**Bishop’s Isle of Wight Lent Course 2017**

**Living the Marks of Mission**

The Five Marks of Mission

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

**2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers**

3. To respond to human need by loving service

4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation

5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

**A reminder**

* What in the life of our Church shows this Mark matters to us?
* How is this Mark reflected in our worship?
* What more could we do as a Church to live this Mark?
* Who else in our community does this? How can we help them?

**Where are we now?**

What most helped you to know Jesus?

What do you do in your church to teach and nurture new Christians?

Is there anything to learn from what others’ do?

**How did Jesus teach?**

As we think of the life of Jesus, who and how did he teach and nurture those around him? Think of specific examples from the gospels.

**Beginning with the text**

One person reads this passage out loud.

*When Jesus*[*\**](javascript:void(0);) *saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:*

*3 ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*4 ‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

*5 ‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.*

*6 ‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*

*7 ‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.*

*8 ‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*

*9 ‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*

*10 ‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*11 ‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely*[*\**](javascript:void(0);) *on my account. 12Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (*Matthew 5: 1-12)

What words or ideas did you hear?

Another person reads the passage again.

What is Jesus saying to you?

Another person reads the passage again.

What is Jesus calling you to do?

**And again…**

*The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, 4they said to him, ‘Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. 5Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?’ 6They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. 7When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, ‘Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.’ 8And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground.*[*\**](javascript:void(0);) *9When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. 10Jesus straightened up and said to her, ‘Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?’ 11She said, ‘No one, sir.’*[*\**](javascript:void(0);) *And Jesus said, ‘Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.* (John 8: 3-11)

What words or ideas did you hear?

Another person reads the passage again.

What is Jesus saying to you?

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What is Jesus calling you to do?

**...and again…**

*Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. 33When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus*[*\**](javascript:void(0);) *there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[ 34Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.’]]*[*\**](javascript:void(0);) *And they cast lots to divide his clothing. 35And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, ‘He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah*[*\**](javascript:void(0);) *of God, his chosen one!’ 36The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, 37and saying, ‘If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!’ 38There was also an inscription over him,*[*\**](javascript:void(0);) *‘This is the King of the Jews.’*

*39 One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding*[*\**](javascript:void(0);) *him and saying, ‘Are you not the Messiah?*[*\**](javascript:void(0);) *Save yourself and us!’ 40But the other rebuked him, saying, ‘Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.’ 42Then he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into*[*\**](javascript:void(0);) *your kingdom.’ 43He replied, ‘Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.’* (Luke *23:* 32-43)

What words or ideas did you hear?

Another person reads the passage again.

What is Jesus saying to you?

Another person reads the passage again.

What is Jesus calling you to do?

**What is the essence of the faith that we want to share and communicate?**

Based on what we have studied today, how might we better teach and nurture new believers or indeed mature believers, remembering how we ourselves learned best?

**So we ask:**

* What in the life of our Church shows this Mark matters to us?
* How is this Mark reflected in our worship?
* What more could we do as a Church to live this Mark?
* Who else in our community does this? How can we help them?



