

# Located – Week 4

## Act on Poverty

### Ask Ahead: a question to consider before this session

Can you think of a place that is special to you? It could be where you are now or somewhere you lived or visited in the past. Why is this place important to you?

### Scripture Reading: Mark 2.13-17

Jesus went out again beside the sea; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in Levi’s house, many tax collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” When Jesus heard this, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician but those who are sick; I have not come to call the righteous but sinners.”

### Reflection

### Listen In: Zanele Makombe, Act Ubumbano, South Africa

Zanele Makombe is the Programme Advisor for gender & sexual and reproductive health and rights in Act Ubumbano. Act Ubumbano is a network of European and Southern African development and faith-based organisations working for social, environmental and gender justice across a number of African countries.

Zanele speaks about the power that communities have to act for local change, with the right support. She discusses the call to serve one another as human beings and to challenge exclusion and division.

### Listen In: Revd Dr Al Barrett, Rector of Hodge Hill Church Birmingham and Clare McLean, Street Connector & co-leader of FAB Church

Revd Dr Al Barrett and Clare McLean speak about church and community in Hodge Hill, an area



of Birmingham that has experienced significant deprivation. Hear from Clare about her experiences of building connection between neighbours as a Street Connector. Al and Clare discuss the perceptions of areas where there are higher poverty levels, the ways in which communities can become empowered to speak up for change and the role of the church in community life.

## Get Inspired: South London Mission, Bermondsey

Winnie and Peter Baffoe of the South London Mission show us how they use the “three R’s” - Respite, Regeneration, and Revolution - with their community to develop lasting change. South London Mission is a Methodist community organisation that has been operating since 1889. Currently the mission is seeing significant and growing income inequality in their local area. This video gives an inspiring insight into how their projects and partnerships are addressing this.

## Discussion Topics

- 1) Zanele mentions the ‘God moments’ when she sees her work and her faith aligning in the service of her neighbours.
  - a) Have you experienced a ‘God moment’ like this when you felt a sense of purpose in the service of God?
  - b) Where do you go when you are trying to listen to what God is telling you? Are there places in your community that help you do that?
- 2) What is your response to the idea Al raises of ‘suppressed abundance’ in communities? What helps build connection between members of your community?
- 3) What would be the first step for your church in sharing more widely the message that we need to act on poverty now?

## Closing Prayer

Jesus, help us to hear your call to discipleship.  
Like Levi, may we follow where you lead.  
Show us, Lord, where we should place ourselves in service of you  
And of our neighbours.

We thank you, Jesus, for the places that are special to us.  
Thank you for the places where we hear your voice, in stillness and through the voices of others.  
Be with us, Lord, as we seek a deeper connection with our communities.  
Help us to bring about your kingdom, here and now.  
Amen.