

BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER GUIDE

... in preparation for 2010 MCEC Annual Church Gathering

Extending the Peace of Jesus Christ: For Such A Time As This - Forming Leaders for God's Mission

In preparation for participating in the table groups at the Annual Church Gathering, we invite delegates to read and pray with the scripture texts and questions provided below. There are several ways to do this:

- Use the texts and questions below as a guide for a Bible study group.
- Provide the texts and questions to the entire congregation for their times of personal reflection and prayer. Invite them to give their feedback to delegates.
- Lead a group in *lectio divina** using these texts (or portions thereof).

*Guide for group lectio divina:
<http://www.holyspiritinteractive.net/features/lectiodivina/asgroup.asp>

“You are my beloved child” - Formation and Leadership

(Friday Evening Session)

Texts: Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Luke 2:39-52, 3:21-22

Questions

1. What are some of the ways that spiritual formation takes place in these texts?
2. Name two ways you/your congregation are engaged in forming leaders.
3. What is the invitation or challenge in these texts as we seek to form leaders for the future?
4. Name two ways the wider church could support you/your congregation in forming leaders.

“Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him” - Discernment of Call and Leadership

(Saturday Morning Session)

Texts: Esther 2-4, Luke 4: 1-13, 42-44.

Questions

1. What are some aspects of discerning call in these texts?
2. Name two ways you/your congregation support people in discerning God's call.
3. What is the invitation or challenge in these texts as we seek to discern God's call in our own lives and those of our brothers and sisters?
4. Name two ways the wider church could support you/your congregation in creating a climate for discerning God's call.

“You shall be my witnesses” - Mission and Leadership

(Saturday Afternoon Session)

Texts: Acts 1:6-8, Luke 10:25-28

Questions

1. What do these texts tell us about leadership and mission?
2. Name two ways in which you/your congregation are engaged in God's mission?
3. What is the invitation or challenge in these texts to our current understandings and practices of mission and leadership?
4. Name two ways the wider church could support you/your congregational leaders in being a part of God's mission.