



# Approaches to discipleship

## Social action

**Aim:** For people to grow closer to Jesus as they serve others.

### General suggestions

- As a group, meet, talk about the reasons for helping others and decide on one project that will make life better for others. Commit to it for the year. What is needed?
  - If you need to find out more about local needs – plan a fact-finding mission
  - If you need money – plan fundraising events
  - If you need practical help – plan hands-on sessions
  - If you need advocacy – plan letter-writing sessions
  - If you need campaigning – plan a protest march
  - If you need prayer – plan a prayer meeting
- As above, but instead of one project, consider the needs of a different project each time you meet and do something in that meeting to support that project.
- Use the Serving booklet, from the Holy Habits series, which has worship resources, group material and activities, stories, practices, questions and creative ideas you could work through as a group: [brfonline.org.uk/products/holy-habits-serving-missional-discipleship-resources-for-churches](http://brfonline.org.uk/products/holy-habits-serving-missional-discipleship-resources-for-churches)
- Plan and run one of the Messy Church sessions on social action. They include: Toilet Twinning, Christian Aid, Children's Society (Christingle), Ecology (*Get Messy! Aug 2018*), Love your neighbour (*Messy Church 2*), Love Rules (*Messy Church 3*), Obadiah (Authorised Mess), Micah (Authorised Mess). Some can be downloaded

from [messychurch.org.uk/resources/session-material](http://messychurch.org.uk/resources/session-material)

- The more recent editions of *Get Messy!* have a social action idea with each session that could easily provide the core of a Messy Extra each month.
- Or anything else you can think of...

Here is a set of Bible stories and verses you could choose from to use at the start of each session to help discover God's heart for his people.

- Deuteronomy 15:10–11: Give generously to the poor
- Proverbs 31:8–9: Speak up for the poor
- Psalm 140:12: God cares about the needy
- Psalm 146:5–9: God's heart
- Isaiah 58:6–11: Let your light shine
- Micah 6:8: Act justly
- Zechariah 7:8–10: Show kindness and mercy
- Matthew 5:1–12: The beatitudes
- Matthew 25:31–46: The parable of the sheep and goats
- Mark 10:42–45: Being the servant of all
- Luke 6:27–45: Living for others' good
- Luke 10:25–37: The parable of the good Samaritan
- John 13:1–17: Jesus washes the disciples' feet
- Galatians 5:13–14: Serve one another
- 1 John 3:17: Faith and actions

Use the Islands Map at the end of each session to talk about what treasure people have uncovered on the different islands. Encourage people to reflect and doodle in their Travel Journal at home and bring it to show the group if they want to next time.