



## STUDY 2 - Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Have you read the booklet that is being circulated - 'Ministry Transition'? Do discuss in your small group meeting the important sections on the church direction together with the 'marks of ministry' that the leadership team is suggesting we look

for in a future minister of WBC.

Remember there is the dedicated email address if you want to communicate to the leadership team on any part of the document – [transition@wbc-ashford.org.uk](mailto:transition@wbc-ashford.org.uk).

- Take the opportunity to dream a little: 'If you could commence anything you wanted to within the church, with all the resources you might need, and with success guaranteed, what things might you do?'

We had August as a month of prayer for the church and leadership team – but, may I encourage you to continue to pray through September particularly about ministry transition. There is an opportunity to pray together on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 9am** at the church – do plan to join with us.

### CORE VALUE 2 – MISSION

Reading John 1.35-51

What is your perception of the church – is it growing, remaining constant or in decline?

**MISSION - Undertake our mission by reaching out and touching the lives of the community around us and sharing with them the love and (the life changing) message of Christ.**

Mission lies right at the heart of being a 'Baptist'. The Baptist Union Declaration of principle declares: *It is the duty of every disciple to bear personal witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to take part in the evangelisation of the world.*

As we consider ministry transition – mission is always to be high on our agenda. Take the opportunity to note the emphasis on mission in the 'Ministry Transition' booklet.

Our call to mission is simply a call to obedience as we receive the marching orders given by our commander in chief as he ascended to the Father.

**Matt 28.18-20** (Contemporary English Version) *'I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth! Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptise them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to do everything I have told you. I will be with you always, even until the end of the world.'*

Mission is why we exist. It is a team game – we are in it together. The strategy is indicated clearly in **Acts 1.8** – Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the rest of the world. This is why the Spirit of God empowers us and calls us to stay focused in the divine calling to be a missionary people.

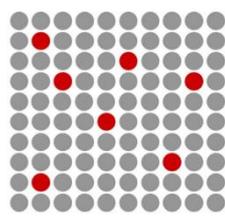
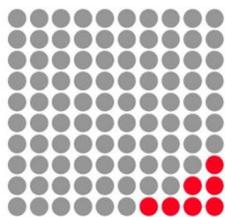
**Andrew was the disciple who introduced people to Jesus.**

- Take one or two of the accounts that highlight Andrew and observe how he introduced people to Jesus. What can we learn from Andrew?
  - **Andrew introduces his BROTHER to Jesus in John 1.40-42**
  - **Andrew introduces a BOY to Jesus with his lunch box, John 6.8-9**
  - **Andrew introduces some BYSTANDERS to Jesus in John 12.20-22**
- Do you remember our series of studies **WALK ACROSS THE ROOM?** Did that series on mission actually stimulate you to 'walk across the room' and open up a conversation with another person in warm genuine friendship?
- Why is it that we are generally frightened of the words like evangelism and even mission? Why are they so daunting?
- Remember the verse in Matthew 9.38 about the harvest field...it has recently been harvesting time in the agricultural calendar. What is the challenge here in the prayer of Jesus?

Alan shared a number of real challenges to **SHARING FAITH TODAY.**

- Can you remember any of them?
- What would you like to add to the list?
- Why do you think invitations extended to the unchurched to attend something at the church has such little uptake? Is this different from when you first became a Christian?

**The challenge of whole life discipleship**



The Gathered church becomes the church scattered.

Our frontline ministry!

How can we develop a deeper commitment to lifestyle outreach into our community?

**FOR YOUR OWN NOTES**