

Episode 2 Why is Posture Important?

The big idea

Whole-life preaching involves adopting a certain posture towards the congregation which is shaped by who they are as disciples of Jesus, and by an intentional curiosity and growing awareness of the daily contexts in which they find themselves.

For reflection and discussion

1. What is your natural preaching posture? What would you identify as the relative strengths and weaknesses of your posture? How might you grow in your own self-awareness as a preacher?

2. What might be the unintended consequences of a preaching posture which is primarily that of:

- A teacher?
- An inspirer?
- A caller to social action?
- An evangelist?
- A spiritual director?

3. What might be the unintended consequences of a preaching posture which sees the congregation primarily as:

- Leisure-time volunteers for church work?
- Local residents?
- Sinners?
- Emotionally needy?
- People operating in multiple spheres?

4. In preparing and delivering sermons, how far are you aware of seeing members of the congregation as disciples of Jesus in their everyday lives? What difference, over time, might it make if you adopt this posture towards the people to whom you preach?

Something to do

Plan to do at least one of the following over the next few weeks, and then feed the experience into the preparation and delivery of one of your sermons:

- Visit a member of your congregation on their frontline.
- Be self-consciously curious in conversation with a member of your congregation about their everyday life. Use the 'This Time Tomorrow' questions to help you, if necessary: (1) where do you spend your time? (2) who is with you? (3) what do you do? (4) how might God be using you there? (5) how can I pray for you?
- Incorporate a **'This Time Tomorrow'** slot into a church service. (licc.org.uk/resources/this-time-tomorrow)