

Mission Community celebration/commissioning

LECTIONARY READINGS

Mission Communities who are beginning something new

Theme	Reading	More Details
Seed dying in ground	John 12:24-26	Loving life=losing it. Serving Christ
Seeds falling on different ground	Mat 13:3-8, Mark 4:3-8, Luke 8:5-8	Are we sowing? Have we prepared the ground?
Building on good foundations	Mat 7:24-27, Luke 6:47-49	Building something that lasts take hard work. You could build easily and see progress quickly but it won't last.
Fishers of men	Luke 5:4-9	Jesus orders his disciples to cast out into the deep, to do something new and risky. They moaned but did it anyway. The harvest was more than they could carry.
Mustard seed	Mat 13:31-32, Mark 4:30-32, Luke 13:18-19	The seed is very tiny. It needs to be planted. When it grows it can begin to support other animals.
Don't be anxious – pray	Philippians 4:4 V6,7 V8	Rejoice in the Lord always Do not be anxious. Focus on whatever is true.

Mission Communities who are aware the way ahead will be costly

Theme	Reading	More details
Vine and branches	John 15:1-8	Cutting off branches that don't bear fruit. Pruning even those that do.. Remain in Christ = bear much fruit, showing yourselves as disciples.
Christ will build, nothing will stop it.	Matt 16:18	After recognising who Jesus is, Jesus says 'I will build my church' and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.
Discipleship cost	Matt 16: 24-28 Matt 10:37-42	Taking up the cross, losing your life – rewards according to what each has done. Also, reaching out.

Mission Communities who are wanting to be a presence in the local community

Theme	Reading	More details
Evangelism commanded by Christ	Matt 28:18-20	Great commission – the emphasis is on 'GO', not stay and wait.
Moving forward	Col 4:2 Thes 5:12-24	Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. Pray that God may open a door for our message. Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders – grace and salt Respect, peace, warn the idle, encourage the timid, give thanks.
Yeast	Matt 13:33, Luke 13:20-21	If we are the yeast, we need to work through the dough.
Being salt	Matt 5:13	If we lose our saltiness, we are no good in our communities.
Being light	Matt 5:14-16 Luke 8:16 Luke 11:33	We must be shining outwards – it is crazy to keep the light hidden.
Ready or not?	Matt 22:1-10	Parable of the wedding banquet Everyone is invited, what is your response.
Stay alert and prepared	Matt 25:1-12	Forward planning, thinking about the future, being prepared.

Mission Communities who want to recognise different contributions

Theme	Reading	More details
Though we are many, we are one body.	1 Cor 12	Celebrate diverse congregations who each bring something different to the MC. No church can say to another 'we don't need you' and no church can say 'because I am not..., I am not part of the body'.
Using your talents	Matt 25:14-30 Luke 19:11-27	Each person/church has been given different things by God. It is our responsibility to use them wisely as we will be asked what we did with what we were given.