



FRUITFULNESS ON THE FRONTLINE.



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sarah-Jane Marshall and Joe Warton



We're delighted you are using *Fruitfulness on the Frontline* as a group and we hope that it will be a significant time for you – both as individuals and together. It's our prayer that it helps you to better see where God might be working with you and through you in your different contexts during the week.

During each session, you'll watch a short film (8-13 mins) and then have the opportunity to discuss and share from your own experiences on your frontline. Each session ends with a 'Takeaway Action' – a small activity to try out on your frontline in the week. Think about how you can encourage others in your group in these. An email or text mid-week can be hugely helpful.

As you progress through the series, you'll probably find people become a lot more vocal in sharing stories of where they have seen God at work in their everyday. If you're excited about the stories emerging in your group, share them with us! We'd love to use them to encourage others. Get in touch by emailing mail@licc.org.uk.

God bless you,
The LICC Team

A note to session leaders

As you facilitate discussion during the sessions, don't feel bound to use every question in the guide. What's more important is that everyone in the group has the opportunity to offer thoughts. As you prepare and read over the material, keep these few questions in mind:

- Who is in my group? Where are their particular frontlines?
- Are there any pastoral issues that this session could raise?
- Would certain questions be better if discussed in pairs or smaller groups?

It may be helpful for every member of the group to be able to see a copy of the discussion guide during the session, so consider handing out photocopies. This will make it much easier for participants to understand and respond to the questions. Some groups find it hard to engage when only the leader has a copy of the questions.

You'll find more supporting material at licc.org.uk/fruitfulness, including how to get hold of the 6M Prayer Cards. There's also a short promotional video which you might find helpful when setting up the series with the group.



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Kirsty : **WHEN DID YOU FIRST DECIDE YOU WANTED TO BE A NUN?**
Sister Wendy : **I WAS A BABY. IT WAS THE ONLY THING I WANTED BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WERE OTHER WAYS TO LOVE GOD COMPLETELY. I NOW KNOW OF COURSE THAT YOU CAN BE A BUS CONDUCTRESS OR A TELEVISION PERSON AND LOVE GOD COMPLETELY.**



Interview of Sister Wendy Beckett by Kirsty Young, *Desert Island Discs*



SESSION 1:

THE BIG PICTURE

'So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life – and place it before God as an offering.' Romans 12:1, The Message

Key Question: How am I already being fruitful on my frontline?

Aim: To see that everyone has a frontline. To begin to develop a rich understanding of fruitful living for God.

Core Text: Colossians 1:15-20

Materials: Bibles, pens, post-it notes, 6M prayer cards (see p6) – one per person. Available to print yourself or to order at licc.org.uk/fruitfulness.

FRONTLINE: Your frontline is the place where you spend significant time through the week in contact with non-Christians.

Pre-Film Discussion (10 mins)

Has your group previously used the *Life on the Frontline* DVD?

YES

Discuss the impact of *Life on the Frontline* before diving into the new material:

How has doing *Life on the Frontline* changed the way you live and think? What, if anything, has changed in the way this group operates?

NO

Take a moment to discuss this introductory question:

Where is your 'frontline'? Where do you spend significant time through the week in contact with non-Christians?



PLAY FILM **to pause point** (5 mins)

Pause Point Questions – on screen

What struck you about Peter's story? In what ways has Peter been fruitful?



RESUME FILM **to end** (8 mins)

Questions to Discuss after the Film (15 mins)

Having been introduced to six expressions of fruitfulness, consider the following:

- How does the 6M framework broaden your understanding of what it means to be fruitful?
- On a post-it note, each write down the 'M' that you feel you are strongest at. Can you think of an example of this 'M' in action on your frontline to share with the group?
- Reviewing the group's post-it notes, where are the group's strengths? Where might you pray for particular growth over the coming weeks?

Bible Reflection (20 mins)

COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

This passage is part of a letter that Paul sent to the Christians living in Colossae, a small city in modern-day Turkey. As the opening of chapter 2 tells us, Paul is writing to ensure that the believers are not swayed by false teaching. In this hymn-like passage, Paul declares Christ's supremacy over the entire universe in order to set the scene for the very practical teaching that will follow. For us too, this big understanding of the lordship of Christ provides a rich foundation for our daily actions on our frontlines.

- Which words are repeated numerous times in the passage? What does this tell us about Jesus' lordship?

Questions continue on the next page...



- As Christians, we believe that we have been reconciled individually to God through Christ's death. How might v19-20 expand our understanding of God's work of reconciliation?
- Many in today's society believe that faith should remain private and has nothing beneficial to contribute to workplaces, politics, family life, or society in general. How might the fact that Jesus made everything and died to reconcile all things change the way we see our frontlines?

Praying Forwards (10 mins)

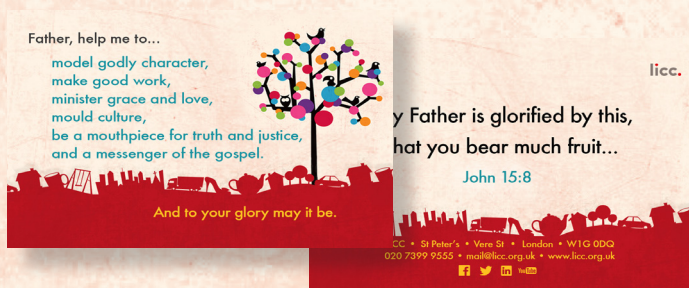
Pray for an increased awareness that God is with you on your frontline this week and that Jesus is Lord in that place, whatever happens.

Pray for eyes to see where you are already being fruitful on your frontline and for greater confidence in God's promise to be at work in us.



Takeaway Action

Where might you place a 6M prayer card to prompt you to think and pray about the different ways that you can be fruitful for Christ this week on your frontline?



This card is available to print yourself or to order at licc.org.uk/fruitfulness

There are all kinds of ways to be fruitful on your frontline, and therefore all kinds of ways you are probably already being fruitful. On the next page are the 6Ms with short summaries to explore. How might you do, or already be doing, each of these things?

THE 6MS

● Model godly character

In tough times and easy ones, with difficult people and delightful people, how might you manifest the fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control? Which one is a struggle for you? Are you praying that you grow in the Christlikeness of your responses?

● Make good work

This includes both what we do and how we do it. It means doing good work that serves other people, contributes to human flourishing, and stewards creation. It means doing your tasks consciously for the Lord, in the Spirit, to his glory, seeking his wisdom, his strength, and his touch. Your best with his transforming help.

● Minister grace and love

There are many ways to do this, not only in practical care and kindness for those who need it, but through the way we respond in difficult and indeed ordinary situations. How do we engage with the check-out person, or the lonely shopper in the charity shop, or the new parent at the school gate, or do an appraisal with the other person's long-term interests at heart, not just the company's?

● Mould culture

Culture is 'the way we do things round here'. Although you may not be able to change the way your company or your gym or your parents' association does things by next Monday, you may well be able to begin with a few people and a few small actions. What things bother you – and what are the values that underpin them? What could be done differently that would make it a better place for people to flourish? What would make it more like God's will being done on earth as in heaven?

● Be a Mouthpiece for truth and justice

There will be times when being a disciple means speaking up against things that are unfair, unhealthy, or untruthful, and speaking up for things that are true and just and good. It takes courage, wisdom, and prayer.

● Be a Messenger of the gospel

You may not get an opportunity every day, or even every month, but ask God who he might want you to pray for. Ask someone else to pray for you, to offer wisdom and hold you accountable. Be ready 'to give a reason for the hope that is in you' (1 Peter 3:15). Don't be driven by false guilt. Rest in God, trust his timing, build trust and relationships, care for people, and share what Jesus has done in your life and what he offers to everyone. Celebrate the steps you see people making towards Jesus.



SESSION 2:

MODELLING GODLY CHARACTER

'I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation – the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ – for this will bring much glory and praise to God.' Philippians 1:9-11, NLT

Key Question: How might I model godly character on my frontline?

Aim: To see that our frontlines are important places where godly character can be both developed and displayed.

Core Text: Galatians 5:13-26

Materials: Bibles

Thinking Back (5 mins)

Before we look at modelling godly character in detail, it would be good to take a moment to reflect more broadly on what has been happening on our frontlines since the last session.

Were there moments of fruitfulness on your frontline this week, or a new awareness of the potential for fruitfulness?

Pre-Film Discussion (10 mins)

When you think of godly character, who is the first person that you think of? Can you think of a time when they responded to a situation in a particularly godly way?



PLAY FILM (8 mins)

Questions to Discuss after the Film (15 mins)

- In the story of the ogre-like boss, Louise wasn't aware that she was being fruitful. She felt like a total failure, but in fact she had modelled outstanding godly character. How does her story make you feel about the way you might be modelling godly character on your frontline?
- Louise was in an uncomfortable place, yet she was able to be remarkably fruitful. Can you think of an instance when you grew in godly character during an 'uncomfortable' time on your frontline?
- Louise recognised her fruitfulness because her former colleagues pointed it out to her. Why can we sometimes find it hard to encourage one another when we see God at work in each other's lives?

Bible Reflection (20 mins)

GALATIANS 5:13-26

In this well-known passage Paul lists nine characteristics of a life lived in the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These qualities of new life in Christ stand in direct contrast to the 'sinful acts of the flesh' associated with the old way of life. Rather than being a list of qualities that we must strive to attain, the fruits of the Spirit are outworkings of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives and spring from our identity in Christ.

- Look at the list of the fruits of the Spirit. Are there particular situations on your frontline where the rubber hits the road and these characteristics are tested?
- The fruits of the Spirit are characterised by inner assurance and selfless love. What can stop us from being others-orientated on our frontlines?
- Paul tells us that these fruits come from a life 'led by the Spirit' (v.18) and so are not a 'to-do' list, but rather characteristics of walking with God. What might it mean for us to 'keep in step with the Spirit' (v.25) on our frontlines?



Praying Forwards (10 mins - in pairs)

- Having reflected on some of the good things about our weeks at the beginning of this session, thank God for these things and ask him to show more of his love for others through you in the week ahead.
- Maybe you feel regretful about a time when you failed to model godly character? Ask for God's forgiveness for these times and thank him that he promises to continue to be at work in us.
- Pray that God would shape your character on your frontline this coming week. You may like to ask for prayer for a particular situation coming up this week where you might find it more difficult to respond in a godly way.



Takeaway Action

Read through Galatians 5:13-26 again a few times this week and use it as a launch pad for praying for your frontline.

May the Lord shine through you this week.

**THE CHRISTIANLY VIRTUOUS PERSON
IS NOT THINKING ABOUT HIS OR HER OWN MORAL
PERFORMANCE. HE OR SHE IS THINKING OF JESUS
CHRIST, AND OF HOW BEST TO LOVE THE
PERSON NEXT DOOR.**



Theologian Tom Wright, *Virtue Reborn*, 2010



SESSION 3:

MAKING GOOD WORK

'And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.'

Colossians 3:17

Key Question: How might I make good work with God on my frontline?

Aim: To see that there is dignity and value in the work we do on our frontlines and that this can be done with and for God.

Core Text: Genesis 1

Materials: Bibles

WORK: Work is a gift God has given us so we can serve other people. When we use the word 'work', we're not just talking about paid employment but rather the tasks that we each do on a regular basis, which may include voluntary work, housework, childcare, etc.

Thinking Back (5 mins)

Last time, we thought about ways in which the Holy Spirit helps us to be more fruitful as we 'keep in step' with him.

Have there been any times since we last met where have you felt the Spirit's prompting or recognised his fruit in your life on your frontline?

Pre-Film Discussion (10 mins)

In two or three sentences can you explain to the group the main tasks you have to do on your frontline in an average week? Try to keep it brief!





PLAY FILM (9 mins)

Questions to Discuss after the Film (15 mins)

- In the film, we saw how Keith the decorator came to view his work in a completely different light. No longer is it just about earning money for himself or even for the church; it's a way of serving God by serving other people. How does the story help you to see the significance of the tasks you do on your frontline? Think about ways that your work serves others both directly and indirectly.

In another example, someone working in the finance department of a competitive pharmaceutical company may struggle to see how their work reflects God's purposes. However, God wants to alleviate suffering and promote health – he does this, at least partly, through medicine. In order for the company to run well and for new drugs to be developed, they need a good finance department to manage overheads efficiently and make sensible investments.

For example, a retired person may struggle to see how they can still 'make good work' when they are no longer in paid employment. Nevertheless, the lady who volunteers at the charity shop does good work by using her time and skills directly when serving her customers and more broadly by raising funds to support the charity. Similarly, the man who visits his grandson and helps with his science project uses the knowledge he has acquired during his life so that his grandson might flourish.

- Often people can think that some roles are more important to God than others. For example, being a missionary or a teacher may be valued more highly than being a business owner or a stay-at-home parent. Do we ever see attitudes like this in our own thinking? As Christians, why might we want to challenge this view?

THE CHURCH'S APPROACH TO AN INTELLIGENT CARPENTER IS USUALLY CONFINED TO EXHORTING HIM NOT TO BE DRUNK AND DISORDERLY IN HIS LEISURE HOURS AND TO COME TO CHURCH ON SUNDAYS. WHAT THE CHURCH SHOULD BE TELLING HIM IS THIS: THAT THE VERY FIRST DEMAND THAT HIS RELIGION MAKES UPON HIM IS THAT HE SHOULD MAKE GOOD TABLES.



Author Dorothy Sayers, *Why Work?*, 1942



Bible Reflection (25 mins)

GENESIS 1

Read through the whole of Genesis chapter 1 as a group. What things particularly strike you about this passage? What do you think are the main points that the writer is trying to get across to us?

The opening chapters of Genesis provide a rich picture of a God who designed work to be good for the human race. We don't earn God's love by our works; rather work is a gift and opportunity to join in with what God is doing – to co-work with him to make the world a better place. It's only later in chapter 3 that work becomes frustrating, marred by the consequences of the fall. By looking at this original purpose, we can begin to see how our daily tasks on our frontline can be part of God's good purposes for the world.

- God reviewed his work and said that it was good (Genesis 1:10, 12, 18, 21, 25). What does 'good work' look like on your frontline? When are you ever tempted to give something other than your best?
- In our work on our frontline, we can reflect some of the ways that God works in creation, for example by:

Bringing order

Making provision

Bringing joy

Bringing beauty

Releasing potential

Which of the characteristics above do you most easily see in your own tasks?

- Having made such an impressive world, what is the responsibility that God gives to human beings (see particularly 1:27-28, and 2:15)? To what extent are you surprised by how much responsibility he gives us?
- How might seeing your individual work as part of God's bigger plans for the world affect the way that you go about your tasks on your frontline?



Praying Forwards (10 mins – in pairs)

- It's often easy to turn to God in times of crisis, but how might we develop a rhythm of prayer that invites God to work with us in our day-to-day tasks so that we are always working in his strength?
- Pray for an increased sense that God is with you on your frontline.
Pray for eyes to see how your everyday tasks matter and play a part in God's big plans for the world.



Takeaway Action

Take a minute at the end of each day to jot down one example of good work on your frontline this week to praise God for.

You may find it helpful to remember some of the characteristics of good work you talked about together:

- Bringing order
- Making provision
- Bringing joy
- Bringing beauty
- Releasing potential

Monday



Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday



SESSION 4:

MINISTERING GRACE AND LOVE

'We love because he first loved us.' 1 John 4:19

Key Question: How might I minister grace and love to people on my frontline?

Aims: In light of the grace that God has shown to us, to see how we might minister grace and love to those we interact with on our frontlines.

Core Text: Luke 10:25-37

Materials: Bibles

Thinking Back (5 mins)

In the last session we looked at making good work.

Take a minute to think back to what was covered – has anything that you talked about as a group had particular significance this week as you have been back on your frontline?

Pre-Film Discussion (5 mins)

Today, we turn to Ministering Grace and Love – two characteristics ultimately demonstrated by Jesus through his radical act of love and grace on the cross. In common modern usage, however, the meaning of the words 'grace' and 'love' are easily watered down.

Can you think of a time when someone has powerfully shown you grace and love in a way that you think captures the real meaning of these words?



PLAY FILM (9 mins)

Questions to Discuss after the Film (20 mins)

- In the film Mark suggests that sometimes we set the bar too high for what counts as 'ministry'. Do you agree?
- What small but costly things might you already do on your frontline that you might not have ever considered to be ministry?
- Peju went out of her way to generously minister love and grace to a fellow busy mum. How does her story inspire you and what might you do on your frontline?
- Imagine Peju were to find herself having a conversation with one of the non-Christian mums. What difference might her actions make to her verbal witness?

Bible Reflection (20 mins)

LUKE 10:25-37

This is a powerful parable of a Samaritan man, who would have been despised by the Jewish people, ministering grace and love to someone considered to be his enemy. Jesus told this provocative story in response to an expert in the Jewish law who was trying to draw lines around the people to whom God expected him to show love. Through the story, Jesus seems to set an impossible standard for inheriting eternal life - we're not always going to succeed in loving others in this way. This passage is therefore an encouragement to radical love, but also a reminder that we will never be good enough to earn eternal life. Like the injured man, we too rely on mercy.

- Who are the difficult 'neighbours' on our frontlines and what are some of the reasons we find not to minister grace and love to them?
- If our actions are a reflection of what is in our hearts, in what ways did the heart of the Samaritan differ from the hearts of the priest and the Levite?
- In what ways were the actions of the Samaritan costly to himself? What can it cost us to minister generous love and grace to those on our frontlines?
- How do you think the expert in the law may have felt after Jesus command to 'go and do likewise' (verse 37)?



Praying Forwards (10 mins)

Like the man by the side of the road, we have been shown lavish grace by Jesus – the ultimate Good Samaritan. Our love and grace towards others therefore springs from a place of thankfulness for the grace that we have been shown.

- Pray that God would reveal more of his grace and love for us.

Take a moment to reflect on what it might mean for you to 'go and do likewise' on your frontline. Listen to God's prompting.

- Pray that God would give you a deeper awareness of how you could respond.
- Pray that, like Peter with his newspaper clippings, you would find increasing ways to support one another on each other's frontlines.




Takeaway Action

Each member of the group might like to allocate a budget of £3 to be used this week to show love and grace to someone on their frontline. You could perhaps buy somebody a coffee or write a kind note in a card.

How might you bless someone with your £3?





SESSION 5:

MOULDING CULTURE

'Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.' Romans 12:2

Key Question: How might I begin to influence the culture of my frontline in accordance with kingdom values?

Aims: To see the values that underpin the cultures of our frontlines; to see how we might affirm the good and think creatively about bringing positive change where needed.

Core Text: Matthew 5:13-16

Materials: Bibles, paper and pens

Thinking Back (5 mins)

In the last session we looked at ministering grace and love.

How did you get on using your £3 to bless someone on your frontline this week?
How did they react?

N.B. Don't worry if you didn't manage to do this - there will be plenty more opportunities to bless people on your frontlines.



Pre-Film Discussion (10 mins)

Today, we're looking at moulding culture. This is about appreciating how we might contribute to cultural change on our frontlines, so that they become places where people better flourish. One definition of culture is 'the way we do things round here'.

Together, can you briefly think of a few things that are part of the culture of your own small group?

You might like to think about the different components of your gathering, such as the way you interact with one another, the food you eat, the way you speak, how you pray... Or you might find it helpful to ask yourself what an outsider would have to learn in order to do things as you are in the habit of doing.



PLAY FILM to Pause Point (5 mins 30 secs)

Pause Point for Personal Reflection (5 mins)

In a moment of quiet, think about the culture of your frontline. What are some of the positive and negative aspects of the way things are done there? Write down your thoughts as you will need to refer back to these later.



RESUME FILM to end (4 mins)

Questions to Discuss after the Film (10 mins)

- In the story of Elaine the headteacher, why do you think the original blame culture was bad for the staff? What about the children?
- What do you think were some of the Christian values that inspired Elaine to instigate the change that she did?
- Elaine first exemplified the change that she wanted to see and in doing so brought others along with her. Are there already things you try to do that go against the grain of a negative aspect of your frontline culture?



Bible Reflection (10 mins)

MATTHEW 5:13-16

This passage comes towards the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount in which Jesus sets out the way of life for his followers. The 'blessed' sayings which come before (in 5:3-12) are not presented as high ideals we have to live up to so much as a signal that a different set of values is now in play. Such values characterise those who belong to God's kingdom and inevitably impact the world in which God's people live. When it comes to being 'salt' and 'light', notice that Jesus says 'you are...'; not 'you should try really hard to be...' – a reminder that God sees us as those who really can 'mould culture' as we seek to live faithfully as disciples of Jesus.

- How might the images of 'salt' and 'light' help us think about what it means to influence our frontline culture?
- In 5:16, Jesus says, 'Let your light shine before others.' What could this look like for you, practically, on a daily basis?



Exercise in Pairs (20 mins)

Come back to the things you wrote down about your frontline culture and then find a partner to talk through the following:

- Share with your partner a summary of what you wrote down.
- Is there one particular negative thing about the culture of your frontline that you would love to see change?
- Together look for a kingdom antidote (alternative) that might address the negative thing you identified. How might God use you here to start to bring about change?
- Together, thank God for the positive elements of your frontline culture. Pray for each other that God will give you the wisdom, faith and courage to start influencing the culture of your frontline for his glory.

Praying Forwards (as a group) (10 mins)

Take a moment to reflect on this quote from Reinhold Niebuhr – then pray it aloud together.

**'God, grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.'**



Takeaway Action

Ask a couple of people on your frontline what they think is good and not so good about the culture of your frontline – their responses might spur you to action and may even open up opportunities for a conversation about the Christian faith!

**PEOPLE FULFIL THEIR INDIVIDUAL AND
COLLECTIVE DESTINY IN THE ARTS,
MUSIC, LITERATURE, COMMERCE, LAW,
AND SCHOLARSHIP THEY CULTIVATE, THE
RELATIONSHIPS THEY BUILD, AND IN THE
INSTITUTIONS THEY DEVELOP - FAMILY,
CHURCHES, ASSOCIATIONS, AND COMMUNITIES
THEY LIVE IN AND SUSTAIN - AS THEY REFLECT
THE GOOD OF GOD AND HIS DESIGNS
FOR FLOURISHING.**



Sociologist James Davison Hunter, *To Change the World*, 2010



SESSION 6:

MOUTHPIECE FOR TRUTH AND JUSTICE

'Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.' Isaiah 1:17

Key Question: How might I be a mouthpiece for truth and justice on my frontline?

Aims: To see where justice and truth are not being upheld on our frontlines and to grow in wisdom and courage to speak up where necessary.

Core Text: 2 Samuel 12:1-13

Materials: Bibles

Thinking Back (5 mins)

In the last session we looked at moulding culture – influencing the way things are done on our frontlines so that they become places where people can better flourish.

- Does anyone have any observations to share about the culture of their frontline this week – perhaps something positive or something negative that you noticed for the first time?
- Did anyone have the opportunity to begin to make a small change to their frontline culture?

Pre-Film Discussion (10 mins)

Today, we're looking at being a mouthpiece for truth and justice – speaking up for right living and fair dealings in order that things become more in line with God's ways.

What instances of injustice or untruth have you seen on your frontline recently?



PLAY FILM (11 mins)

Questions to Discuss after the Film (10 mins)

- The decision that Jeremy made, to work for a company where he knew that he would have to negotiate some very tricky ethical dilemmas, took courage. Speaking up against the boss took courage. What are some of the issues that might prevent you from speaking out on your frontline?
- Jeremy's Christian friends thought that taking the job was a bad idea. What do you think Jeremy could see that his friends couldn't?
- In this example, we see that the words and actions of one person can have an effect beyond what seems possible. Does this change your perspective on the impact that your words may have on your frontline?

Group Activity (5 mins)

On our frontlines, all of us will have found ourselves in conversations where the person we are talking to is saying something unkind (whether true or not) about someone else.

Are there any tactics that you have found useful in these situations that have enabled you to stand up for truth and justice?

Bible Reflection (20 mins)

2 SAMUEL 12:1-13

In 2 Samuel 11, David, the king of Israel, had done something terrible, breaking three of the Ten Commandments in dramatic fashion. First, he covets another man's wife, as he watches Bathsheba bathe from the vantage point of his palace roof. Secondly, he commits adultery with her, having had her brought to him, and she falls pregnant. Then thirdly, having failed to cover up his part in Bathsheba's pregnancy, he has her husband Uriah killed, in order that he may take Bathsheba to be his own wife. David's ruthless plan succeeded because many people around him simply obeyed orders and did not question his actions. It appeared that he had got away with what he had done. However, after the birth of the child, the Lord sends the prophet Nathan to bring David face-to-face with his wrongdoing.

Questions on the next page...



- Nathan could have found many excuses not to follow the Lord's instruction. If you were Nathan, what are some of the reasons you might have given for not wanting to confront King David?
- How does the injustice in the story that Nathan tells about the rich and the poor man relate to King David's actions?
- What do you think would have happened in King David's life if Nathan had not taken this step of courageous obedience?
- Nathan speaks with great wisdom and is able to bring King David to the point of realising his own wrongdoing. How might we learn from Nathan's example? What factors might be relevant for us when we are weighing up whether or not to speak out in our own circumstances?

Praying Forwards (10 mins - as a group)

Spend a few minutes in silent reflection. Think about the injustices and untruths that you see on your frontline – is God bringing one particular thing to your attention? Like Nathan, might there be things that God is prompting you to do about this and is there any particular wisdom you may need?

Share your reflections in pairs or as a group and pray together.



Takeaway Action

Take some time to meditate on Philippians 4:8 this week and ask God what this might mean for your particular frontline:

'Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.'



SESSION 7:

MESSENGER OF THE GOSPEL

'How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"' Isaiah 52:7

Key Question: How might I be a messenger of the gospel on my frontline?

Aims: To grow in confidence and intentionality in sharing the good news of Jesus with those on our frontlines.

Core Text: 1 Peter 3:15-16

Materials: Paper for exercise in pairs, large sheet of paper and pens for prayer.

Thinking Back (5 mins)

In the last session we looked at being a mouthpiece for truth and justice.

- Did the last session change the way you saw things on your frontline?
- Did anyone in the group have an opportunity to speak up in a particular situation?

Pre-Film Discussion (5 mins)

Today, we're looking at being a messenger of the gospel – sharing about Jesus with our words.

How does the word 'evangelism' make you feel?





PLAY FILM (9 mins)

Questions to Discuss after the Film (10 mins)

Mark began by making three key points:

1. God wants people saved.
 2. It is God who saves people, not us.
 3. We have some role in this, however small.
- How much do your own thinking and practice reflect these three statements?
 - Do they change your view of evangelism at all?
 - What do you find encouraging about the story of Anita and Renata? What do you find challenging?

Bible Reflection (10 mins)

1 PETER 3:13-16

This letter was written to a group of churches spread throughout the region that we now call Turkey. Although the churches may not have been suffering 'official' persecution from the state, they were facing all kinds of opposition as they sought to live for Christ on their frontlines. Peter knew that these men, women and children were really up against it and so he wrote to them. But the content of his letter is not just about 'hanging on in there'; rather, he encourages them to courageously continue to do good knowing that it would provoke people to ask questions. Not everyone would react well to their responses, but, importantly, some would.

- Imagine you were a Christian back then, facing persecution and opposition. How might you be tempted to respond?
- The broader sweep of 1 Peter makes it clear that verbal witness is intrinsically linked to the witness of our actions. People will be provoked to ask questions when they see our good deeds (see especially 1 Peter 2:11-12). What might you learn from this?
- In verse 15, what do you think Peter means by 'always be prepared...'? How might you make sure that you too are 'prepared'?
- Look at verses 15 and 16. In what manner are we encouraged to share the gospel? Why do you think the way we share the gospel matters so much?





Exercise in Pairs (20 mins)

Who in particular on your frontline might God be prompting you to reach out to? Take a few moments to pray and once you have identified someone, reflect on the following questions. Once you've jotted down some thoughts, talk them through with the person next to you.

- How would you describe this person generally?
- What do you think is important to this person?
- What do you think they believe about God?
- What specific things could you do to bless this person practically?
- What specific things could you do to aid their spiritual development?
- What might you do in the next two weeks? How about in the coming months?

Praying Forwards (10 mins)

Praying for our frontline friends to come to know Jesus is something we need to commit to doing over the long term. It will be easier to persevere in prayer if we get into the pattern of doing it as a group as well as in our own personal prayers.

- Using a large sheet of paper, ask each group member to write the names of one or two people they want to commit to praying for.
- Take some time to pray for one another and those whose names are written down. You might like to pray specifically for the person your discussion partner told you about earlier.
- Keep the piece of paper in a safe place, and make a commitment to take some time to revisit it in some of your future sessions together. Be prepared to ask each other how these friends are doing, whether you have seen God at work in their lives and what opportunities you have had to talk with them intentionally.



Takeaway Action

Take some time during the week ahead to pray specifically for the people you committed to pray for during the 'Praying Forwards' exercise.



SESSION 8:

THE JOURNEY ON

'When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?" the servant asked. "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.' 2 Kings 6:15-17

Key Questions: How has our journey through the 6Ms helped us to see our frontlines, ourselves and God differently?

How can we ensure that what we have learned has an ongoing impact upon our lives?

Aims: To share personal reflections from the past seven sessions and leave feeling affirmed and confident.

To make some specific decisions that will help us to continue living with a 6M perspective.

Materials: Bibles, pens and something to write on.

Thinking Back (5 mins)

In the last session we looked at being a messenger of the gospel.

Is there anything that you discussed in the last session that has been helpful to you over the past week?

Perhaps you could pray for the people on your frontline again at the end of this session.





PLAY FILM (12 mins)

Questions to Discuss after the Film (10 mins)

- In the film, Claire was fruitful in a range of ways over the years, through both thick and thin. How does this help you to think about being fruitful on your own frontline?
- Claire worked in her role at the surgery for 12 and a half years before seeing any visible changes in her colleagues' relationships with Jesus. How does her story encourage you?

Questions for Personal Reflection (20 mins)

In the film we saw how the head teacher's way of viewing her frontline was totally re-framed. Rather than complaining or feeling sorry for herself, Judith found herself thanking God for trusting her with all of the challenges the day had sent her way.

Using the questions below, take a few minutes in quiet by yourself to reflect on the different ways God might have been changing the way you see things. You might find it helpful to write down your thoughts.

- How do I see my frontline and the people there differently?
- How do I see myself differently?
- How do I see God differently?

Now go around the room, allowing each person to share what they feel has been the one most significant change in the way they see things.

- Are there any common themes to what people in the group have been learning?

Once everybody has shared, ask one person to pray a prayer of thanks to God for all that he has been teaching the group.





Group Discussion (15 mins)

In discussing the questions below, try to arrive at some specific decisions that you want to take as a group and as individuals. Write down any points that need to be implemented. Here are some possible things to consider and add to:

- Frontline-focused prayer each week
- Share some of your own stories in the Sunday service
- Invite your church leader to visit your frontline
- Keep a 6M journal

What to consider:

- How might we ensure that as a group (whatever materials we use next) we maintain a frontline focus?
- What individual disciplines might help me personally to continue to reflect on my 6M ministry?

Praying Forwards (15 mins - as a group)

Briefly share any particular situations that God has put on your heart and take some time praying into these.

- Ask that, like Elisha prayed, you would have vision to see that you do not go out onto your frontlines alone.
- Ask for God's help as you seek to serve him on your frontline and for courage to take action when prompted.
- Ask that God would help you to remember what you have learnt and help you to find ways of sustaining a frontline focus as an individual, a group, and a wider church.

**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything
I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always,
to the very end of the age.**

Matthew 28:18-20

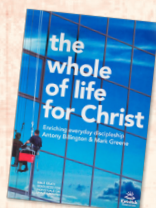


WHERE NEXT?



Read *Fruitfulness on the Frontline*

If you'd like to dig deeper into the 6Ms, Mark Greene's book is a great next step. Brimming with more real-life stories, the combination of fresh biblical insights, humour, and practical steps, it will not only spark your imagination further, it will enrich your sense of wonder at the greatness and grace of the God who invites us to join him in his glorious work. licc.org.uk/fruitfulness



Do *The Whole of Life for Christ* Bible studies

The concept that Jesus is interested in every aspect of your life isn't just an idea we've come up with – it's threaded right through the Bible. The deeper we as Christians dig into God's word, the more we're affirmed in our calling to be disciples of Jesus in every area of our lives. *The Whole of Life for Christ*, developed with Keswick Ministries, offers seven Bible studies that explore that calling to whole-life discipleship more deeply – for both individuals and groups. licc.org.uk/shop



Enrich your work with *Transforming Work*

Are you one of the millions of Christians whose frontline is the workplace? Explore how you can make the most of opportunities at work – to bless others, to help create better workplaces, better products, richer relationships, and, through it all, to show and share Jesus. *Transforming Work* is designed as an eight-session group study, spread over one year. It creates space to learn, discuss, reflect, try things, and pray...and leave time for seeds to grow. licc.org.uk/tw



Energise your whole church with *Frontline Sundays*

Imagine if every Christian in your church was prepared to look around during their daily routine and ask God: how do you want me to be good news to the people here today? And imagine if every Sunday encouraged and equipped you for your mission out in God's world. Frontline Sundays is everything you need to lead five Sunday services that will affirm, celebrate, and inspire your congregation for everyday mission, together. licc.org.uk/frontlinesundays



Find more resources at licc.org.uk



DAILY LIFE MAY NEVER BE QUITE THE SAME.

Combining biblical teaching from Mark Greene and inspiring real-life stories, these eight video-based sessions will help you and your group see how you can make a difference on your frontlines and support one another along the way.



ALSO AVAILABLE

Fruitfulness on the Frontline is more than just a small group study! There are also studies for student groups, teaching for Sunday schools, a book for more in-depth reading, and sermon notes for Sunday mornings. Find it all at:

licc.org.uk/fruitfulness

About LICC

What difference does following Jesus make to our ordinary Monday-to-Saturday lives? How can we bring his wisdom, hope, grace, and truth to the things we do every day, to the people we're usually with, and the places we naturally spend time?

Vital questions in any era. After all, the 98% of UK Christians who aren't in church-paid work spend 95% of their time away from church, much of it with the 94% of our fellow citizens who don't know Jesus. Tragically, most Christians in the UK don't feel equipped to make the most of those opportunities. But what if they were?

That's what we at LICC are seeking to achieve. We work with individuals, church leaders, and theological educators from across the denominations. We delve into the Bible, think hard about the culture we're in, listen carefully to God's people, and explore their challenges and opportunities. We pray, write, speak, train, consult, research, develop, and test resources that offer the biblical frameworks, the lived examples, the practical skills, and the spiritual practices that enable God's people to know him more richly in their everyday lives, and grow as fruitful, whole-life followers of Christ right where they are.

A resource from
licc.

St Peter's
Vere Street
London W1G 0DQ

mail@licc.org.uk
licc.org.uk
+44 20 7399 9555

