



Building Your Community

Small group activity exploring the local community and God's place in it.

This can either be run with one small group or with multiple small groups depending on the numbers present. It can be adapted to work with groups that are all from the same local community or with groups from a range of different communities. It's best to work with groups of between 4 and 6.

Session 1

Each group to discuss the neighbourhoods their members live in...

Having listened to each other's stories, and remembering Unlock's brief is to work in the 'hard places', each group must pick one neighbourhood to recreate using various bits and pieces available (ie large card board boxes and bits of scrap etc - will need, glue, parcel tape, string etc)

This is not intended to be a 'to scale model'.... It can represent any aspect of the community but the size of each feature should be in proportion to its significance in the neighbourhood... so if the corner shop is most important it should be biggest... while the supermarket may be represented by a matchbox?!?

When the model is complete strips of crepe paper are used to link the different features as to how they relate to each other ie may be a link between school and church... church and bookies???



During the coffee break people will be invited to go from group to group looking at each others models and listening to their stories.



Session 2

Each group discusses where would they find Jesus in their model neighbourhoods. What would he be doing, saying etc? Does this suggest any bible stories to your group? Coming back together we will share our stories and reflect on the way we encounter the bible as communities.

Session 3

Working as one group (and bringing the different models together if you have more than one) reflect on when we looked at the neighbourhoods (especially through the lens of the Bible) what action would we wish to take... This needs some serious work to be done on it... thinking about how we decide what is the right action.

As the action points are decided they need to be written with fabric marker pen on a large bed sheet laid out on the floor (remember to use a disposable plastic dust sheet underneath it to protect the floor from marks!)



Rounding off session 3... using plastic poles from an old gazebo and some nylon guy ropes anchored to bits of furniture or chairs etc the sheet will become a 'prayer canopy' over the model(s) of our neighbourhoods...

As a group we can then reflect on what God is drawing to our attention about our community or communities and what action he might be calling us to, both collectively and individually.

