



**What Are We
Doing Here?**

Ministry

Magnification

Membership

Mission

Maturity

CAMPBELL**TOWN**

ANGLICAN CHURCHES

A growing Christian community devoted
to maturing in Jesus for the glory of God.

What are we doing here?

In the Christmas of 1877, a window was erected in St Peter's Church in memory of the Reddall Rectors – two men who had a profound influence on our church and the Campbelltown area as a whole. For those who have had a close look at the window, you will know that there are four Bible verses to match the glasswork. I take it the following four verses were placed there to be a constant reminder of what we should be doing here, in church and into our community.

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free."

Luke 4:18

A reminder that we exist to proclaim the good news of freedom in Christ to the world.

"And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

Luke 22:19

A reminder that we gather to share our joy together remembering the salvation won for us in Christ.

When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

Mark 10:14

A reminder that we must come to God humbly like little children for salvation is for all.

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

James 1:27

A reminder that we must care for the marginalised and grow up in Christ.

For the last 18 months through growth groups, conversations with members, parish council, responses to newsletter articles and various other ways, we have been seeking feedback from you about what we ought to be doing as a church. These four verses and many other parts of the Bible have been our companion as we have listened and read through all that has been said. We live in a time where most are self-absorbed consumerists. We must guard against the church becoming such where members expect church to be about them and a product they can consume as they please.

Now is a time for clarity. The sort of clarity produced in 1877 needs to be reproduced now for our generation as we seek to be all that God wants us to be.

To this end, we want to present to you a Vision and Purpose for our church, which has all of 1877 with lots of your input and a 2015 feel. In many ways, it is nothing new. Many churches have taken this approach to clarify the purpose and structure of their work for Jesus. However, in many ways, it is totally new as we seek for unified clarity of vision and purpose from God's Word about what are doing here in Campbelltown together.

This Vision and Purpose will:

- shape our thinking about what we do.
- shape your understanding of what church is about.
- shape the way our staff work and bring clarity to our activities.
- help us to determine what we do in the future until Jesus returns.
- help you see how you can engage in church life.
- remind us that church is not about us.
- remind us that we exist for the glory of God.

We invite you today to sign on with the Vision God has given us for his glory!

Nigel Fortescue for the Staff Team and Parish Council.

Our Vision

*A growing Christian community
devoted to maturing in Jesus for
the glory of God.*

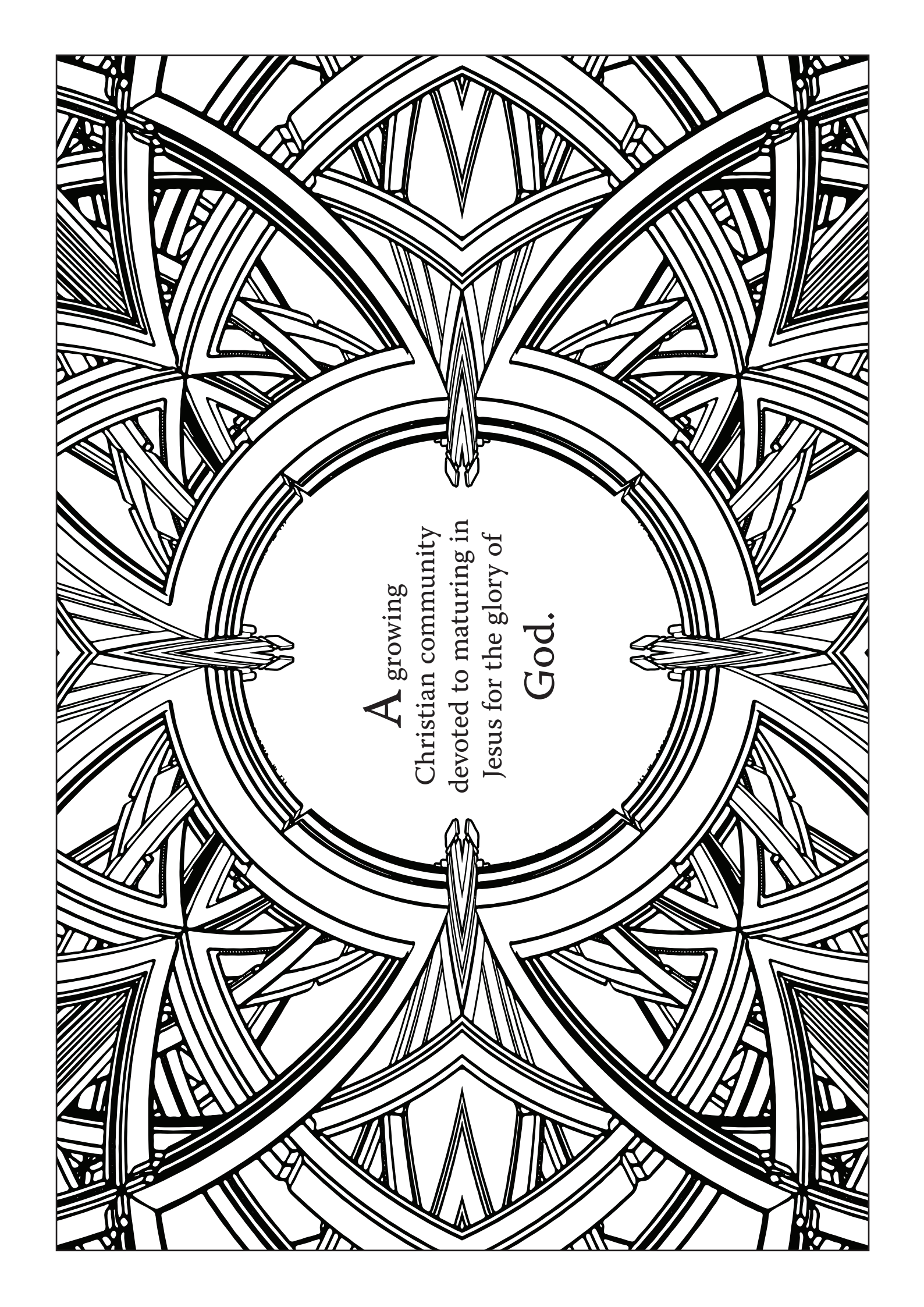
Growing

Christian community

Devoted

Maturing in Jesus

For the Glory of God



A growing
Christian community
devoted to maturing in
Jesus for the glory of
God.

The Growth Group studies in this booklet are designed with the following format:

A Memory Verse. This can be read together.

Opening Statements. These provide some context on what the study will cover. You might like to ask somebody in the group to read that out loud.

Watch a Video. This also sets up the theme and direction of the study for you. The videos can be found at:

growthgroups.campbelltownanglican.org/2015/10/29/what-are-we-doing-here-videos

Read, Mark, Learn. Bible passages are read out loud followed by some questions to mark what is seen in the text. The goal is for the group to learn from what they read.

Application. This section is important to get to, therefore, direct your study in order to leave time to consider and reflect on the application. It is great to focus on one application if a few are suggested.

Prayer for the week. You may choose to close your study with everybody praying this together or it could be used to close off a time of open prayer. Each prayer is focused on the outcomes of the study.

Introduction to the Growth Group Study Material

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

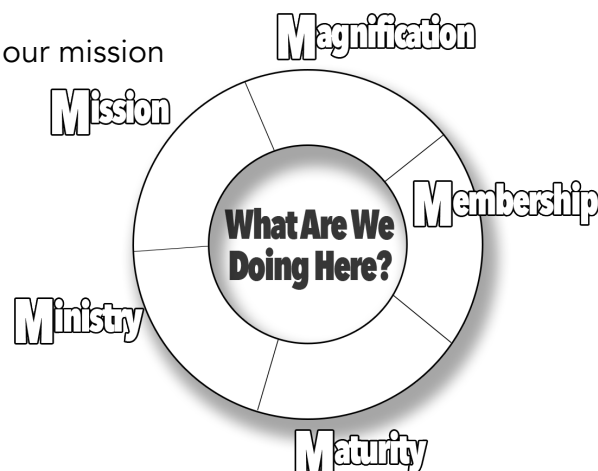
Matthew 5:16

There are many statements in the bible that could be used to summarise our purpose in life (eg. Micah 6:8, John 17:3, Romans 12:1-2). None of them on their own provide the complete picture but Matthew 5:16 does a pretty good job. At a quick glance it seems to elevate our works as the most important thing in life. But look again, and you might see that God's glory is the end game. All that we do in life is for the glory of God, so that others also might glorify him.

In this five part study, we are going to look at five areas of life for which God has designed us. Although you may see a progression in these areas, as if one leads to the other, they are all of equal importance and ought to be worked on in parallel. These five areas are described in the bible as what should shape us individually and also together. In fact, you will see that unless we do these together as a church, we will be failing to do them individually.

Here are the five aspects of our life for which God has created us:

- 1) Magnification - We are made to glorify God
- 2) Membership - We are designed to love one another
- 3) Maturity - Our goal is to grow in Christ-likeness
- 4) Ministry - God has saved us to serve
- 5) Mission - God's mission is our mission



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Growth Group Study One

Magnification - We are made to glorify God

Memory Verse

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

Startup Statements

The bible begins with these words, "In the beginning, God..." Before matter mattered, before time ticked, before any thought was conceived, God was there and ready to create. Why did he do it? Why are we here? Well, the answer is for his own glory. Psalm 19:1 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God." Isaiah 43:7 tells us that people are made for God's glory. Psalm 150 exhorts everything that has breath to praise the LORD! And it is right to give glory to God. He made us and he has saved us. Revelation 4:11 says, "You are worthy our LORD and God to receive glory and honour and praise because you created all things and by your will they are sustained and have their being!" So what does it mean to glorify God?

Watch a Video

Discuss: To what extent do you think people would say that you glorify God?

Read, Mark, Learn

Read Psalm 8

*LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory
in the heavens.
Through the praise of children and infants
you have established a stronghold against your
enemies,
to silence the foe and the avenger.
When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,
what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?
You have made them a little lower than the angels
and crowned them with glory and honor.
You made them rulers over the works of your hands;
you put everything under their feet:
all flocks and herds,
and the animals of the wild,
the birds in the sky,
and the fish in the sea,
all that swim the paths of the seas.
LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

Psalm 8

Discuss what this psalm tells us about a) everything around us and b) the place of humans in the scheme of things.

It's a beautiful picture of a great creator being thanked and worshipped by his great creation but this is not what we see happening in the world.

Read the description of the world in Romans 1:20-25

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

Romans 1:20-25

Answer these questions: a) What does Paul list as the expected response from mankind? b) What is the reality that Paul describes? c) What is your experience of this in the world around you?

Read Philippians 2:6-11

*[Jesus Christ], being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be
used to his own advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!
Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is
Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.*

Philippians 2:6-11

Rather than remaining far off and waiting for humanity to glorify himself, God did something about it. What did God do and what does this teach us about giving glory to God?

Application

Read Colossians 3:16-17

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 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 3:16-17

Brainstorm in your group all the ways that you can glorify God in your life. Try to be specific in your answers and discuss what it might look like in practice.

Prayer for the week

Almighty Father, maker of heaven and earth, we praise you and give you thanks for all you have made, all you have promised and everything you have fulfilled for us in the Lord Jesus Christ. Please give us lives that are filled with joy for knowing you. May all we do be done for your glory and in the name of Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

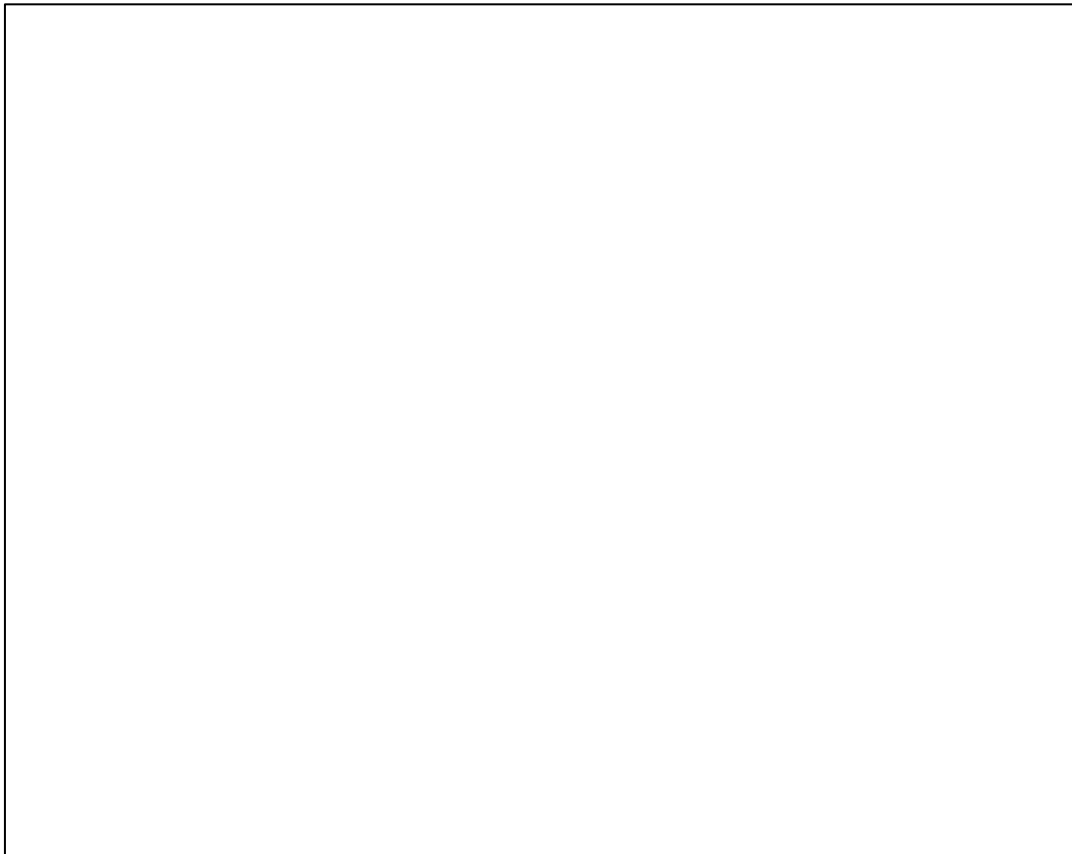
Family Devotion - Magnification

Read Ephesians 1:3-6

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will – to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

Ephesians 1:3-6

Activity: Use some coloured pencils to write down or draw the reasons that God is worthy of being magnified.



Think: How can you and your loved ones together magnify God for all that he has done?

Pray: That you would do these things.

Sermon Outline

Magnification - We are made to glorify God

The Search for Glory

The Search is Over!

God at the beginning of life (Genesis 1:1)

God at the end of life (Revelation 4:11)

God in the middle of life

Psalm 19:1-2

Isaiah 42:8

1 Chronicles 16

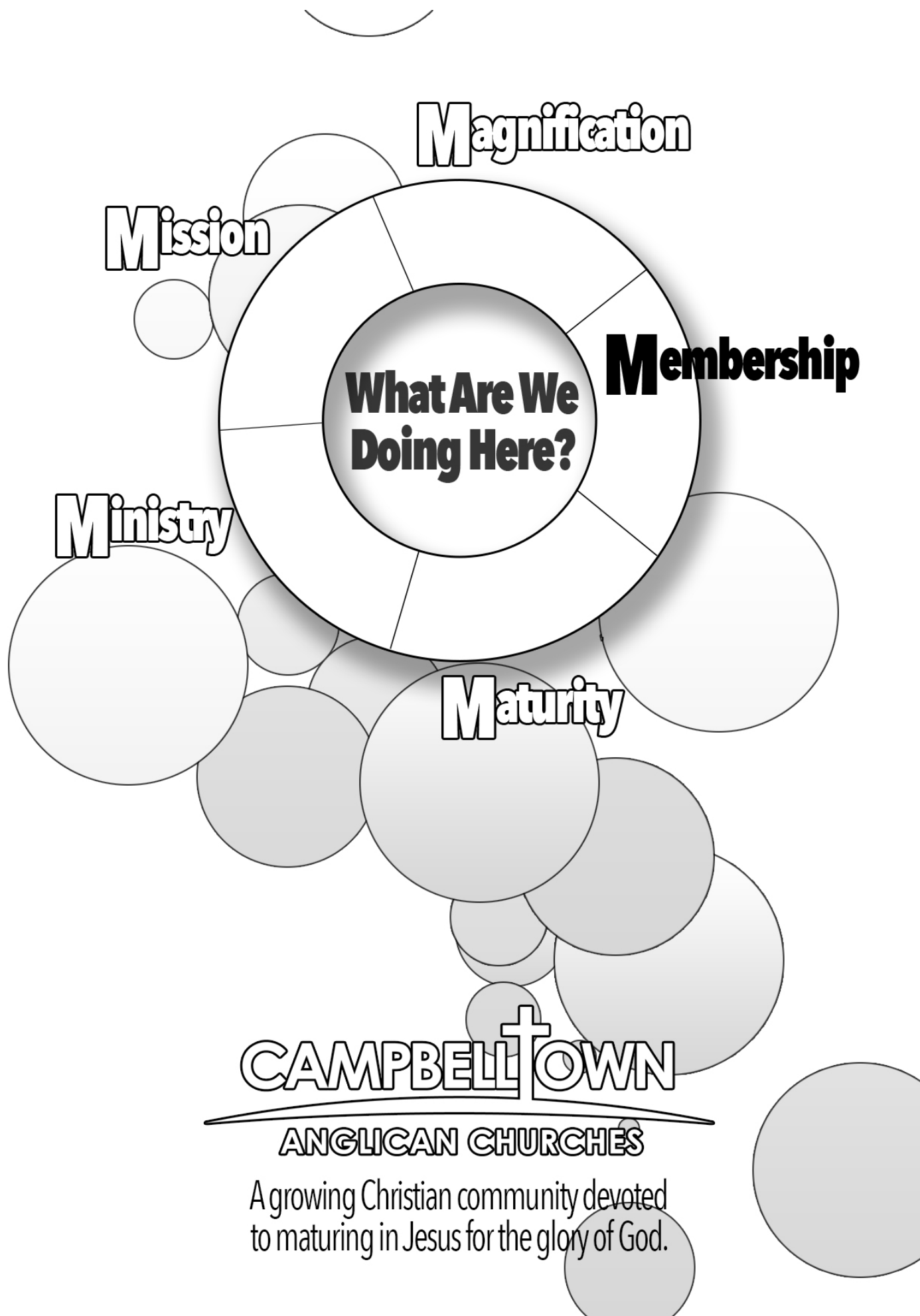
John 1:14

Ephesians 1:1-14

Romans 16:27/ Jude 1:25

Glorifying God as the goal of life (1 Corinthians 10:31)

Glorifying God Here



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Growth Group Study Two

Membership - We are designed to love one another

Memory Verse

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2:9-10

Startup Statements

In the previous study, we looked at the purpose of creation and how Jesus' death on the cross paid for the very basic short-fall of ours: that we fail to give thanks and praise to our God in all that we do. Jesus confirmed the greatest commandment, the most basic expectation of us, is to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength" (Mark 12:30). This command from Jesus reminds us to enjoy God and experience love toward him. We do this through music and praying in church, however, we also do it in all of our life as we replace our desire to be number one with a desire to make God number one.

Jesus went on to describe the second commandment that says, "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Mark 12:31). This week we look at the second purpose of church – to love one another. This is often described in the bible as good works, or simply our works. We will look at doing good in the community when we look at the study on 'Mission' but this week we focus our attention on our brothers and sisters in Christ – how we love one another.

Watch a Video

Discuss: What does it mean to belong? Is there a difference between belonging to a sports club or community group and belonging to a church?

Read, Mark, Learn

Read Hebrews 10:23-25

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:23-25

List as many things as you can that we are told to do in this passage – use your own words to describe them.

So, we belong to God (1 Peter 2:9-10) and we belong to one another (Romans 12:5). We look for ways to love one another and keep one another on the gospel path (Hebrews 10:23-25). What are some practical ways of doing this? Let's look further to see how we can put this teaching into practice.

Read Romans 12:9-16

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Romans 12:9-16

Application

Make a list of all the ideas mentioned by Paul in the above passage. Write them down using your own words. Choose one you might try to work on yourself and one you can work on with your Growth Group.

Prayer for the week

Father God, we thank you for adopting us as your children and for instructing us to love one another as our own body. We pray that you would strengthen the bond between us and help us all to make every effort to keep one another bound to Christ. In His name we pray. Amen.

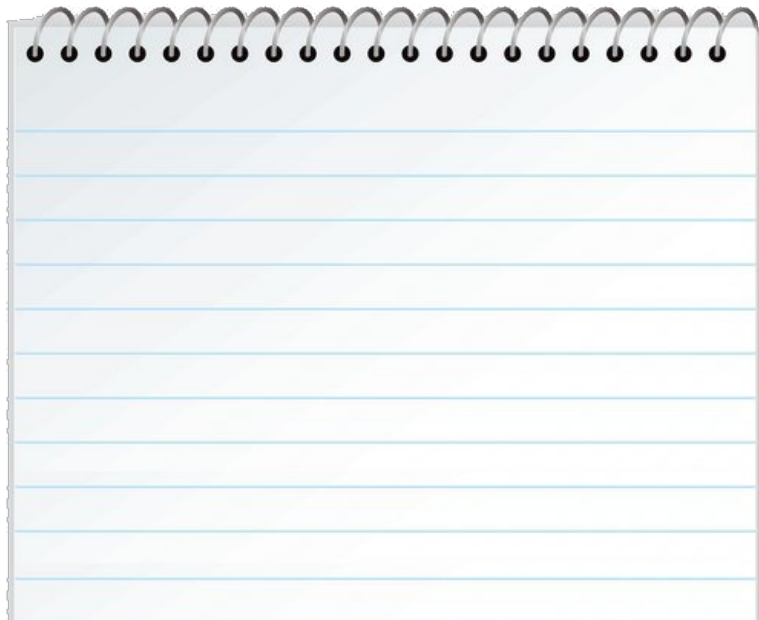
Family Devotion - Membership

Read 1 John 4:7-12

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: he sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

1 John 4:7-12

Activity: Imagine that you have a whole day to do what ever you wanted for your most favourite person in the world. Write down a schedule for what you would do.

A spiral-bound notebook with a silver metal spiral binding at the top. The notebook has several lined pages visible, with light blue horizontal ruling. The pages are slightly aged and the notebook is shown from a slightly elevated angle.

Think: What is it that God has done to show his love to us?
How does this line up with the love that you show to your most favourite people?
How can you show love to the other Christians around you in our church community?
What are the practical ways you can be an active member of our church community?

Pray: Ask God to help you to love the people in our church community.

Sermon Outline

Membership - We are designed to love one another

I HEART Everything

Where I HEART began... (1 John 4:7-12)

The Source of Love (4:7)

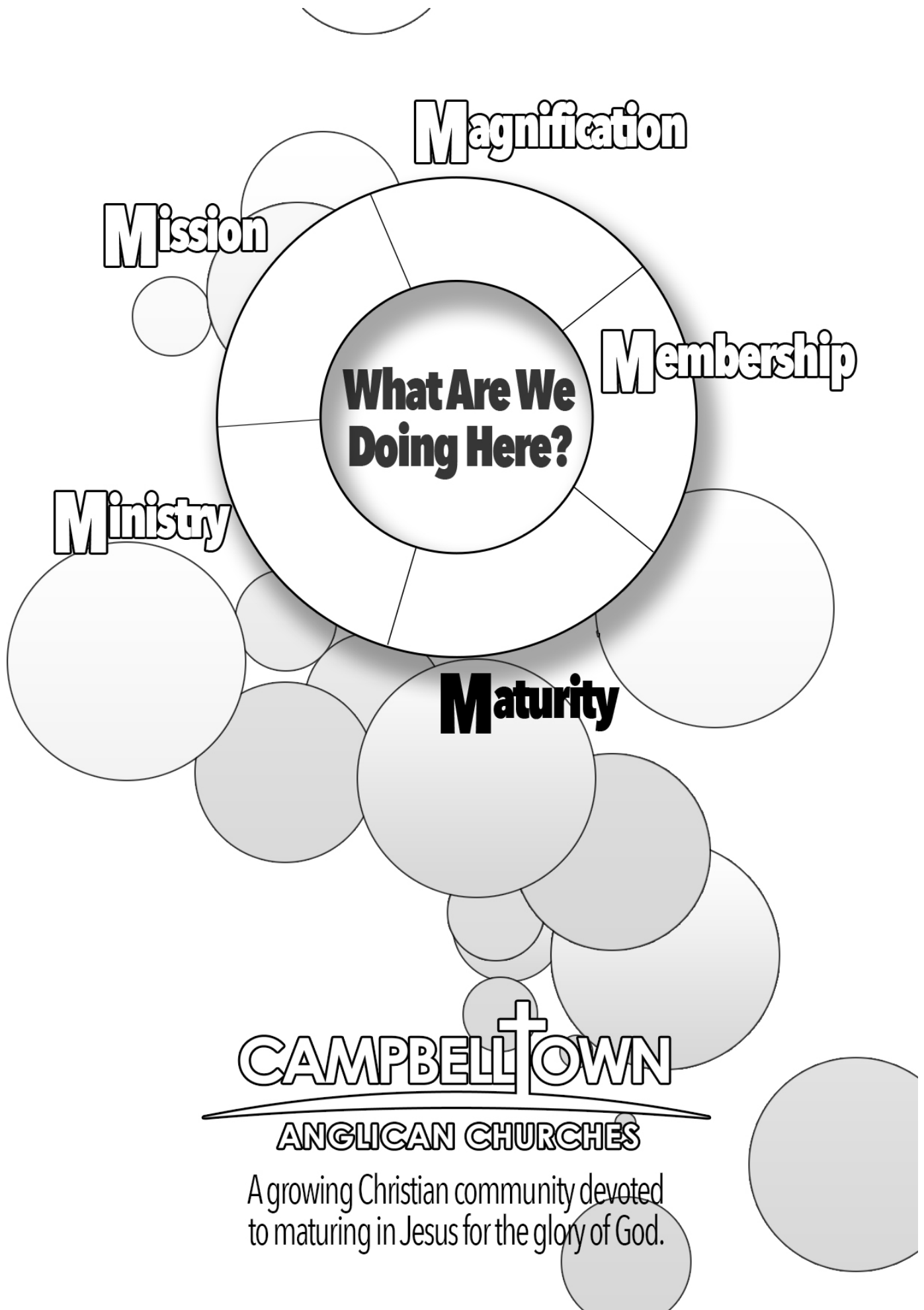
The Sight of Love (4:9)

The Nature of Love (4:10)

The Result of Love (4:12)

How do I HEART my Church?

Belonging and Loving Here



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Growth Group Study Three

Maturity - Our goal is to grow in Christ-likeness

Memory Verse

...so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 4:12-13

Startup Statements

Have you ever wondered what it means to grow up? Does a child become an adult because of the years they've lived or because they demonstrate adult behaviour? Have you seen a grown man or woman and thought, 'You should grow up!?'

The bible talks about maturity as something that we ought to do. Notice in Ephesians 4:12-13 how maturity is listed on par with unity and the knowledge of Jesus. We cannot attain to the "fullness of Christ" without maturity. We will look, this week, at how maturity in Christ (not simply being saved from hell) is God's desire for us.

Watch a Video

Share: How much thought have you put into what Christian maturity is?

Read, Mark, Learn

Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-3

Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly – mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?

1 Corinthians 3:1-3

What words are used in 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 to describe immaturity?

What is Paul's hope for the Christians in Corinth (and for us)?

Let us see how Adam and Eve demonstrate worldliness and how Jesus demonstrates living by the Spirit.

Read Genesis 2:16-17, 25; 3:1-7

And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.' Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame. Now the snake was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God really say, "You must not eat from any tree in the garden"?''

The woman said to the snake, 'We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, "You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die."''

'You will not certainly die,' the snake said to the woman. 'For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realised that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Genesis 2:16-17; 25; 3:1-7

What is the disaster that is described in these verses?

Compare the story in Genesis, about Adam and Eve being tempted by Satan, with the story in Matthew 4:1-4 where Jesus is being tempted by Satan.

Read Matthew 4:1-4

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting for forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.'

Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."'

Matthew 4:1-4

What similarities and differences do you see between the Matthew story and the Genesis story?

Both stories are about discerning between right and wrong in light of God's word. Let's look at how this applies to us and our maturity in Christ.

Read Hebrews 5:11-14

We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Hebrews 5:11-14

What does the writer of the book of Hebrews expect his readers to be by now? Try and say it in your own words.

How are they currently described?

Look at the final sentence. How are the 'mature' described?

Think about Genesis 3, Matthew 4 and Hebrews 5 together. What is the characteristic of a Christian growing in maturity?

Read Colossians 1:28-29

He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

Colossians 1:28-29

What does the above passage teach us about maturity? Can you see something about 1) the type of maturity, 2) the urgency of maturity, 3) the method of maturity and 4) who maturity is for?

Application

Discuss what it looks like to be a Christian moving forward in maturity.

Think about your own maturity and growth. How is your progress in Christian maturity going? What is lacking? What could you change or continue to do?

Think about your Growth Group or family. How can you help others in your group/family to grow up in Christ?

What action plan can you create this week to work towards Christian maturity in 2016?

Prayer for the week

Our Heavenly Father, just as Jesus showed us to put our trust in your word, teach us to read your word, to understand what it says, to know when and how to apply it to our lives and to have the courage and strength, by your Spirit, to put it into practice. Help us to live every day on your word. Amen.

Family Devotion - Maturity

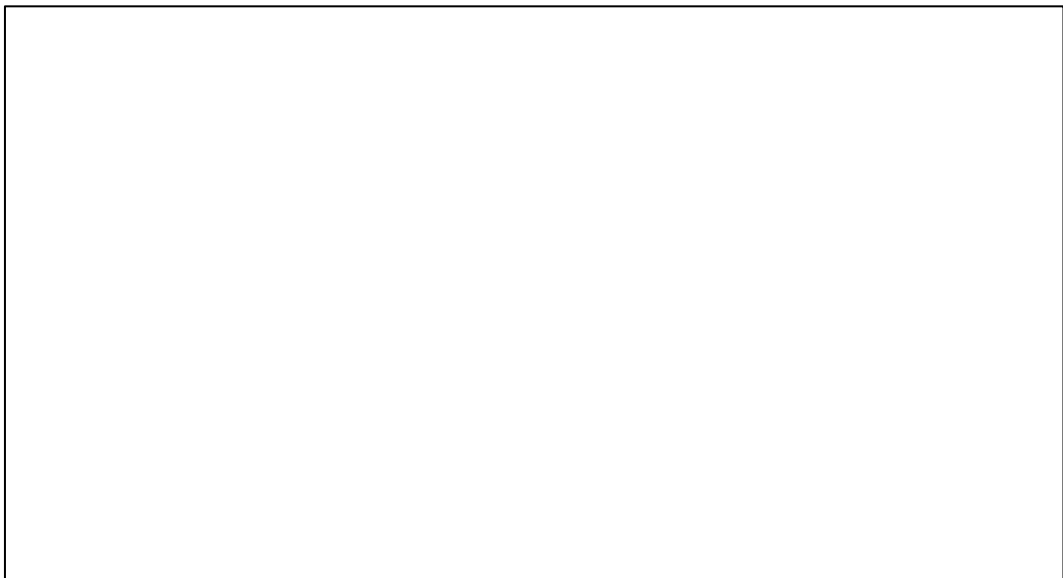
Read Colossians 1:24-29

Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness – the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

Colossians 1:24-29

Activity: Describe or draw a caricature of your favourite teacher. What did they do to help you grow your knowledge and understanding of their subject matter?



Think: From Colossians 1:24-29, what does Paul do with the wisdom he has? Why does he do it?

How can you mature as a Christian and grow in Godly wisdom?

How can you help others mature as Christians?

Pray: Ask God to help you to engage with him through his word the Bible. Ask him to help you to be mature as a Christian, and for Christ to work powerful through you.

Sermon Outline

Maturity - Our goal is to grow in Christ-likeness

Advice my Mum gave me: Grow up!

Paul's Passion for the Church: Grow Up! (Colossians 1:24-2:5)

Jesus: the mystery revealed (1:24-27)

Jesus: the one proclaimed (1:28)

Maturity: the goal strenuously pursued (1:28-2:1)

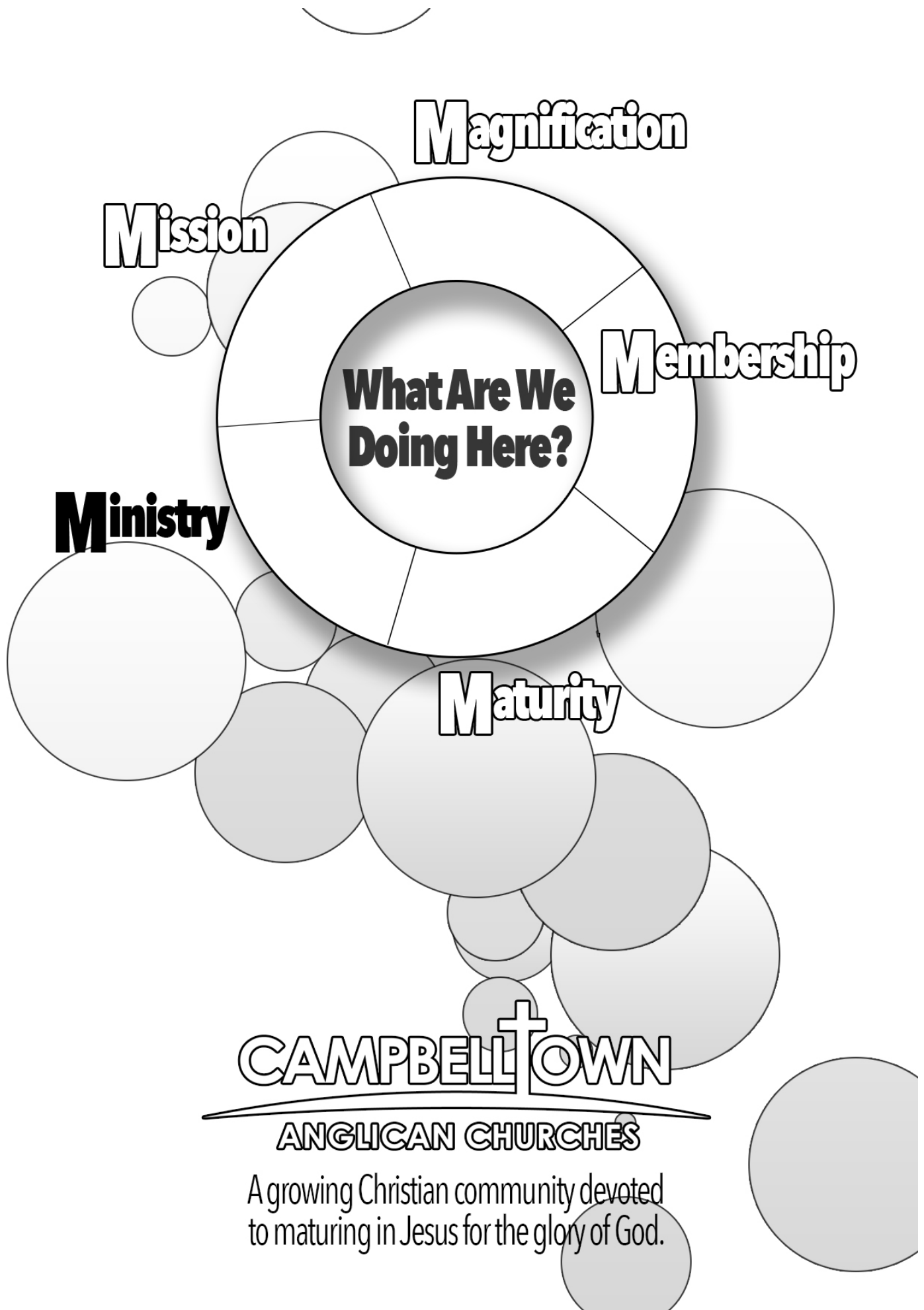
Be Devoted to Maturity in Jesus

Admonish and teach yourself (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Admonish and teach others (Colossians 3:16)

Expect to be admonished and taught in church (2 Timothy 4:1-5)

Growing in Christ-likeness Here



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Growth Group Study Four

Ministry - God saves us to serve

Memory Verse

*There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.
There are different kinds of working, but in all of them
and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to
each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the
common good.*

1 Corinthians 12:5-7

Startup Statements

We learned in Study 2 that we are all members of the one body. We belong to God and we belong to one another. There is a strong connection between that lesson on 'Membership' and this week's lesson on 'Ministry.' If membership is about loving one another in Christ and seeing the local church as your family, then ministry is about how we contribute to family life. Ministry is about serving one another with the gifts that God has given us.

Watch a Video

Read, Mark, Learn

Read Genesis 4:19-26

Lamech married two women, one named Adah and the other Zillah. Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the father of those who live in tents and raise livestock. His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all who play stringed instruments and pipes. Zillah also had a son, Tubal-Cain, who forged all kinds of tools out of bronze and iron. Tubal-Cain's sister was Naamah.

*Lamech said to his wives,
'Adah and Zillah, listen to me;
wives of Lamech, hear my words.
I have killed a man for wounding me,
a young man for injuring me.
If Cain is avenged seven times,
then Lamech seventy-seven times.'*

Adam made love to his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, saying, 'God has granted

me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him.'
Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh.
At that time people began to call on the name of the Lord.

Genesis 4:19-26

Genesis 4 begins with the familiar story of Cain and Abel. Can you remember who they were and what basically happened between them?

Lamech was a descendant of Cain. What were the special talents of Jabal and Jubal and Tubal-Cain respectively?

What were the talents Lamech boasted about? What type of a man do you think he was?

Read Mark 10:42-45

Jesus called them together and said, 'You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

Mark 10:42-45

Compare Jesus with Lamech. How is Jesus described and how does this relate to us? You might like to look at Philippians 2:5-11 to expand on this teaching.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body – whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. And so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

Now if the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you!' And the head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you!' On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honourable we treat with special honour. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honour to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it.

1 Corinthians 12:12-26

Write in your own words the general message of the passage.

Use the message in 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 to discuss the following statements.

- It's not important for members of the church to do anything.
- There are only so many jobs in the church to do, once they are filled, what more can you do?
- The person at church who is gifted at making others feel welcome and does that is just as necessary as the preacher who spoke a great sermon.
- Although we can all exercise our gifts at church it is important to work together.
- If God has blessed you in some way, it is up to you whether you use that gift or not.

Application

Take a moment to write down the things that you are good at, enjoy doing, and even have a passion for. Ask the people in your group how any or all of those things could be used to assist and build up the body of Christ.

Prayer for the week

LORD God, you have blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. You have bought your church with your blood and we are here now wanting to serve. Open our eyes to see how you want us to serve. Humble our hearts to serve in a way that honours you and benefits others, for your glory and name. Amen.

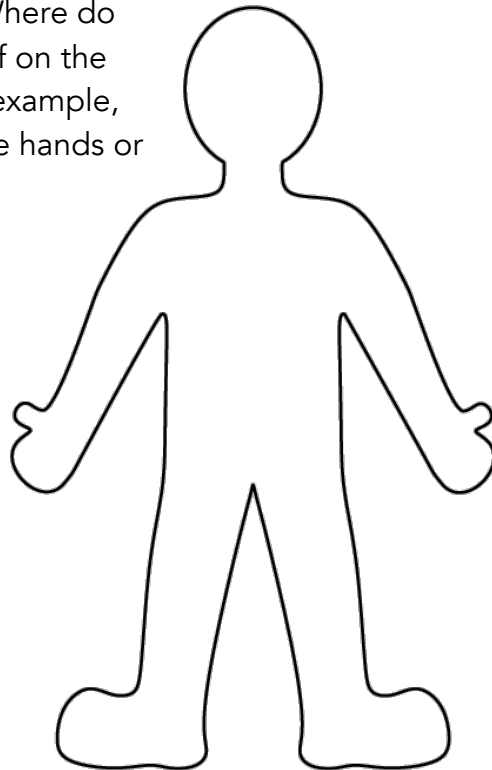
Family Devotion - Ministry

Read Romans 12:3-8

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Romans 12:3-8

Activity: We are the body of Christ. Where do you belong in the body? Chart yourself on the figure below. Why are you there? For example, if your gift is hospitality you may be the hands or the stomach.



Think: What can you do to serve in ministry with the gifts that God has given you?

Pray: Ask God to help you to use your gifts so that others will know and trust Jesus.

Sermon Outline

Ministry - God has saved us to serve

Disappointed?

Saved to Serve (Mark 10:35-45)

It's not about you!

It's not about exercising authority!

It's about greatness!

Jesus was the greatest!!

Follow the Leader

Ready

(Romans 12:6, 1 Corinthians 12:7)

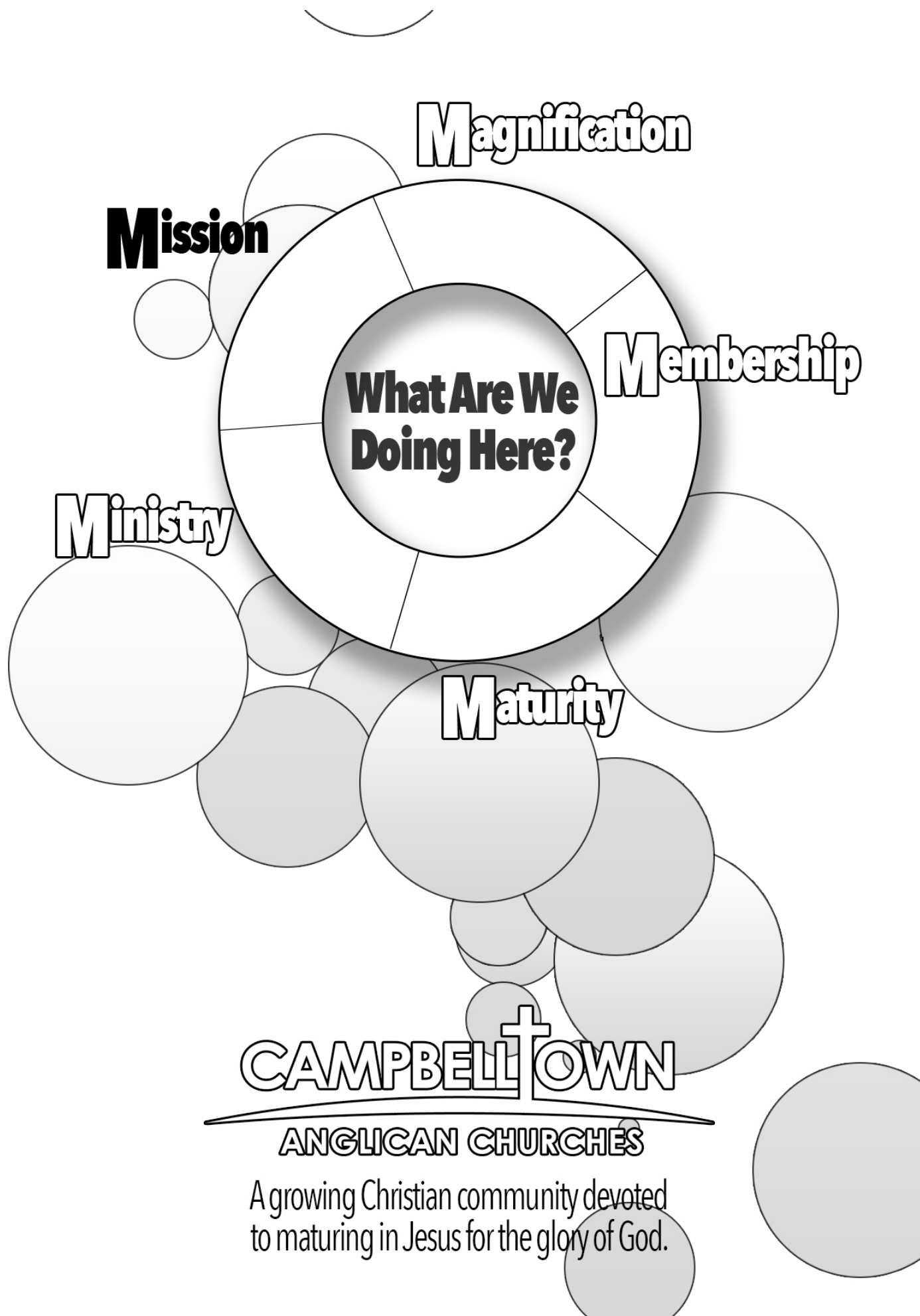
Set

(Philippians 2:1-11)

Go

(Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:8-11)

Saved to Serve Here



**What Are We
Doing Here?**

Mission

Magnification

Membership

Ministry

Maturity

CAMPBELL TOWN

ANGLICAN CHURCHES

A growing Christian community devoted
to maturing in Jesus for the glory of God.

Growth Group Study Five

Mission - God's mission is our mission

Memory Verse

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

1 Peter 3:15-16

Startup Statements

The above verses from 1 Peter 3 instruct us to keep our faith evident to all. Firstly, we hold Christ dearly in our hearts as our Lord. Secondly, this faith ought to be seen by others who may then enquire about it, whether kindly or with hostility. Thirdly, our place is to be meek and mild so that no matter what the outcome, we will not be ashamed for our actions but others may be.

The topic of mission is about telling people the gospel, showing people gospel love, opening our church up for outsiders to investigate, going out into our world to share our faith and sending others to share the good news. Just as Peter told the church to always be prepared, our church is to always be ready and active in mission.

Watch a Video

Read, Mark, Learn

Read John 1:1-13

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

John 1:1-13

Read John 3:16-18

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

John 3:16-18

Read John 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14:6

Read John 17:15-23

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one – I in them and you in me – so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

John 17:15-23

Using the table below, follow the theme in John about God's mission of sending Jesus into the world leading into our mission of being sent into the world. Use the right side of the table to summarise themes about mission from the passages on the left.

| | |
|---------------|--|
| John 1:1-13 | |
| John 3:16-18 | |
| John 14:6 | |
| John 17:15-23 | |

Read Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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

What does Matthew 28:18-20 tell us about mission?

Application

Share in your group now some stories of successes and failures in attempting to talk to people about Jesus. Don't judge one another for their attempts. Feel free to enjoy some good stories as well as learning from times when things didn't work out like you had hoped.

Reflect on where you are right now with your confidence and readiness to talk to people about Jesus. What could you do next to grow further in this area? Meet with another Christian to talk and pray together about this? Sign up to the next Start Living course? Ask for some specific training in sharing your faith? Repent of doing nothing at all?

Talk about one or two people in your life with whom you would like to share the gospel with. Spend some time praying for each of those people and ask God for courage to initiate the conversation.

Prayer for the week

We praise you, Lord of all, for dying and taking the Father's wrath so your church would live. Hear our prayer for all who do not know your love and have not heard the gospel. Send out your light and truth through the messengers of your word; help us to go and make disciples and to support others who go by our prayers and offerings, and hasten the coming of your kingdom. Amen

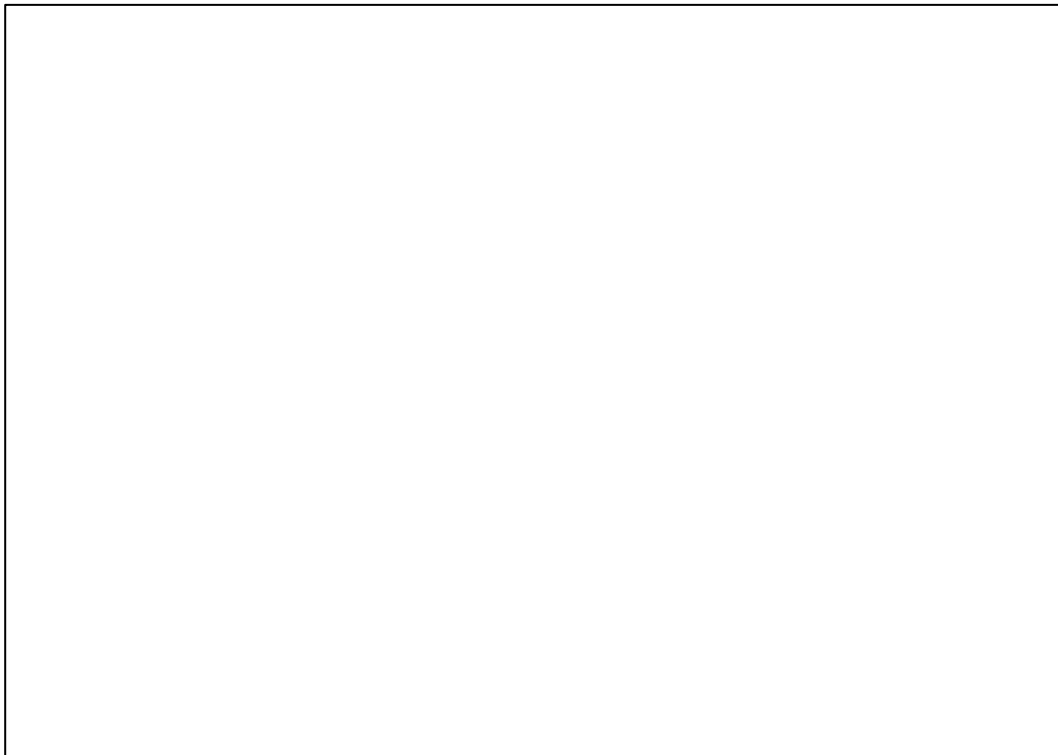
Family Devotion – Mission

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Matthew 28:18-20

Activity: Write down or retell the story of how you came to know and trust in Jesus. Who were the people who told you about Jesus?



Think: What is the direct command that Jesus gives in Matthew 28:18-20 to the disciples?

What do the disciples specifically need to do?

Is this something that you do too?

Who have you spoken to about Jesus this week? Who can you tell?

Pray: Pray that you will listen and obey the command of Jesus to “go and make disciples.”

Sermon Outline

Mission - God's Mission is our Mission

Monasteries, Lifeboats and Churches

God is on a Mission!

Genesis 2:15

Genesis 3:15

Genesis 12:1-3

Isaiah 52:7-10

Matthew 1:18-21

Revelation 7:9-12

Revelation 22:1-5

Jesus is the Mission!

John 10:10-11

You're in the Mission

Matthew 28:18-20

1 Peter 2:9, 3:15

Matthew 5:15-16

Matthew 9:37-38

Getting on with Mission Here

Notes

The background of the entire image is a dark blue gradient. It is decorated with numerous overlapping circles of various sizes and shades of blue, ranging from light cyan to deep navy. In the lower center, there is a white cross icon that serves as a focal point for the text above it.

CAMPBELLTOWN

ANGELICAN CHURCHES

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