

Personal preparation always enhances group discussion. We would advise each member to reflect on the passages prior to the meeting. A simple but effective way of engaging with Scripture is to use this method.



What illumination did I get from this passage?
What especially struck me here?



What problems did I have with this passage?
Anything I don't understand, questions I want to ask?



How can I apply what I learned from this passage?
What do I - or we - need to do now?

Each individual Parish may also want to use the 5 marks in other ways during Lent

- ★ Use the Marks as the basis for a series of sermons.
- ★ Use the Marks as a basis for Intercessions
- ★ Have an all-age workshop to make banners about the 5 Marks
- ★ Write a series of mini-articles in the Church bulletin about what the 5 Marks of Mission mean for you locally

A prayer to end a church service, facing the open doors:

To a troubled world	peace from Christ
To a searching world	love from Christ
To a waiting world	hope from Christ.

A Lent course for the Anglican Church of Bermuda, 2014

*Written by the Bishop of Bermuda with help from the Diocesan Evangelism and Education Committee based on the **Five Marks of Mission***

Why are we here as individuals and as Churches? What are we aiming for? Developed and affirmed from 1984 to the present, the Five Marks of Mission have been adopted across the world-wide Anglican Communion. The Marks enable Christians of different countries and cultures to have a common focus as they share in God's mission in the world and they act as a 'checklist' for all we do as a Church. As we go forward as a Diocese in Bermuda we will be using these in the process of forming a Mission Action Plan for each parish and for the Diocese as a whole so that we know where we are aiming and whether we are on target.

What is mission?

What comes to your mind when you hear the word *mission*? Maybe the work of the Church overseas, and mission partners whom your own parish supports; maybe your own local Church's mission to its community; maybe you think of evangelistic rallies drawing thousands of people to hear the Gospel message.

All mission is by definition to do with *sending*. Prior to any missionary work which Christians may do is the nature and work God himself. From Creation onwards, God has been reaching out to the world in love, sharing His life with us. God's sending of Jesus is His greatest gift to the world. True Christian mission happens when people work together with God to bring about the salvation or 'making whole' of his world, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

"It is not the Church of God that has a mission in the world, but the God of mission who has a Church in the world."

Tim Dearborn

The Five Marks of Mission

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

Proclamation may be in words but also in actions, by living the Good News we preach. In many ways this mark is foundational – a summary of what all mission is about.

2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers

Christian discipleship is about lifelong learning, so we all need formal and informal resources for growing in faith, so that the Church is a learning environment for all ages.

3. To respond to human need by loving service

Churches have a long tradition of care through pastoral ministry. Christians are called to respond to the needs of people locally and in the wider human community.

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

Jesus and the OT prophets before him challenged oppressive structures in God's name. Christians should not only press for change, but also demonstrate justice within Church structures.

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

The Bible's vision of salvation is universal in its scope. We are called to promote the wellbeing of the human community and its environment, so that Creation may live in harmony.

“Mission goes out from God. Mission is God's way of loving and saving the world ... So mission is never our invention, or choice.”

Lambeth Conference 1998

Lent is a time for preparation, renewal and reflection. Each week during this Lent we will be looking together at the 5 Marks – one per week. The aim is to reflect on each Mark, using a variety of scriptures from the Old and New Testament that are relevant to each one and asking the questions below to see if we are hitting the mark:

- ★ 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?

Each week we will offer some guided questions on the following passages to help leaders and members to think about how they apply to the Marks of Mission. There will also be suggestions for encouraging group participation and ideas for action. We also want to ensure time for members to share from their own experience how the different marks have been worked out in their own lives.

Mark	Old Testament	New Testament
1	Exodus 3; Isaiah 61:1-3	Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 9:1-6; John 13:1-17; Acts 8:25-40
2	Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Nehemiah 8:1-8	Matthew 5:1-12; Acts 19:1-10; John 3:1-15; Luke 24:13-35
3	2 Kings 5:1-14; Job 2:11-13	Matthew 25:31-46; Mark 10: 46-52; Luke 10:25-37; John 13:1-17
4	Isaiah 58:1-10 Amos 2:6-8; Micah 6:6-8	Matthew 5: 38-42; 23:23-36; Mark 10:13-27 Luke 19:1-10
5	Genesis 1:26-31; 2:15, 19-20; Psalm	Romans 8:18-25; Revelation 22:1-5; Matthew 6:25-31; Mark 6:30-52