



This session is taken from the 6 week course, 'Christian Calling' which is freely downloadable from the Diocesan website, <http://www.trurodiocese.org.uk/vision-strategy/discipleship/discipleship-groups/way-of-life-resources/>

### **Session 3: EVERYDAY GOD.**

(Slightly adapted for AMD use)

You will need:

- Ask participants in advance to bring with them a work related symbolic item.
- Bible reading from Luke 19:1-10
- Sacred and secular pictures (see explore 1)
- The Dave Walker cartoon (<http://aftersunday.org.uk/about> ) or a pictorial map of the parish
- Resources for worship
- Prepared bookmarks with the text "*Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.*"
- Instructions for 'Pray Over'

### **Session 3: EVERYDAY GOD.**

***"Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory."*** (from post-communion prayer CW p.182)

#### ➤ SHARING:

Allow people to reflect together about 'being baptised' .

Either/and/or:

1. If folk have brought a **symbolic item** :- ask them to place it centrally and share what it represents - what 'work' they are involved in, the people they have contact with etc., how do they feel about it?



2. If folk have such a thing as a **typical week** - ask them to share what it looks like, what they are involved in doing, what groups of people do they meet?

➤ SCRIPTURE:

Ask folk to listen to the story of Zaccheus.

Read Luke 19.1-10. Be quiet for a short while, allowing the passage to speak to you.

The passage can be understood as an example of the way in which a person's contact with Jesus can lead to the transformation of their way of living and working, or as an example of the ways in which we can discover God already at work in the world.

➤ EXPLORE 1:

Sacred or secular? (finding God in the world)

Show folk a variety of pictures (from magazines, newspapers, internet etc) asking them to think about whether they consider them to be 'sacred' or 'secular' (for example: church building, shopping centre, fishing boat, wedding, family, Celtic cross, farmer, clay pit, graveyard, friends, candle, .... Examples can be found at:

<http://www.aftersunday.org.uk/about/the-sacred-secular-divide>

? How did you decide whether something should be regarded as sacred or secular?

? Was it always easy to answer?

? Would you say that your symbolic item (from Sharing is sacred or secular?

? Do our answers say anything about our understanding of where God is in the world? *In exploring the answer to this question, it may be helpful to refer to Dave Walker's cartoon 'Where God actually is' , or to look at a pictorial map of the parish and to consider where God is.*

➤ EXPLORE 2:



Being sent by God into the world

? How conscious are you of being sent by God into your Monday-Saturday life? (cf. the 'sending' from the end of the Eucharist service: '*send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory* ..... and '*Go in peace to love and serve the Lord*')

? Would you ever have thought that this could be described as 'mission'?

Explain that if you're seeking to live out your baptismal calling, to live differently as a result of knowing Jesus, this is exactly what you will have been doing (whether conscious of it or not).

God is a 'sending' God ('mission' is from a Latin word which means 'send')

God sent **Jesus** - to live and die as a human being in order to restore relationships between God and his people (John 3.17, Romans 8.3, 1 John 4.14)

God sends his **Holy Spirit** - involved in creation and re-creation, our life and new life in God (John 15.26, 16.7, Galatians 5.22-25) God calls and sends **us** now in his name - to be part of God's continuing work in this world (John 20.21)

In the Anglican Church, for some time we have understood ourselves to be sent by God in 5 ways (these are the 5 marks of mission as identified by the Anglican Consultative

Council- see

<http://www.anglicancommunion.org/ministry/mission/fivemarks.cfm>

1. to share the good news of our faith with those who don't know about it
2. to help new believers to grow in their faith
3. to respond to people in need by offering help in love
4. to work towards peace and justice for all people



5. to be responsible in the ways in which we use and care for the world

? How might your attitude to your weekday activities be different as a result of exploring this?

? What else can you/we do?

➤ **WORSHIP OPTIONS:**

\* Making use of the offertory at the Eucharist:

This is our chance to offer to God our everyday life (as we offer to God the everyday symbols of bread and wine - which will become transformed by his life).

- How can we as individuals be more conscious of making use of this part of the service?

During the worship of the session, the symbols which people have brought could be placed centrally, and together the following well-known prayer could be used:

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,  
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;  
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.  
All things come from you,  
and of your own do we give you.**

\* Hymn/songs - to be read, sung or listened to:

Teach me my God and King,

Make me a channel,

Fill thou my life,

Everyday God (Bernadette Farrell, in *'Restless is the Heart'*)

The Servant King (From heaven you came),



A touching place (Iona Community, in *'Love from Below'* p.66-reminds us of the ways in which Christ can meet people in need through us),  
Sent by the Lord am I (Iona Community, in *'Sent by the Lord'* p.32).

\* Prayers:

Eternal God and Father,  
you create and redeem us by the power of your love:  
guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,  
that we may give ourselves in love and service  
to one another and to you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Common Worship Daily prayer preliminary edition, p.142)

God of grace and goodness,  
who made us body and spirit  
that our work and faith  
maybe one.

May we through our life  
and our worship,  
join in your labour  
to bring forth a new creation  
in justice, love and truth;  
through Jesus, our redeemer

(from the 'After Sunday' website [www.aftersunday.org.uk](http://www.aftersunday.org.uk))

Reveal in us your glory, Lord;  
stir in us your power.  
Renew in us your kingdom, Lord;  
strengthen in us your hope.  
Work in us your miracles, Lord;



abide in us yourself.

(From Daily prayer: Diocese of Durham)

\* Everyday-life prayers:

The Celtic tradition gave rise to prayers centred around simple daily activities (like lighting the fire or milking the cow - see David Adam's books)

- can we write our own?

[Eg: "In my journey to work today, O God, may I be aware of my journey with you."

or: "As I open up my computer, so may I be open to your Spirit. As I click on these icons, so may I picture Christ in my heart. As the screen reveals my work, so almighty God may you be revealed in my life."

or: "As Christ met people in the market place and the town square, so may he meet people through me in the streets and shops today."]

Before next time:

TO THINK ABOUT:

**Bookmark slips:** "Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory" (also with 5 marks of mission on?). Continue to be conscious of the 5 marks of mission, and of opportunities you have of being used by God in these ways.

➤ TO PRAY OVER:

Reviewing the day:

We sometimes find ourselves thinking over the events of the day as evening approaches, and this prayer technique taps into that inclination. We ask God to show us how he has been at work in us, and through the people and situations we have met. The key things we are asking God to show us are these:



'What today has drawn me closer to God?'

and

'What today has taken me away from God?'

- 1) Take time to be still in a comfortable position, to relax, and simply pay attention to your breathing.
- 2) Allow the events of the day to play back in your mind's eye. Don't try to force this, or to remember every detail of the day: whatever is brought to our consciousness is what we are invited to engage with.
- 3) Allow yourself to re-visit the feelings these events bring up in you.
- 4) Let the day play back again, asking God to enlighten you about the various moods and feelings. The key questions to ask are: 'What today has drawn me closer to God?' and 'What today has taken me away from God?' or alternatively, 'Where have I felt energised today?' and 'Where today have I felt that energy has been sapped from me?'
- 5) You might want to give thanks to God for various things as a result of this, or to ask his forgiveness, or to pray for something in particular.
- 6) From all that has surfaced, what do I want to take forward to tomorrow?

Resources for further exploration:

*After Sunday* [www.aftersunday.org.uk](http://www.aftersunday.org.uk) -website dedicated to strengthening the connection between faith, work and world.

The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity [www.licc.org.uk](http://www.licc.org.uk)

*Thank God it's Monday*, Mark Green (Scripture Union 2001)

*Sleeping with Bread*, Dennis, Sheila and Matthew Linn (Paulist Press 1995)  
reviewing the day in prayer.