



LIVING THE MISSION PRAYER

AWAKEN RISK BLESS

EVALUATING OUR TRUE CAPACITY FOR MISSION

This resource helps individuals and groups evaluate their capacity to engage in Christ's mission through a reflective process over time. It helps us consider who we are becoming and how we will respond to our individual and shared journey of discipleship in community.

PROCESS

You are encouraged to engage in this process over a period of several weeks. Begin each gathering with prayer and an opportunity to center in the living Word of scripture. Be patient and work your way through the questions, providing plenty of time for conversation and reflection.

1. Begin each gathering with prayer.
2. Use a Dwelling in the Word scripture. We suggest using Luke 10:1–12. Capture the insights and questions that emerge as you listen to one another and God in this passage.
3. Consider the following questions in order over several sessions. Consider asking a few individuals to be prepared with a song, reading, or prayer as moments of blessing during each session. Also consider asking someone to serve as a scribe for your session. As people respond to various questions, it would be helpful to have newsprint to record responses. Consider beginning each session by providing a few moments for individuals to review responses from the prior session.
 - a. As you reflect over the past several months, in what ways have you received blessing as a result of living the mission prayer individually and in this community?
 - b. What specific conditions were present that led to these experiences of blessing?
 - c. As you think about our journey as a small group or congregation what is at the very core of who you are and are becoming? Make a list together and see if some common themes emerge. Are there one to three predominant themes that seem to capture the very core of who you are and are becoming as a group?



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- d. First, together make a list of all the tasks, activities, and ministries associated with your small group or congregation. Compare the list to your response to “question c.” Which of these tasks, activities, and ministries are most closely linked to the very core of who you are and are becoming? Which are not closely linked?
- e. Prayerfully consider the next faithful steps of your congregation or small group in response to “question c.” What might some next steps look like?
- f. Are there tasks, activities, or ministries you are feeling led to release in order to make room for what is emerging? Make a list and invite the group to prayerfully consider the list for the next time you gather.
- g. Make a revised list of tasks, activities, and ministries that you feel led to continue into the future. Next to each task, activity, or ministry place the name of an individual(s) that currently or will have responsibility for that function in the future.
- h. After everything has been assigned see how many names appear more than once on this list. Evaluate together whether there are those who may have too many functions assigned to them. Either redistribute the functions to others or take more tasks, activities, and ministries off the list until each person has responsibility for only one or two functions.
- i. Pause for a few moments of reflection and ask each individual in the group to share how they are feeling about the revised list of tasks, activities, and ministries and distribution of responsibility. Is this at the core of who we feel God is calling us to become? Is this sustainable going into the future? Does this provide balance so no one person is overwhelmed with responsibility?

End your time together with prayer