

# Spirit of Connectivity

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

May 2020 (3-30 May)



### A Church instituted by Christ but constituted by the Spirit of Creativity

This month we are going to be thinking about the way God creatively and often miraculously uses the Holy Spirit to create a visible and invisible network of believers. He often uses the most vulnerable and surprising people to be his hands and feet in the world. His end goal or big picture being to redeem his creation. Paul speaks about this in Ephesians 1: 9-10.

Jesus also identifies his mission as redemptive in the words of his manifesto borrowed from Isaiah when he declared in his local synagogue that he had come to bind up the broken hearted and to bring justice and meaning into all our troubled lives (see Luke 4: 16-21).

We will explore:

- the creativity of the networked church
- the importance of a network in a time of suffering
- sharing our faith passionately but with a gentle loving approach
- being a witness in a worldwide network

*The following discussion questions are designed to accompany the [Spirit of Connectivity Resource Pack](#) to help adapt the material for small group work. They are divided into 4 parts to correspond with the 4 weeks of the Daily Worship theme. **These questions are just a guideline and there is no need to go through all the given questions in a single session, or in the following sequence. Feel free to pick and choose, or adapt to what interests your group.***

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### Part 1: The Creative Networked Church

#### Read Acts 2: 42-47

What has the balance of church been that you have experienced? Has it been heavy on teaching but light on fellowship? Heavy on fellowship but light on prayer?

How would you define fellowship? Is fellowship ultimately inclusive or exclusive? How do you hold together the tension of creating something to belong 'in' without pushing others 'out'?

How do you strike the right balance between all the different things a church can be and can offer?

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#### Read John 8: 31-59

What aspects of institutionalised religion would Jesus challenge today?

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#### What are your expectations for a Networked Church of the future?

Pastoral — Psalm 23

Interdenominational — Acts 11: 19-27

Networked like "my Father's house..." John 14: 1-4

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### Part 2: The Suffering Church Network

#### Conversation Starter

How important is a Networked Church in times of suffering?

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#### Read Psalm 31

In what ways have you encountered God in times of trouble?

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#### Read John 14: 18-21

What is it, according to John's Gospel, that gives us confidence to believe we are never on our own?

What does it mean to be *in* The Father, or Jesus? And what does it mean to have Jesus *in* you?

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#### Read 1 Corinthians 10: 13

When you feel exhausted and unable to continue what does this verse tell us about God and ourselves?

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### Part 3: When the Holy Spirit moves in a Church Without Walls

**Read Acts 17: 22-31**

If we live as a Church without walls how will that effect our approach and attitudes towards mission and outreach?

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**Read 1 Peter 3: 13-22**

What is the role of individual believers in sharing faith?

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**Read Matthew 13: 31-32**

So, is the church a building or a Kingdom? How can we widen our imaginations so that more people can make a nest with us?

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### Part 4: A world-wide network of witnesses

#### Conversation Starter

How do we go about becoming witnesses to Jesus' life and the relevance of this for the culture we live in today?

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#### Read John 17: 1-19

How do we protect and sustain each other in our journey of faith?

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#### Read John 14: 5-14 and Micah 6: 8

Who and what is it that holds the Network Church together?

What is it that we are invited to take part in?

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**What does it mean to you to feel part of a worldwide community of faith?**