

Session Outline 7: Momentum

The aim of this session is to consider the ongoing task of mission that God has given to His Church, the Body of Christ, including every individual who is a follower of Christ.

DiSCoVER
mission _ connection _ identity

Open

Ask the group to compare the Early Church (in Acts) and the Church of today, in terms of effectiveness in mission. Which Church was/is more effective and why? What were/are the strengths and weaknesses of each Church?

or

Ask the group members to give a mark out of 10 to show how effective the following are at engaging in God's mission: their own church; the Church in general; them as individuals.

Ask what it would take for the score to increase? What would need to happen?

Engage

Show the 'Momentum' film from the DVD. You might like to suggest that group members make a mental note (or jot down a shorthand reminder) of any words, phrases or ideas that they find particularly striking.

After watching the film, ask whether anyone would like to share any comments or questions that arose as a result of what they heard and saw?

Explore

The following questions may provide a helpful framework for discussion – use and adapt them as you see fit.

- Why do you think the risen Jesus met with his followers on a number of occasions over 7 weeks? What do you think he was wanting to do through these encounters?
- Why were (and are) the events of Pentecost so important for the followers of Christ? In what ways did this day represent a new start?
- Why is the Holy Spirit so crucial to our engagement in God's mission?

At Pentecost, Christ's followers were empowered and equipped to share his message with other people. We, who are Christ's followers today, are given the same task.

Ask the group to take a few moments to think of one person who has played a significant role in their spiritual journey - someone who helped them to go deeper or further in their faith.

After a couple of minutes, ask them to consider the following questions and, if appropriate, invite a few people to share their responses with the group:

- What was it about this person that made an impact on your life? What was it about their character, their actions or their words that was so effective?
- What lessons can we draw from our own experiences that might help us have an impact on others?

Read Philippians 2:1-13

- We are called to follow Christ and to continue *His* mission in *His* way. What does this passage reveal to us about the Way of Christ?
- When we think about the part we can each play in God's mission, what things are most important? How best can we ensure that the story of mission continues?

Respond

In these 7 sessions, we have looked together at some biblical principles and lessons for mission. So, where do we each go from here? What happens next?

*Ask each group member to share one way in which they have been challenged or encouraged through the **Discover** sessions and to suggest one thing they hope to do to make their mark in mission.*