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**Vision Day- Possible format**

* 10:00 Arrival
* 10:30 Welcome and prayer - worship, for e.g. Be Still, Be Thou my Vision
* Opening thoughts- individual reflection.

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* Luke 14:12-24

**12**Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. **13**But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, **14**and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

**The Parable of the Great Banquet**

**15**When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.”

**16**Jesus replied: “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. **17**At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’

**18**“But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’

**19**“Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’

**20**“Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’

**21**“The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’

**22**“‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’

**23**“Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. **24**I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’”

Reading x 3

1. Be aware of the whole story
2. Be aware of the sights, smells, sounds and feelings of the scene
3. Be aware of who you might be most be drawn to in the story- who do you identify with the most?

What might this story have to say to us as a church today?

Any feelings that you resonate with? Being let down? Disappointment?

What is the difference between keeping the status quo going ( inviting your friends for dinner) and doing something radical ( inviting the poor and needy)?

What has COVID taught us about who needs to be here?

What is God’s agenda for his church?

Who are the people we need to be inviting into the feast?

Where are the spaces at our tables?

* Discus in small groups
* Prayer

**11:15 What is our Church’s unique calling and personality?**

* Healthy Churches Handbook.
* **7 marks of a healthy churches.**

**Mark 1: Energized by faith**

* Worship and sacramental life: moves people to experience God’s love- what does our worship say to people who don’t yet know Jesus? Would they know they are loved by God from our songs, readings. Prayers, preaching?
* Energy comes from a desire to serve God and each other- keeping an organization on the road or living to share the Good news we have received?
* Engages with Scripture in creative ways that connect with life- what is your collective and personal relationship with the Bible?
* Nurtures faith in Christ helping people to grow in and share their faith- can people start from nothing and work up to faith in our church?

**5 minutes chat in groups**

**Mark 2: Outward looking focus**

* Deeply rooted in the local community, working in partnership with other denominations, faiths, secular groups and networks
* Passionate and prophetic about justice and peace, locally and globally
* Makes connections between faith and daily living- how?
* Responds to human need by loving service- collectively, or as individuals.

**5 minutes chat in groups**

**Mark 3: Seeks to find out what God wants**

* Vocation- seeks to explore what God wants it to be and do- no one person’s project!
* Vision- develops and communicates a shared sense of where it is going- would the outside community know what that is?
* Mission priorities- consciously sets both immediate and long-term goals- do we have time to reflect enough to know these?
* Able to call for and make sacrifices, personal and corporate in bringing about the above and living out the faith- but not a church of martyrs!

**5 minutes chat in groups**

**Mark 4: Faces the cos of change and growth**

* While embracing the past , it dares to take on new ways of doing things- able to value the past without living in it!
* Takes risks: admits when things aren’t working, and learns from experience. What did work might not now.
* Crises: responds creatively to challenges that face the church and community. What would a crisis look like here?
* Positive experiences of change: however small, are affirmed and built on. Who does the affirming? Is it everybody?

**5 minutes chat in groups**

**Mark 5: Operates as a community**

* Relationships are nurtured , often in small groups, so that people feel accepted and are helped to grow in faith and service
* Leadership: lay and ordained work as a team to develop locally appropriate expressions of all seven marks of a healthy church
* Lay ministry: the different gifts, experiences and faith journeys of all are valued and given expression in and beyond the life of the church- LRM Training!

**5 minutes chat in groups**

**Mark 6: Makes room for all**

* Welcome; works to include newcomers into the life of the church
* Children and young people are helped to belong, contribute and be nurtured in their faith
* Enquirers are encouraged to explore and experience faith in Christ
* Diversities: different social and ethnic backgrounds, mental and physical abilities, and ages , are seen as a strength

**5 minutes chat in groups**

**Mark 7: Does a few things and does them well**

* Does the basics well, especially public worship, pastoral care, stewardship, and administration- these are missional activities! They say a lot about who we are.
* Occasional offices make sense of life and communicate faith- does communion make sense to visitors? How do we pull together over funerals?
* Being good news as a church in its attitudes and ways of working
* Enjoys what it does and is relaxed about what it is not- happy being ourselves!

**5 minutes chat in groups**

**Surveying the church together**

* Time to think together- groups of 3 or 4
* Give a score out of 5 against each mark.
* Results- and feedback.
* Why this helps us;

**Knowing what we are good at…**

**Knowing what we need to work on…**

**Knowing what gifting and skill mix we are looking for in the next minister…**

**Not waiting until they arrive to get started…**

**Prayer**

**13:00 Lunch**

**13:30**

**What kind of minister do we think we need?**

**Table work- each table discusses and writes down on a large piece of paper answers to the following…**

**What kind of personality traits are we looking for in our new minister?**

**What should the new minister’s priorities be for their time?**

**What kind of preacher/teacher are we looking for?**

**What are the gaps we are expecting a new minister to fill?**

**What are the new adventures we want to share with our new minster?**

**What do we need to have in place to support our new minister?**

**14:30**

**Communion**

**15:00 End**