



Diocese of Bristol



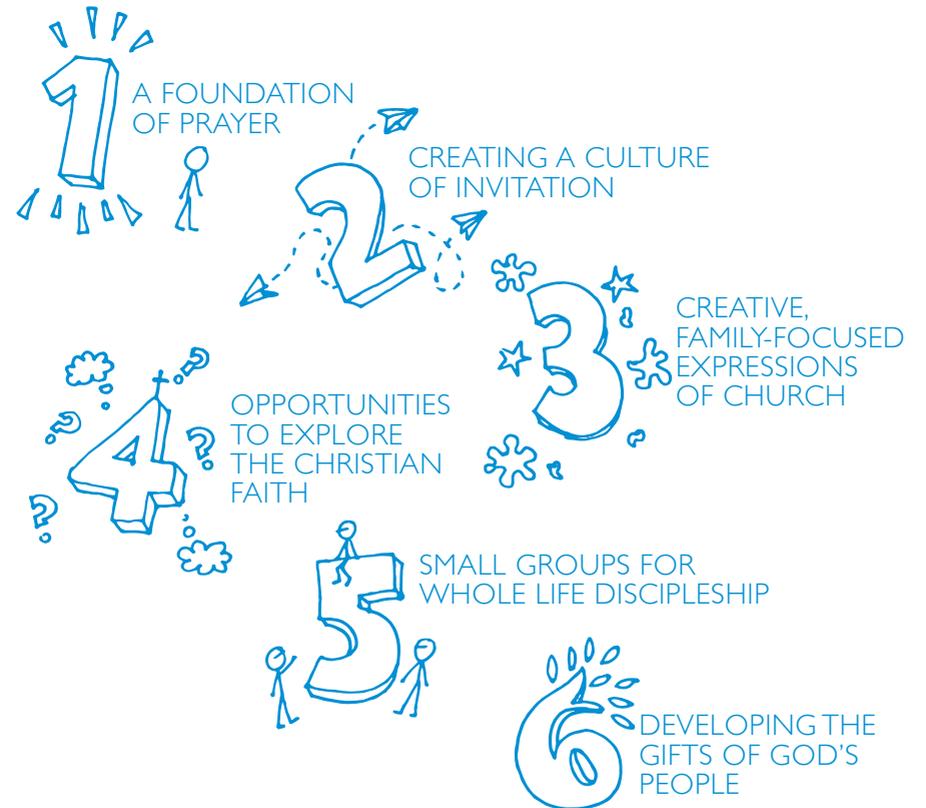
# *Making disciples in your parish*

CREATING CONNECTIONS

“  
**COME,**  
*follow me.*

*Matthew 4:19*

”



**Six ways your church can create connections and make disciples.**

“  
*Pray continually,  
give thanks in  
all circumstances.*

*1 Thessalonians 5*

”

# A FOUNDATION OF PRAYER

***Underpinning all discipleship, evangelism and service with prayer***

Prayer is an amazing gift which strengthens our relationship with God; it has the power to change us and the world around us.

When we pray at all times, in all circumstances and for all things, we see God's Kingdom come.

**In what ways  
can your church  
deepen its  
foundation  
of prayer?**



“  
*Come and see  
what God has done:  
He is awesome  
in His deeds.*

*Psalms 66:5*

”

# A CULTURE OF INVITATION

*Encouraging people to invite others to experience  
Christian community*

Jesus invites people to follow Him.  
We are called to share that invitation.

Three out of four Christians know who  
they would invite to church if they  
were prompted to do so. When people  
feel equipped, it becomes easier  
to ask friends and family along to  
experience Christian community  
in its various forms.

**How can your  
church support  
people to invite  
others?**



“

*Jesus met people where they were and introduced the Good News in ways that were relevant to them.*

”

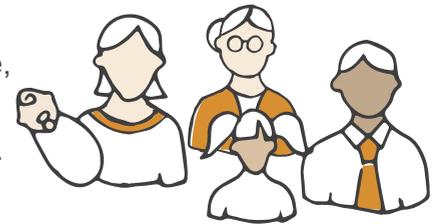
# CREATIVE, FAMILY-FOCUSED EXPRESSIONS OF CHURCH

***Engaging with families through relevant, accessible worship and discipleship***

Younger people are used to engaging and learning interactively: they want to take part and contribute in different ways.

Fresh forms of church that encourage creativity and active involvement can help everyone, but especially families, children and young people, to understand faith in new ways and lead them to connect with God.

**What creative approaches to church could you use to engage with families?**



“

*Everyone should have the chance  
to explore the Christian faith,  
ask questions and  
share their point of view.*

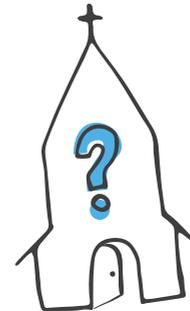
”

# OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

***Enabling people to ask questions and respond  
to the Good News***

If people are to encounter Jesus Christ, then they need to be provided with a safe and nurturing space in which they can ask honest questions and discover God's love for themselves.

**In what ways  
could your  
church provide  
opportunities for  
people to explore  
the Christian  
faith?**



“

*This is to my Father's glory,  
that you bear much fruit,  
showing yourselves  
to be my disciples.*

*John 15:8*

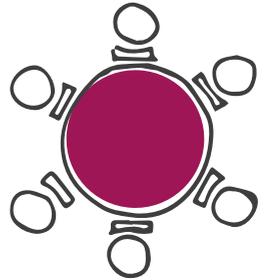
”

# SMALL GROUPS FOR WHOLE LIFE DISCIPLESHIP

*Encouraging people to live out their faith in their whole lives*

Small groups that focus on equipping us to be Christ's ambassadors help to grow whole life, faith-filled, mission-focused disciples. We are nurtured and given confidence to live out our faith in our families, at work, and in our communities.

**How could your church develop small groups that encourage people to grow as whole life disciples?**



“

*Serve the Lord faithfully with all  
your heart; consider what great  
things he has done for you.*

*1 Samuel 12*

”

# DEVELOPING THE GIFTS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

***Supporting people to discover, develop and use  
their God-given gifts***

As we serve Christ, we look to identify these gifts, invest in their development and find practical opportunities to use them.

Churches can also support people to put their gifts into practice, to serve in the Church and every sphere of life.

**What could your church do to help people identify, develop and use their gifts?**



*The Parish and External Relations Team can offer you support and advice as you make disciples in your parish. Contact [chris.priddy@bristoldiocese.org](mailto:chris.priddy@bristoldiocese.org)*

*Please share with us how your church is creating connections by emailing [ben.evans@bristoldiocese.org](mailto:ben.evans@bristoldiocese.org).*



Diocese of Bristol

0117 906 0100  
[www.bristol.anglican.org](http://www.bristol.anglican.org)