

# Sent

PARTNERING WITH GOD

SESSION ONE:  
Mission of God



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## Mission of God

### Starter

- What is a project you have worked on with other people?
- What was that experience like? What made it positive and what did you learn from it?

### Video discussion

- Watch the video. What struck you from the video?
- What questions does the video raise for you?
- What did you agree/disagree with? Why?

The mission of God has been compared to a Shakespearean play or drama where the church has the first four acts and needs to improvise the fifth act. We are part of a cosmic narrative, and we have a part to play in the ongoing story of God's action in the world.

1. Creation – God creates a good world
2. Fall – Human beings break relationships with God, one another and the environment
3. Israel – God's rescue plan through Abraham and Israel
4. Christ – God's rescue plan through the death and resurrection of Jesus
5. Church – God's people, empowered by the Spirit, continue God's plan to restore creation.

### Bible discussion

- Read the following passages. What do they tell you about the mission of God in the world?  
*'The Lord had said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. 'I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you. I will make your name great and you will be a blessing. I will bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all people's on earth will be blessed through you.'* (GEN 12:1-3)  
*'He has sent me to preach good news for the poor, proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free.'* (LUKE 4:18)  
*'As the Father sent me, so I send you.'* (JOHN 20:21)
- In all these examples, people were stepping out of their comfort zone into a level of risk and trust in God. What did that look like for Abraham, Jesus and the early disciples?
- How do you feel about stepping out of your own comfort zone?



## Action

- How do you see God at work in your community?
- How do you see your faith community taking part in God's mission?
- What might it look like for us to step out of your comfort zone in building relationships with people who don't normally come to your faith community?

## Prayer

- With a partner, take a walk around your community – watch, listen, sit and pray at different locations (park, café, shopping centre). Meet up with another pair and talk about what you noticed. Pray together for the wisdom and courage to know how you can be part of God's mission in our place.

## Recommended reading

Edge, Lynette and Morgan, Gregory. *Partnering with God: Being a Missional Salvationist*. Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2017 – especially pages 3-7 and 19-28 and 94-96.