#### Introduction

Leicester Cathedral

#### Discuss together in threes

1. How do you personally feel about evangelism today?

1. As a percentage estimate how much of your week is spent with those outside the Christian faith?

a. Work time, i.e. baptism/wedding couples, Alpha, etc.

b. Personal time, i.e. friends, family, social activities.

#### What does the Bible say about evangelism?

1.

2.

3.

‘Evangelism may be defined as that dimension and activity of the church's mission which seeks to offer every person, everywhere, a valid opportunity to be directly challenged by the gospel of explicit faith in Jesus Christ, with a view to embracing him as Saviour, becoming a living member of his community, and being enlisted in his service of reconciliation, peace, and justice on earth.’

David Bosch

#### Discuss Together in threes

What do you make of David Bosch’s definition of evangelism?

#### Acts 4:27-35 (NIV)

27 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. 28 They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. 29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. 30 Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

**The Believers Share Their Possessions**

32 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. 33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all 34 that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales 35 and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

#### Discuss what might Acts 4:27-35 tell us about evangelism in contemporary culture?

#### 1. Discuss together in twos: What are the two biggest barriers in evangelism for those you lead?

#### 2. Four historical snapshots.

* 1910.

* 1954.

* 1990.

* 2024.

#### 3. The Mission map of England.

Discuss in fours what struck you from the mission map.

#### 4. Our society is not simply religious or simply secular, it is complexly and simultaneously multi-religious and ‘multi-secular’, with many hybrids.

Prof David Ford

Discuss what you make of this statement of our present situation

#### 5. The key factors which drive culture today (this includes you!).

* Be authentic.

* Trauma.

* Identity.

* The body as a temple.

* Enchantment.

#### Discuss in fours:

Would you add any other key factors?

How might these factors help and hinder your churches evangelism today?

‘I am suggesting that the only answer is a congregation of women and men who believe the gospel and live by it.’

Lesslie Newbiggin

‘We have to ask much more radically , how do we structure a community in which it goes on being possible, even likely, that people will meet Jesus and in meeting Jesus will want more people to meet Jesus.’

Rowan Williams

#### Remember your story

Listen to two people share their story in three mins of how they came to faith and share your story

In fours share:

* What was important in their stories

* Are there any important principles which emerged for you in evangelism?

What shape of church might we need to be? A reimagination of what our communities might be:

1. There is no return address.

2. Public worship is probably not the best starting point.

3. Missional re-engagement. ‘Minimise meetings and maximise relationships’.

4. A reorientation to whole life discipleship.

5. Church is multi-level.

6. This might change us!

#### Discuss together in fours

How might this impact your church and its life?

What might you need to stop doing?

What might you need to start doing?

Who do you need to share this with?

‘Transformed leaders have a clear conviction that God can and will work through their congregation to change lives and that their congregation of people can be used by God to help change the world.’

Harold Percy

Research show that leaders have to lead in evangelism if a church is to be fruitful but many leaders would not put evangelism as one of their top gifts.

1. The two big questions for evangelism

* Do I really believe this?

* Can God really use me?

2. The local leader for the sake of the world

* Envision.

* Encourage.

* Equip.

* Example.

* Expectancy.

3. The local congregation for the sake of the world

* What specifically are you asking them to do in evangelism? Do they know this?

* How are you resourcing them to do this?

4. It’s not what, it’s who

* It's not what you know, it’s the One you know.

* It's not what you know, it’s the love you experience.

* It's not what you know, it’s who you know.

* It's not what you know, it's why you are here now.

* It's not what you know, it's who you are with.

* It's not what you know, it's who you are.

5. For final reflection

* What are the two biggest things that has struck you today?
* What do you need to do?
* Who do you need to tell?