your own parish supports; maybe your own local Church's mission to its community; maybe you think of evangelistic rallies drawing thousands of people to hear the Gospel message.

All mission is by definition to do with *sending*. Prior to any missionary work which Christians may do is the nature and work God himself. From Creation onwards, God has been reaching out to the world in love, sharing His life with us. God's sending of Jesus is His greatest gift to the world. True Christian mission happens when people work together with God to bring about the salvation or 'making whole' of his world, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

*"It is not the Church of God that has a mission in the world, but
the God of mission who has a Church in the world."*

Tim Dearborn

The Five Marks of Mission

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

Proclamation may be in words but also in actions, by living the Good News we preach. In many ways this mark is foundational – a summary of what all mission is about.

2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers

Christian discipleship is about lifelong learning, so we all need formal and informal resources for growing in faith, so that the Church is a learning environment for all ages.

3. To respond to human need by loving service

Churches have a long tradition of care through pastoral ministry. Christians are called to respond to the needs of people locally and in the wider human community.

4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation

Jesus and the OT prophets before him challenged oppressive structures in God's name. Christians should not only press for change, but also demonstrate justice within Church structures.

5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

The Bible's vision of salvation is universal in its scope. We are called to promote the wellbeing of the human community and its environment, so that Creation may live in harmony.

"Mission goes out from God. Mission is God's way of loving and saving the world ... So mission is never our invention, or choice."

Lambeth Conference 1998

Lent is a time for preparation, renewal and reflection. Each week during this Lent we will be looking together at the 5 Marks – one per week. The aim is to reflect on each Mark, using a variety of scriptures from the Old and New Testament that are relevant to each one and asking the questions below to see if we are hitting the mark:

- ★ What in the life of our Church shows this Mark matters to us?
- ★ How is this Mark reflected in our worship?
- ★ What more could we do as a Church to live this Mark?
- ★ Who else in our community does this? how can we help them?

Each week we will offer some guided questions on the following passages to help leaders and members to think about how they apply to the Marks of Mission. There will also be suggestions for encouraging group participation and ideas for action. We also want to ensure time for members to share from their own experience how the different marks have been worked out in their own lives.

Mark	Old Testament	New Testament
1	Exodus 3; Isaiah 61:1-3	Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 9:1-6; John 13:1-17; Acts 8:25-40
2	Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Nehemiah 8:1-8	Matthew 5:1-12; Acts 19:1-10; John 3:1-15; Luke 24:13-35
3	2 Kings 5:1-14; Job 2:11-13	Matthew 25:31-46; Mark 10: 46-52; Luke 10:25-37; John 13:1-17
4	Isaiah 58:1-10 Amos 2:6-8; Micah 6:6-8	Matthew 5: 38-42; 23:23-36; Mark 10:13-27 Luke 19:1-10
5	Genesis 1:26-31; 2:15, 19-20; Psalm	Romans 8:18-25; Revelation 22:1-5; Matthew 6:25-31; Mark 6:30-52

A Lent course for the Anglican Church of Bermuda, 2014

Written by the Bishop of Bermuda with help from the Diocesan Evangelism and Education Committee based on the Five Marks of Mission

The time allocations are suggested to facilitate completion of your group session in one hour

Getting to know you (10 minutes)

1. Introduce yourself to the group.

2. Describe a childhood hero and why s/he inspired you.

Five Marks of Mission

This course is based on the Five Marks of Mission. The theologian Emil Brunner once said *“The Church exists by mission, just as fire exists by burning.”*

3. Do you agree? What does the word ‘mission’ mean to you? (2 minutes)

13. What is the content of the Good News that we are called to proclaim? (If you have time you may refer to the following passages of scripture – John 3:15, Mark 2:13-17, Romans 5:6-11; Romans 10:8-13) (3 minutes)

14. What different ways of proclaiming the kingdom might be used? Remember how you introduced your hero – we will all do this differently. (2 minutes)

★ What in the life of our Church shows this Mark matters to us? (2 minutes)

★ How is this Mark reflected in our worship? (3 minutes)

★ What more could we do as a Church to live this Mark? (10 minutes)

★ Who else in our community does this? How can we help them? (5 minutes)

Spend some time in silence, reflecting and praying on how you might share good news with one person this week – (at work, school, in your family or amongst friends) – and what hindrances there are. In particular ask God to bring to mind one person to pray for. (5 minutes)

(In preparation for next week’s meeting, be gently reminded to reflect on the following passages: Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Nehemiah 8:1-8; Matthew 5:1-12; Acts 19:1-10; John 3:1-15 and Luke 24:13-35.)

Mark I – To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

The first mark of Mission is in some ways the summary of all the other marks, and is primary – based upon Jesus' own summary of his mission. (Mark I:14,15). But if we are honest, it is also the most difficult. We can get involved with an environmental project or some social action, but to tell other people about our faith... We wish that were someone else's job.

But, as the apostle Peter said:

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect”

(1 Peter 3:15) (1 minute)

4. Do you feel prepared to do this? (1 minute)

5. How do you feel about proclaiming the Good News? (1 minute)

Read through Exodus 3 (3 minutes)

6. How did Moses feel about the task that God had set before him? (1 minute)

7. In summary, what was God's answer? (1 minute)

Read the final words of Jesus recorded in Matthew's gospel (Matthew 28:18-20)

8. What challenges you and encourages you about the scope and the possibility of mission? (2 minutes)

Read Luke 9:1-6. Just as Jesus was sent by God to be with us, so we too are sent to share the good news, with the promise that he is with us.

9. How would you view the challenge of verses 1, 2 and 6 today? (2 minutes)

10. Looking at verse 3 – what baggage do you think we carry today that might hold us back from sharing our faith? (2 minutes)

Verses 4 and 5 seem to be talking about relationships, knowing when to speak and when to move on.

11. Discuss the relevance of words, deeds and relationships in mission. (2 minutes)

Read Acts 8:26-40

Imagine the scenario, the two men and their differences, yet wonderful things happened. (1 minute)

In sharing his faith, Philip started with the question the Eunuch was asking.

12. What is the importance of listening in mission? (1 minute)

13. If you have the time, reflect on one or more of the following passages: (2 Timothy 4:1-5, Matthew 7:24-27, John 6:66-69; I Corinthians 2:1-5) (3 minutes)
14. Based on what we have studied today, how might we better teach and nurture new believers or indeed mature believers, remembering how we ourselves learned best? (2 minutes)

★ What in the life of our Church shows this Mark matters to us? (2 minutes)

★ How is this Mark reflected in our worship? (3 minutes)

★ What more could we do as a Church to live this Mark? (10 minutes)

★ Who else in our community does this? How can we help them? (5 minutes)

In Colossians 3:16, the Apostle Paul encourages us to 'teach one another'. Spend some time in silence, reflecting and praying on how you might seek to teach, nurture or encourage someone else this week. Pray for opportunity and boldness. (5 minutes)

(In preparation for next week's meeting, be gently reminded to reflect on the following passages: 2 Kings 5:1-14; Job 2:11-13; Matthew 25:31-46; Mark 10:46-52; Luke 10:25-37 and John 13:1-17.)

A Lent course for the Anglican Church of Bermuda, 2014

*Written by the Bishop of Bermuda with help from the
Diocesan Evangelism and Education Committee based on the
Five Marks of Mission*

The time allocations are suggested to facilitate
completion of your group session in one hour

Getting to know you (8 minutes)

1. Introduce yourself to the group.
2. Discuss the different ways that children are helped to learn. Share what ways helped you the most.

Mark 2: To teach, baptize and nurture new believers

The second mark picks up on the words of Jesus that we looked at last week 'to make disciples of all nations.' It is the task of the church to help believers of all ages to grow in their faith.

3. Apart from the Sunday sermon – how do people grow in their understanding of the faith? (2 minutes)

Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9

4. How can this picture be translated into our homes and churches today? (2 minutes)

5. From home and family to gathered community, what is the aim of Christian teaching? Read Nehemiah 8:1-10 (1 minute)

6. As we think of the life of Jesus, who and how did he teach and nurture those around him? Think of specific examples from the gospels. (2 minutes)

Read the following passages and answer these questions for each passage:

7. To whom is Jesus speaking?
8. What does his teaching involve?

Matthew 5:1-12 (2 minutes)

John 3:1-15 (2 minutes)

John 8:3-11 (2 minutes)

Luke 23:32-43 (2 minutes)

Now read Luke 24:13-27

9. Do we ever have all the answers?

10. Have you ever changed your mind about what you believe?
(2 minutes)

Imagine yourself as one of the two men on the road – their hearts are heavy and sad.

11. How does Jesus support them in their confusion? (2 minutes)

12. What is the essence of the faith that you feel needs to be communicated? (3 minutes)

- 13. Who is it that you find the most difficult to love?

- 14. How has this study helped you to see things differently? (5 minutes)

- ★ What in the life of our Church shows this Mark matters to us?
(2 minutes)

- ★ How is this Mark reflected in our worship? (2 minutes)

- ★ What more could we do as a Church to live this Mark? (10 minutes)

- ★ Who else in our community does this? How can we help them?
(3 minutes)

In I Corinthians 13 Paul writes that without love we are nothing. In James 2:14 it says 'faith by itself, without works, is dead'. Spend some time in silence, reflecting and praying on the reality of your love. Pray for opportunity to share Christ's love this week. (5 minutes)

(In preparation for next week's meeting, be gently reminded to reflect on the following passages: Isaiah 58:1-10; Amos 2:6-8; Micah 6:6-8; Matthew 5:38-42; Matthew 23:23-36; Mark 10:13-27 and Luke 19:1-10.)

A Lent course for the Anglican Church of Bermuda, 2014

*Written by the Bishop of Bermuda with help from the Diocesan Evangelism and Education Committee based on the **Five Marks of Mission***

The time allocations are suggested to facilitate completion of your group session in one hour

Getting to know you (5 minutes)

1. Introduce yourself to the group.

A baby doesn't understand the words 'I love you' but knows that s/he is loved by the things that happen.

2. What things make you appreciate that you are loved?

Mark 3 – To respond to human need through loving service

The theologian, Rev. John Stott, is quoted as saying: 'Whist we undertake the Great Commission, we must never neglect the Greatest Commandment'. The third mark picks up on the nature and character of God and on the fundamental command of Jesus to 'love AS I have loved you'.

3. What different kinds of 'need' are there in your family, church and community? (5 minutes)

Review the following passages of scripture and ask these two questions:

4. Who are we called to love?

5. What does love look like in the hard places of life?
(2 Kings 5:1-14, Matthew 5:43-48, Luke 10:25-37)
(10 minutes)

Sometimes we don't know what to do when we are faced with the overwhelming needs around us.

6. How does the example of Job's friends in Job 2:11-13 help us?
(2 minutes)

Read John 13:3-15

7. Why do you think Peter was reluctant to have his feet washed?
(1 minute)

8. Why do you think we sometimes struggle with being helped?
(2 minutes)

Read Mark 10:46-52

9. What do you think Bartimaeus' greatest need was? (2 minutes)

10. Why did Jesus ask him the question? (2 minutes)

11. What effect did this question have on Bartimaeus? (2 minutes)

12. What does this story teach us about responding to the needs of others? (2 minutes)

10. Is there a difference between our response to injustices meted against ourselves and when they are meted against others?

11. When is it right to 'turn the other cheek' (Read Matthew 5: 38-42 and I Peter 2:21-23) or to get involved (Read Proverbs 31:8-9)? (5 minutes)

★ What in the life of our Church shows this Mark matters to us? (2 minutes)

★ How is this Mark reflected in our worship? (1 minute)

★ What more could we do as a Church to live this Mark? (10 minutes)

★ Who else in our community does this? How can we help them? (3 minutes)

In a moment of silence, reflect on an area of injustice that you are aware of. Ask God to show you how to respond. Pray for opportunity to illustrate this mark of mission. (5 minutes)

(In preparation for next week's meeting, the last in our series, be gently reminded to reflect on the following passages: Genesis 1:26-31; Genesis 2:15,19-20; Psalm 65; Romans 8:18-25; Revelation 22:1-5; Matthew 6:25-31; Mark 6:30-52.)

A Lent course for the Anglican Church of Bermuda, 2014

Written by the Bishop of Bermuda with help from the Diocesan Evangelism and Education Committee based on the Five Marks of Mission

The time allocations are suggested to facilitate completion of your group session in one hour

Getting to know you (7 minutes)

1. Introduce yourself to the group.
2. As you read the news – what is it that makes you most disturbed or angry?

Mark 4 – to seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation.

3. Share an example where the church or others have successfully worked against injustice. Why did it work? (2 minutes)

4. What does the word 'justice' mean? (1 minute)

Divide into three smaller groups (1 minute) and have each group look at one of the following passages from the Old Testament. Each group should ask:

5. What are people offering to God and what does he value instead?
(4 minutes)

Isaiah 58:1-10

Micah 6:6-8

Amos 5:21-24

Reconvene the larger group. (1 minute) Share each group's answers in the larger group (2 minutes) and ask:

6. What injustices God would condemn in our world today?
7. How should these injustices shape our mission as a Church?
(2 minutes)

Read Luke 9:20-26. This passage paints a picture of God's upside-down values.

8. Talk about the pairs of behaviours that result in blessings and the pairs of behaviours that result in woes – what do they teach us about what God values? (5 minutes)

9. How do the following passages illustrate Jesus' teaching?

Matthew 23:23-36 (3 minutes)

Mark 10:13-27 (3 minutes)

Luke 19:1-10 (3 minutes)

- 10. Which of the views seems more Biblical?
- 11. What other things shape our response to creation?
- 12. Have your views on this changed? (5 minutes)

★ What in the life of our Church shows this Mark matters to us? (2 minutes)

★ How is this Mark reflected in our worship? (2 minutes)

★ What more could we do as a Church to live this Mark? (10 minutes)

★ Who else in our community does this? How can we help them? (3 minutes)

In a moment of silence, reflect on your definition of Mission that we started this series with. Has it changed? Which mark of mission has challenged you the most? What can you do to change? Pray for opportunities. (5 minutes)

A Lent course for the Anglican Church of Bermuda, 2014

Written by the Bishop of Bermuda with help from the Diocesan Evangelism and Education Committee based on the Five Marks of Mission

The time allocations are suggested to facilitate completion of your group session in one hour

Getting to know you (8 minutes)

1. Introduce yourself to the group.
2. What inspires you in the created world to think of God?

Mark 5 – to strive to safeguard the integrity of Creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

“... the fifth mark of mission is not an optional extra, or simply a contemporary reaction to our current environmental crisis, but rather a genuine recovery of a biblically integrated understanding of mission”

Dave Bookless

3. Do you agree? (3 minutes)

Together read out Psalm 65.

4. How does this describe God's relationship to His creation?
(3 minutes)

Read Colossians 1:15-20

5. What is Christ's relationship to the created order?
(3 minutes)

Read the following excerpts from the book of Genesis.

6. What does the word 'stewardship' mean and not mean from this context? (Genesis 1:26-31; Genesis 2:15, 19-20) (5 minutes)

From Genesis 3 to the present we live in a world of corruption and pain.

7. How does Christ's coming change that? (See Romans 8:18-25)
(3 minutes)

8. Where is the creation headed? (see Rev. 22:1-15) (3 minutes)

Taken from the book 'Planetwise' Dave Bookless characterizes 4 worldviews amongst Christians.

9. Review the following and ask which represents your world view.

Trudi Tree Hugger - too many environmentalists are New Age nature worshippers. Ecology and environmentalism should be avoided by Christians.

Soul-Saving Sam - caring for the earth is not very important for people's eternal salvation. The gospel is about saving souls, not saving seals. Environmentalism is a distraction.

Boxed Barry - caring for creation is right and proper for some – it is good to have Christian lawyers and Christian conservationists – so long as I don't have to be one!

Integrated Ian - caring for God's world is a core part of Christian discipleship – found throughout the Bible and is an essential part of Christian discipleship, worship and lifestyle. We witness to God by caring for his world.

(5 minutes)