



JESUS CALLS THE CHURCH TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER

As we shape the vision and mission of our church for the next five years, we invite you to discern what God is saying to us. Jesus left the church with a few significant instructions. We explored one of the most significant this morning: John 15:1-11. The exercise below is designed to help you hear what God is saying to you personally and to us as a church through this passage.

PREPARE

Find a quiet, relaxed place to sit. Close your eyes and focus on your breathing as a way to calm yourself. If any distractions enter your mind, don't try and stop them, just let them pass through. Acknowledge before God how you are feeling - distracted or attentive; happy or grumpy; eager to hear from Him or bored and reluctant - and ask him to meet with you where you are at.

Ask Him to speak to you personally and us as a church as we seek his vision and mission for us.

OBSERVE

Read John 15:1-11

Prayerfully consider:

- What stood out to you?
- What emotions did it evoke?

INTERPRET

Prayerfully consider:

- Why do you think that word or phrase stood out to you?
- How does this relate to your life or to the ministry and mission of the church?
- Why would God bring this to your attention?

RESPOND

Prayerfully consider

- What is God calling you to do in response?
- What might God be calling us a church to do in response?

Write down your thoughts and intuitions.

There are many other encouragements, cautions and instructions Jesus left the church with. Unfortunately, we don't have the time to explore each of them in this series. Jesus gave **specific directions** ('missions', if you will) to his disciples. While they may not apply directly to us in our context, we can still hear from God through them in regards to our own mission. You may like to go through the above process with these passages to hear further what God may be saying to us as a church:

Luke 10:1-12 and Luke 24:36-49.