

Exploring the Vision



A study series for small groups Information for Group leaders

**Following Christ,
walking together
as First and Second Peoples,
seeking community, compassion
and justice for all creation**

Welcome to the Exploring the Vision study series of six booklets which resources small groups for exploring key elements of the Synod's Vision. Reflecting the passion and inspiration of people from across the Synod, the words of the Vision are layered with meaning, imagery and purpose. This series helps small groups – in all their diverse forms – to explore these layers.

Together with the Mission Principles, the Vision invites discussion, provokes questions and provides a focus for discerning the renewing work of the Holy Spirit in gathered communities of the Church. The statement supports an environment that seeks an intentional and coordinated focus on the mission of God. It is a focus grounded in the gospel of Jesus Christ and engaged in the contemporary challenges of being God's people.

It is hoped that your small group is affirmed and challenged by this study series, and led more fully in participation in God's Mission.

Your role as leader

Your role as a small group leader is to use the resources in ways that best suit your group. This requires you to:

- (i) **become familiar** with the resource for each study and
- (ii) **prepare adequately** for each session – including gathering additional resources you might need.

The booklet *Introducing the Vision and Mission Principles* (March 2017) provides you with further information and helpful background to the Vision. (Available at: ucavictas.org.au/visionandmission/resources/)

In your preparation, you are encouraged to draw on your own ideas and the giftedness of your group. You are free to use the study series as resources, adding other ideas and elements to enhance your group's experience. This may include: shared leadership, adjustments to the provided resources, and the inclusion of additional activities and exercises.

The studies are designed to take 60-90 minutes. However, if your group prefers to spend more time over the questions and exercises offered, you could consider expanding each study to longer time frames or multiple sessions.



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Leadership and Pastoral Care

Please give special attention to the pastoral care of your group.

In this series of studies, it is likely that questions and exercises may invite participants to consider deeply personal experiences. Let us therefore be sensitive to the potential pastoral concerns and pains such questions may raise. Let us take care of one another by shaping our engagements together in ways that are attentive and respectful to pastoral considerations.

Overview of the Study Series

The series comprises six studies – each developed as a stand-alone document for ease of copying and handling by group participants. The six studies are:

- **Study 1 - Following Christ**
- **Study 2 - Walking together as First and Second Peoples**
- **Study 3 - Seeking Community**
- **Study 4 - Seeking Compassion**
- **Study 5 - Seeking Justice**
- **Study 6 - For all Creation**

Following some introductory comment, each study has an opening and closing time of worship. Local expressions of song, prayer, and other practices may enhance these times. You are encouraged to develop these worship times as you deem appropriate.

The central part of each study generally comprises three sections: Exploring the Theme, Connecting with Scripture and Considering our Response. However, as each study has different key contributors, some studies vary from this generic form. You are advised to read the pre-study preparation notes that address these particularities.

All studies and supporting resources, including relevant images and sound file, can be sourced from the link ucavictas.org.au/visionandmission/studies

Videos for Study 2 are accessed via the assembly site at assembly.uca.org.au/walkingtogether.

There are references and web links leading to sources of further exploration throughout the study series booklets.



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