# Live | Pray | Serve Biblical Reflections from Diocesan Synod members July 2021

At the July 2021 meeting of Diocesan Synod members were invited to take part in small group discussions as part of the item considering our Live|Pray|Serve update alongside our missional and financial context. Groups were asked to respond to the following question (as well as others):

* When you read the attached paper what scriptures or theological principals come to mind?

It was really encouraging to note that most groups spent most of their time discussing this question, which is a helpful reminder of the need to root all our thinking in Scripture and seeking God’s will.

There were a variety of scriptures and theological principles which can be grouped into the following broad themes:

God is in charge/ faith/trust

There was a strong sense of the need to remember that God is in charge and several groups commented on our need to trust, listen, and have faith that the Holy Spirit will guide us.

God’s will will be done.

We ought to accept where we are in God’s plan, it may not be the process that is the issue but the mechanism in which it is used.

Jesus walking on water

Jeremiah 17 – in a time of drought the tree is not anxious – a reminder that God will sustain, and we should operate from faith not fear.

God has plans for us even if we cannot see them yet.

God provides the best and in abundance – loaves and fishes and wedding at Cana.

Unity

Another repeated theme was the need for unity.

Psalm 122 – how good it is when people live together in unity. A question around how we best move forward in unity while understanding that not everyone will get their own way.

Ephesians 4.

Our attitudes

having humility and love

The Church in Acts – the church blossomed because people loved one another

Valuing diversity – the sheet was lowered, and all the animals were acceptable – all of God’s people need to be considered.

The call to mission

Matthew 28 – Go and make disciples

Jesus sending out the disciples

Jesus sending the disciples out near the start of his ministry (Matthew 10); there were a number of points noted:

* they went with no resources
* Jesus gave directions as to who to go to, it wasn't everyone
* they were told to leave places where there was no response.

Lessons from Parables

Parable of the lost sheep but turned on it head, being the 99 who are lost in this generation.

The Parable of the man who built a tower but hadn’t decided how to finish it.

The Parable of the Talents – all the servants thought they were doing the right thing.

The Parable of the Good Shepherd (sheep without a shepherd)

Others

There were a few different references to the farewell discourses from John 14-17.

John 15 – the vine and the need for pruning.

Jesus command to ‘remain in me’.

The pigs jumping off the cliff.

1 Kings 18 Elijah on Mount Carmel and a comment that it feels quite lonely at the moment.

Covenant – a reminder that throughout history God has had a relationship of covenant with the people.

## What Next?

It was so encouraging to spend time together in theological reflection. There was a real sense that synod members want to discern God’s will and purposes and that reflecting on scripture and theology together was helpful.

We have the prayer day coming up in early September, but we will also consider how we will continue to reflect together on scripture and theology over the next few months. We will look to use some of these bible passages to support reflection and prayer across the diocese as we discern together a way forward for the Diocese