

## Realising your potential: Activity one



### Purpose

To get participants to review and celebrate what their church does with the community and to identify possible gaps where they could do more.



### Step by step

1. Draw a picture of a church and write down all the things the church does. For some ideas, see the list provided.
2. Discuss which areas the group thinks the church does best with the community and why.
3. Discuss where the gaps are and what might be done about them.
4. Write up the findings onto a flipchart and keep this for reference.



### Ideas for what your church does

- Sports
- Cultural activities
- Mums and toddlers
- Information
- Mobility community transport/car share
- Income generation
- Social activities
- Camps/outdoor adventure activities
- Activities for older people
- Disability
- Drop in cafe
- Young children
- Teenagers
- Vocational training
- Health
- Advice and counselling
- Men
- Women
- Homelessness
- Informal spiritual support
- Inter-faith activities
- Inter-denominational

# Realising your potential: Activity two



## Purpose

To enable the participants to realise the potential within themselves to bring change and transformation to the community.



## Materials you need

- Paper to make paper chain men
- Large sheets of paper to make a cross
- Marker pens
- Large sheet of paper to record gifts and talents of the group
- Newspapers and/or magazines



## Step by step

1. Use the sketch to reflect on the story of the feeding of the five-thousand.
2. Use the questions at the end of the sketch below to discuss the relevance of this story to our community and church.
3. Make paper chain men and cut them up. Lay them out on the floor and invite everyone to write, on at least one or two of them, the gifts and talents that exist in the church.
4. Lay sheets of paper on the floor in the shape of the cross.
5. Invite participants one by one to share what they've written and lay their figures on some part of the cross.
6. Answer the questions below and record the answers on a piece of paper.



## Questions

1. What skills and knowledge do we have in our church or community that could be used to make things better?
2. What experiences do we have in our church or community that could be shared with others?



## Hints and tips

Ask for volunteers to read the sketch and give them a few minutes to read through before they do it in front of the group.

With the paper chain men, provide an example of writing on one of the figures. If the activity is a bit slow getting going - put people in twos and threes to discuss for a few minutes before writing on the figures.

Play music once all the figures have been placed on the cross for people to reflect on the range of gifts and talents.

## *Sketch - Feeding the Hungry*

*One*

And in those days Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee

*Two*

And a great crowd of people followed him because they had seen the miraculous signs he had performed upon the sick

*One*

And the disciples said to Jesus, Where shall we find food for all these people to eat?

*Two*

But Andrew spoke up and said, 'Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and -

*Boy*

Oh sorry

*One*

What?

*Boy*

I've eaten them

*Two*

You've what?

*Boy*

I've eaten my sardine rolls

*One*

But - you can't

*Boy*

I have

*Two*

No, you don't understand - you're supposed to offer your loaves and fishes so Jesus can feed the 5000

*Boy*

Well, like I said, I'm sorry

*One*

Sorry?? That hardly seems adequate -

*Boy*

Look, it was my packed lunch wasn't it, I was hungry

*Two*

But what about the crowd?

*Boy*

What crowd?

*One*

This crowd. (pointing to the audience) The 5000 that are supposed to be fed

*Boy*

What about them?

*Two*

Look, you stupid little boy, it was your sardine rolls that were supposed to feed them

*Boy*

Yeh, well you said it - they were my sardine rolls and I've eaten them. Anyway if this Jesus is such a hot shot, he ought to be able to pull a gourmet meal out of thin air

*One*

But the whole point of the story is that God wants us to use what we've got, however little...

*Two*

To share around what he's given us.....

*One*

And you've just wolfed the lot

*Two*

And the 5000 are still hungry

*Boy*

Yeah, well like I said - sorry

## Spiritual Reflection

Read Mark 6: 30-44.

# Questions

## As a group:

- Who are the main players in this story?
- What specific actions did they do?
- What was the need in this story? What were the resources?

## In pairs:

- List the steps that Jesus took to perform the miracle
- In this story, what did Jesus focus on? What did the disciples focus on?
- How were the resources used to meet the need identified?

## As a group:

- Why do you think Jesus used those steps?
- How could he have performed this miracle differently? Why did he not do it differently?
- What does this passage tell us about the way we should facilitate the church and the community to meet their needs?
- What would a miracle look like for our community?

# Answers:

## Jesus' Actions:

- Challenged the disciples to feed the people
- Blessed the bread
- Directed the people to be in groups
- Directed that the disciples collect the food left over

## Jesus focused on:

- the importance of even the smallest resources - not to be wasted but to be appreciated
- the limitless power of God - he gave thanks to God
- the resources locally available - "What do you have? Go and check"
- the ability of the disciples to solve the problem - "You feed them"

## The disciples' actions:

- Identified the need - the people were hungry
- Identified the resources - two fish and five loaves
- Arranged the people into groups
- Served the people with food
- Collected the remains

## The disciples focused on:

- the desolation of the site
- their poverty - no food and not enough money to buy it
- the magnitude of the need - too many people for what they had
- the seriousness of the problem - "the people are hungry and it's getting late"
- shifting the burden to the people - "send them away that they may go to look for food"