

The diocesan Spiritual Development Team has prepared a discipleship card for personal and group devotions. Based on both the *Five Marks of Mission* and the BELLS actions from *Surprise the World*, the card reminds us of our calling as Christians in this diocese in the communities in which we live. Using the themes: Love, Bless, Grow, Serve and Go, our hope is that it helps to encourage a rhythm for spiritual formation, outside of church worship, as we all strive to be more intentional in our following of Jesus.

The following is a short liturgy template for use to incorporate the card into worship or group gatherings, either for Advent or at a later time.

Notes:

- This is intended to be a template; please feel free to remove, change or add parts, as suits your context or preferences.
- This liturgy is designed so that people, other than the leader(s) and reader(s), only need a copy of the card to read from.
- Please use the translation of the Bible normally used in your context; or use a completely different one such as The Message or the new First Nations Version.

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[All should have a copy of the card and be ready to read from the Love-Bless-Grow-Serve-Go side.]

## LOVE

*Reader:* A reading from the Gospel according to John (15.9-12)

*[Jesus said,] "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."*

*Leader:* We will abide in God's love and in turn, love and enjoy God; and extend love and care to the people and the world God has created.

[From our baptismal covenant:] We will strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of [and on] the Earth.

As members of Christ's body [/ this church / this parish], we will:

*All:* **Worship God, through praise, thanksgiving and listening; and enjoy God's creation, caring and interceding for all people and this planet.**

## BLESS

*Reader:* A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (2.44-47a)

*All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.*

*Leader:* We will bless those around us, those we know and those we do not know, striving to build others up rather than ignoring them or tearing them down.

[From our baptismal covenant:] We will strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.

As members of Christ's body [/ this church / this parish], we will:

*All:* **Demonstrate mutual love, welcome strangers and friends alike, support one another, treat all persons well, respond to God's work among us.**

## GROW

*Reader:* A reading from the Letter to the Ephesians (4.11-16)

*The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.*

*Leader:* We will strive for spiritual food, seeking not to just rest in the faith of our childhood or our early days as a Christ-follower, but to become mature, seeking to know our Lord better and to walk more regularly with Jesus.

[From our baptismal covenant:] We will persevere in resisting evil and continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers.

As members of Christ's body [/ this church / this parish], we will:

*All:* **Become more Christ-like. Deepen our relationship with Jesus through prayer, Scripture and study. Discern and cultivate talents and gifts given for God's use.**

## SERVE

*Reader:* A reading from the First Letter of John (3.17-18)

*If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God’s love be in that person? Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.*

*Leader:* We will not just serve ourselves, but look for opportunities to serve others, within our church community, the community in which we live and beyond.

[From our baptismal covenant:] We will seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbours as ourselves.

As members of Christ's body [/ this church / this parish], we will:

*All:* **Share what we have received. Serve according to our talents and gifts. Become involved in parish and community life. Have special concern for the poor and the marginalized.**

## GO

*Reader:* A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew (28.18-20)

*And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

*Leader:* We will take seriously our Lord's command to make disciples, taking the risk to share the good news of God's love with all who need to hear it.

[From our baptismal covenant:] We will proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ.

As members of Christ's body [/ this church / this parish], we will:

*All:* **Announce the Good News! Witness and model God’s love for all people. Invite others to “come and see” what God has done and is doing!**

*[All say the prayer on the other side of the card together.]*

*All:*       **God of life and love,  
Thank you for your grace to us.  
And for the Church and its leadership.  
May I be faithful within my church.  
May I live and speak the Good News of Jesus' reign here and now.  
May I help in teaching, baptizing, and nurturing Your people.  
May I love others as I am loved.  
May I stand with You, for justice, mercy and peace for all.  
May I appreciate and respect the Father's creation,  
And the renewal of all things that the Spirit brings.  
Amen.**