



## Practice & Principles

### Introduction

The purpose of this study is to consider some of the principles and practices of one particular local church (Chichester Baptist Church), and to invite us to consider how examples from this church might spark ideas for trying things differently in our own contexts.

### Bible study

Read John 14:1-21.

#### Question 1

We join the story in John 14 partway through a conversation between Jesus and his disciples. They are understandably anxious about Jesus' talk of his departure, because they have given up everything to follow him for three years. How does Jesus reassure them? (14:1-7)

#### Question 2

There are three related themes in John 14:1-21 which we often separate: the *assurance* given to the disciples (1-7), the *asking* that comes from faith in Christ (8-14), and the work of the Holy Spirit as our *advocate* (15-21). What links do you see between these themes?

#### Question 3

Think about the principles underpinning Jesus' words and promised actions in this passage. What are those principles and in what ways do Jesus' words and actions reflect them?

### Application

Watch the video for this session. The video is available from [https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/540996/Where\\_do\\_we.aspx](https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/540996/Where_do_we.aspx)

#### Question 4

In the video Ken describes a guiding principle ("reaching those who foreseeably wouldn't come to a church") and some secondary principles to inform how that first principle is worked out in practice in one local setting (missional alternative gatherings which are low maintenance, appealing to different people, requiring a once-in-a-month commitment from church regulars).

What guiding principles underpin your choices as an individual and as a church? Are there any transferable lessons from the approach described in the video?



### Question 5

Think about your guiding principles as a church, and the examples<sup>1</sup> shared in the video.

What new thoughts do your guiding principles and these examples spark off in you for doing something different in addition to what you already do?

### Question 6

In C. S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters*, Screwtape advises his nephew, the Junior Tempter, to keep his charge from actually **doing** anything. "The more often he feels without acting, the less he will be able ever to act, and, in the long run, the less he will be able to feel."

How will you encourage each other to put your thoughts and feelings into action?

### *Taking it forward*

Watch the feedback video for this session. The video is available from [https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/540996/Where\\_do\\_we.aspx](https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/540996/Where_do_we.aspx).

How might your social activities as a small group be missional as well?

Think again about the C. S. Lewis quote. What do you need most of? More feeling? More action? Repentance and love like you once had (Revelation 2:4-5)?

How will you pray by way of response? What will you do?

### *Notes*

<sup>1</sup>The examples given were

- A golfing morning with a theme to discuss on the way round the course
- Providing a meal for the homeless
- A sports morning with half-time team talks
- A mountain biking morning, where the riders stop for reflection
- Taking services in local care homes