
0. Facilitator's Guide (1-3)



INTRODUCTION

*ten*² is a set of tools for community discernment. It is not designed to provide answers or magic strategies to address church decline. Rather it invites individuals to spend time together studying Scripture and reflecting on how the Spirit works in their lives and the life of the world. By focussing on the Spirit's work, we hope that our minds will be open to hear afresh God's calling to serve Christ in and with our communities.

*ten*² is inspired by the World Council of Churches recent Statement on Mission and Evangelism entitled, *Together Towards Life: Mission and Evangelism in Changing Landscapes*. A full copy of the statement is available at <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/commissions/mission-and-evangelism/together-towards-life-mission-and-evangelism-in-changing-landscapes>. Facilitators are encouraged to read *Together Towards Life (TTL)* in full as part of their preparation.

*ten*² may seem like an unusual name for the programme. The reason for its use is that the purpose of the mission of Jesus is summed up in **John 10:10** - life in all its fullness.

Outline of Session

In total there will be five elements to **ten²**. The first three elements are included in this pack and take the same format:

- Bible Study - intended to take up to 40 minutes, engaging with Scripture is key to this process and should not be rushed.
- Theological Reflection - using excerpts from TTL or other sources, groups will be invited to reflect on their own contexts (about 45 minutes).

It is important to allow each person to contribute to the discussion in a relaxed and trusting atmosphere. Groups of 8 -12 are ideal for this. Providing tea and coffee and making space for prayer during the time together is also encouraged.

Encouraging good discussions

- It is important to set up the room so that everyone feels comfortable and can see everyone else. You may want to put a cross or candle in the centre and make sure that all participants know one another's names and are welcomed. A Flipchart and pens may be useful for recording the discussion.
- Appoint a person to take notes of the discussion and type them up and distribute them afterwards to the group. These do not have to be very detailed but will help to remind participants of previous conversations.
- Agree some basic ground rules, such as, one speaker at a time, listening to all contributions, finishing on time.

- Set aside at least 1 hour - and preferably 90 minutes - for each session. Participants should be encouraged to read the material in advance to ensure fruitful discussion.
- Be aware of group-dynamics in each discussion. The presence of presbyters or local preachers will inevitably lead some to look to them as 'experts' and this should be discouraged. Reiterate that all bring a necessary expertise to the discussion.
- It is wise to leave time between sessions (at least a week) to allow further reflection. Encourage participants to record any thoughts and share them with one another.

Outcomes

The main purpose of the first three sessions is to encourage people across the Circuit to meet together for study and reflection. The questions are designed to provoke deeper conversation and help us reflect on how we discern the work of the Spirit in our own lives and in the Church and community. All this provides essential groundwork for sessions 4 and 5 when we engage actively in discerning our part in God's mission.