



MOSAIC

Mosaic Mennonite Conference

PRIORITIES GUIDE

A Bible Study Reflecting on Our Shared Identity

MISSIONAL • FORMATIONAL • INTERCULTURAL

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INTRODUCTION

When Mosaic was formed by the reconciliation of Eastern District Conference and Franconia Conference in 2019, we shaped our new identity around belonging together. Palmer Becker's Anabaptist Essentials was a foundational framework for our new relationships as Mosaic. Becker suggests that Anabaptists are identifiable by these three core values/distinctives:

1. **Jesus is the center of our faith.**
2. **Community is the center of our life.**
3. **Reconciliation is the center of our work.**

Mosaic Mennonite Conference has committed together to embody the reconciling love of Jesus in our broken and beautiful world. Our stated mission is to be a community celebrating and extending God's grace, justice, and peace. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we shape our relationships and work around missional, intercultural, and formational priorities.

Our strategic plan states, *"We are a mosaic formed by many different members and united in our commitment to following Jesus together, listening to the Holy Spirit, and building on our Anabaptist heritage as radical reformers. We seek to live out our missional, formation, and intercultural priorities. In the first year, Mosaic will concentrate on understanding/embracing its core identity and values. Efforts will be made to build leadership capacity, enhancing the skills and capabilities of leaders to foster relationships and create an environment centered on Christ."*

As we follow God's Spirit into these innovative spaces, we welcome new members, credentialed leaders, congregations, Conference-Related Ministries, partners in ministry, and church plants/emerging communities that share these same commitments and values.

Formational priority - Jesus as the center of our faith

- **As Mosaic Mennonite Conference, we are committed to becoming like Jesus.** We are committed to Jesus as Lord. We invite our faith communities to follow Jesus with our lives so that we are transformed into the image of Jesus, even when it's costly.

Intercultural priority - Community is the center of our life

- **As Mosaic Mennonite Conference, we are committed to loving like Jesus.** We are committed to recognizing the image of God in others. We invite our community to stay in relationship across difference and allow ourselves to be transformed by those with whom we might disagree. We offer our own gifts and receive the gifts of others

Missional priority - Reconciliation as the center of our work

- **As Mosaic Mennonite Conference, we are committed to living like Jesus.** We are committed to participating in the healing of our world. Through the power and inspiration of the Spirit, we invite our community to advocate for justice, work for peace and reconciliation, and radically share the love of God in our words and actions.

PURPOSE

In this Priorities Guide, you will more fully understand each of these core priorities and our vision and mission.

The purpose of this guide is to give us common language and understanding as we live and work together as a conference. We celebrate the work of Christ and the Holy Spirit in each of our worshipping communities and want to strengthen our relationships, our kingdom work, and our collective identity.

This template is intended to create an intergenerational study guide with theological underpinnings for each Mosaic priority and incorporate centered-set concepts to be used as a resource for preaching or small group study.



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This is a facilitator or leader guide. The lessons included were written to be used in a 45-90 minute small group or class or to be adapted for a sermon and responding time. In the appendix, you will find Participant's handouts (see appendix) and other resources/alternative activities to go along with each lesson. We trust that the teacher or facilitator will be able to adjust based on the number in your group and the amount of time available. All of this is also on the [Mosaic Conference website](#). It is our hope that this can be adapted to fit different contexts.

Each lesson includes an opening question, a biblical story with possible discussion questions, and a spiritual practice that can be done together afterwards. Depending on the size of your group, we encourage opening questions to be done using mutual invitation, circle practice, or within small groups so that all voices will have the opportunity to engage and share. These are practices we value and use frequently within our conference. Discussion questions around the biblical story could be done in a similar way.

Mutual Invitation

Defined: This is a practice developed by Eric H.F. Law and described in his book *The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb*. It is a process that recognizes that everyone has unique insights from their own life experience and culture. It is a way to empower those who are more reserved and cultivates deeper listening for all of us.

Mutual Invitation Process:

1. A designated person will share first.
2. After sharing, he/she/they will invite another person to share.
3. Each person who is invited has three options:
 - Share and invite.
 - Pass for now and invite. The group will return to this person later.
 - Pass and invite. When a person chooses to 'pass,' the group will not return to this person in this round.
4. Do this until everyone is invited, remembering to return to those who 'passed for now.'

Circle Process

Defined: “The circle process is a sacred practice with Indigenous roots, used to bring healing and restoration. When harm has occurred, the community gathers in a circle, each person speaking one at a time, speaking and listening from their heart to seek understanding and restoration. As Scripture reminds us, ‘Seek peace and pursue it’ (Psalm 34.14). In the Circle, we reach for peace together—through listening, truth-telling, and grace” **(Maati Yvonne)**

What does the circle look like? How does it work?

1. Participants are seated in a circle (preferably with no furniture in the middle)
2. A centerpiece, which creates a central focus (a candle or other items of meaning)
3. An opening (a poem or Scripture) for centering and marking the beginning of the circle time.
4. An object, called a talking piece, that is passed from person to person to regulate the flow of dialogue (who speaks and when).
5. A closing that marks the end of the circle time.

Small groups (dyads/triads)

Before moving people into small groups, give them time to write their answer to the question (not everyone processes at the same speed). After a few minutes, move them into small groups to share and listen to one another (it may be helpful to alert them to the time in which another person should begin to share). When the time is up, bring them back to the larger group. Ask people to share what they heard/learned from their partner(s).

Section 1.0

MOSAIC VISION AND MISSION

Vision: Embody the reconciling love of Jesus in our broken and beautiful world.

Mission: Mosaic is a community celebrating and extending God's grace, justice, and peace. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we shape our relationships and work around missional, intercultural and formational priorities.

In this section:

1.1 Mosaic Vision and Mission

1.1- MOSAIC VISION AND MISSION

Session Summary

God calls us to join in God's dream of bringing healing to our broken and beautiful world. Together as Mosaic Conference, we desire to learn how to recognize God's presence and work so that we can shape our congregations and lives around participating in what God is doing in the world around us.

Objectives

- To learn the vision and mission statements of Mosaic Conference and understand what they mean for our life together as a community.
- To imagine how our congregation might embody the love of Jesus in our neighborhood.

Materials

- Bible or print out of the text. Scriptures used: Mark 2:1-12
- Participant's handout (see appendix) with vision/mission statements and journal space for spiritual practice reflection.
- **Optional:** The appendix includes commentary on the text (for teachers/preachers to use as needed), additional activities, and a link to the "Learning Mosaic" podcast episode about Mosaic's vision and mission statements.

Gather (10-15 minutes)

Share the Purpose of the Session



We are here to learn more about Mosaic Conference's vision and mission statements, which include our conference priorities of being formational, intercultural, and missional. In today's session, we will look at our conference vision and mission statements and explore how living as people embodying the love of Jesus might change our communities ... and even ourselves!

Opening Prayer



Loving God, we are grateful that you care about us: body, mind, and heart. Guide our conversation, our imaginations, and our reflection so that we see you in new ways as we gather today. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Opening Question(s) Ideas

(depending on size of group, you may use mutual invitation, circle process, or dyads/triads).

Choose from one of the following or design your own question:



- Think about a time when you felt helpless. What was happening in your life? What were you feeling or thinking? Who stepped in to help you—was it someone you knew you could depend on or was it someone who surprised you? How did you feel when you were helped?
- As you think about your life (this could be family, work, school, neighborhood, church, or the broader world), where do you see brokenness? Where do you see beauty? Are there any situations where you see both at the same time?

Food for Thought



When Mosaic Conference was formed in 2020, our board felt God's Spirit drawing us to the following vision and mission statements. As we read these statements together, pay attention to any words or images that you particularly like, notice, or are uncertain about.

Vision: Embody the reconciling love of Jesus in our broken and beautiful world.

Mission: Mosaic is a community celebrating and extending God's grace, justice, and peace. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we shape our relationships and work around missional, intercultural and formational priorities.

(Invite participants to speak out the words or images they heard, without commentary.)

Let's keep those words and images in mind as we look at today's Scripture reading.

Encounter (15-25 minutes)

Context of Biblical Story:



Jesus has been traveling around the countryside, calling people to follow him, teaching, and healing many people who had been sick, in both mind and body. News about him had spread and more and more people began to seek him out. Jesus was often overwhelmed by people and tried to find moments to himself to rest and pray, but no matter where he went, people who were desperate for help found him.

As the biblical story is read, **listen for moments of brokenness and beauty. Consider who embodies reconciling love in this story and who doesn't.**

Read Together: Mark 2:1-12

Discussion Questions

(depending on time and group size, choose 2-3 questions)



- Besides Jesus, who do you see embodying reconciling love in this story? Who doesn't embody love? How does Jesus' response change when he interacts with each of these groups?
- As you think about the words we highlighted in our vision and mission statements, what did you notice in this story? What does this story tell us about our purpose as a community of people following Jesus together?
- Can you think of a time when our church was given an opportunity to extend God's grace, justice, or peace? As you think about our response to that situation, which character in this story were we most like? Share your story.
- At the end of this story, the crowd responded to what they had seen with amazement. When have you been amazed by something you saw God's Spirit do in our church community or neighborhood?

Spiritual Practice (10-15 minutes)

As a conference, our vision and mission statements invite us to both notice and participate in God's healing work in our world. We acknowledge that God is already present in the world around us, actively working toward healing what is broken and drawing all people to God's self. We see beauty in the world God made and celebrate when we see God's Spirit pop up in unexpected places. Like Jesus in today's story, we are invited to notice and celebrate when we see people who are doing things that reflect God's love!

At the same time, as we seek to pay attention to what God is doing all around us, we accept God's invitation to be a part of it: whether that's working for justice, making peace, or extending God's grace as we help provide the food, shelter, and safety that our neighbors need. Like the friends who wouldn't let anything stand in their way, we are invited to join in God's healing work. As we do these things, we celebrate God's love, expressed to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

This week consider walking in your neighborhood at least once or twice, either by yourself or with a friend. If you can, take your time and leave your earbuds at home. As you walk, pay attention to what and who you see. Where is there beauty? Where is there brokenness? Where do you see people already extending God's grace, justice, or peace? What invitation do you sense from God's Spirit to change how you see or interact with the people around you?

Sending

(choose one of the following options or design your own)



- Play or sing "Beautiful Things" (artist: Gungor; VT551).
- Pray: God of the broken and beautiful, we are grateful for the ways that you are already present in our lives, our church, and our neighborhoods. Give us eyes to see you this week as we go about the rhythms of life. Give us courage to act with grace, justice, and peace. Continue to make us like you, so that we embody your reconciling love to everyone we meet. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Section 2.0

FORMATIONAL PRIORITY: BECOMING LIKE JESUS

Becoming like Jesus so that we are *conformed to the image of the Son* (Romans 8:29)

In this section:

2.1 Knowing Christ

2.2 Growing in Christ

2.1- KNOWING CHRIST

Session Summary

Understanding that God's purpose for each of us is to be conformed to the image of the Son, we must seek an authentic relationship with the Jesus revealed in scriptures. We say with Paul: I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. (Phil 3:10)

Objectives

- To deepen our understanding of who Jesus is, as revealed in scripture
- To recommit ourselves to Jesus as Lord of our lives

Materials

- Bible or print out of the text. Scriptures used: Luke 4:16-30, Philippians 2.
- Participant's handout (see appendix) and the **Idol Tree** (page 18).
- **Optional:** Appendix includes commentary on the text. (For teachers/preachers to use as needed.)

Gather (10-15 minutes)

Share the Purpose of the Session



We are here to understand more clearly Mosaic Mennonite Conference's three priorities:

Formational, Intercultural and Missional. In this session we will explore a basic starting point in understanding the Formational priority focused on the theme of **knowing Christ**.

In this lesson we want to deepen our understanding of who Jesus is, as revealed in scripture and to recommit ourselves to Jesus as Lord of our lives.

Opening Prayer



Jesus, we are so grateful for your presence among us. As we gather to listen and study together, we ask your Spirit to reveal even more of who you are and what you are calling us to become. You are the living Word that continues to speak and make all things new. Keep transforming us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Opening Question(s) Ideas

(depending on size of group, you may use mutual invitation, circle process, or dyads/triads).

Choose from one of the following or design your own question:



- Share a Bible story, verse, or song from early in your faith journey that shaped your understanding of who Jesus is.
- How would you introduce Jesus to someone from within your culture who does not know much about him (or may have a distorted idea of who he is)?

Food for Thought



Early Anabaptist Hans Denck (ca. 1500-1527) is noted for saying, “No one can truly know Christ except he follow Him in life and no one can follow Christ in daily life unless they truly know him.” which reflects the teaching in 1 John 2:3-6: ***we know him when we obey his commandments— whoever says I abide in him ought to walk as he walked.***

The formation priority of Mosaic Conference emphasizes our call to both know and follow God in our lives. Formation is a lifelong commitment to learning and living the Way of Jesus. We learn to know Christ through scripture, in worship, through discipleship/obedience, in community, and with the help of the Spirit. Formation is both individual and corporate as we participate fully within the body of Christ.

As Mosaic Mennonite Conference, we are committed to becoming like Jesus.

When Mosaic talks about formation, this is what we mean:

We are committed to Jesus as Lord.

We invite our faith community to follow Jesus with our lives
so that we are transformed into the image of Jesus, even when it's costly.

Encounter (15-25 minutes)

Context of Biblical Story:



Jesus was at the beginning of his public ministry. A few months ago, he had been baptized by his cousin John after which he had been in the wilderness for 40 days—wrestling with the enemy and getting clarity on his earthly mission. He had just started public preaching and healing and hadn't called his disciples yet. In the story today, he had just come back to the synagogue in his hometown. His brothers and maybe a few uncles might have been there that day. They knew him as Joseph's oldest son and as a carpenter and invited him to read from the prophet Isaiah and share that day.

As the biblical story is read, **listen for what the people believed about God's Messiah and God's mission in the world vs. how Jesus described God's mission.**

Read Together: Luke 4:16-30

Discussion Questions

(depending on time and group size, choose 2-3 questions)



- What do you notice about Jesus in this account? What does Luke, the gospel writer, want us to understand about Jesus?
- The people in Jesus' hometown thought they knew Jesus. What made them so angry? Why did the congregation turn on Jesus?
- What happens when Jesus reveals the truth about the character of God and God's mission, and it conflicts with previous understanding or our own desires? Has this ever happened to you? Explain.
- As we think about formation, getting to know Jesus is not just an intellectual exercise or list of beliefs about Jesus. It is a life-altering relationship with Christ, the Living God. How has knowing Jesus Christ changed your life?

Spiritual Practice (10-15 minutes)

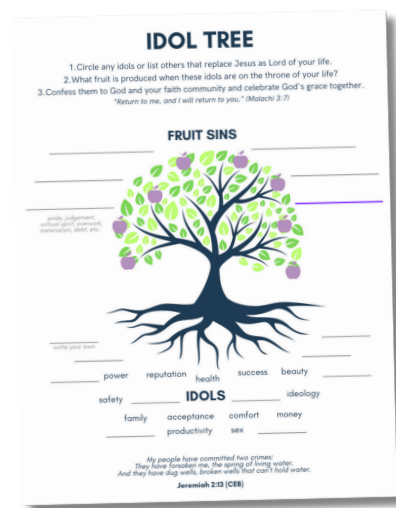
Read Together

As we think about formation, getting to know Jesus is not just an intellectual exercise or list of beliefs about Jesus. It is a life-altering relationship with Christ, the Living God. As we come to know Jesus, we begin to understand that he is Lord, and we are not. All the other idols we cling to must be de-throned. We must surrender our will and desires to Christ alone.

A relationship with the Risen Christ impacts everything. It changes how we think, speak, spend money, share resources, treat one another, respond to criticism, etc. In Philippians 2, Paul describes how the people of God will think and act because they know Jesus and have the mind of Christ. The Christ hymn (v.6-11) reveals that though Jesus was God, he humbled himself and took on human flesh and was obedient to the point of death. Therefore, God honored him and gave him the name above all names, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, and every tongue confess, Jesus Christ is Lord.

Prayerfully look over this Idol Tree, reflecting on what might be getting in the way of you living your life with Jesus as Lord. When other things are on the throne of your life, what kind of fruit does your life produce? When Jesus is Lord, when all is surrendered to him, what will change? What fruit will you bear?

Write a prayer of confession and commitment.



Optional:

1. Use the tree to reflect on the nature of your congregation. What are the communal sins or idols that prevent you (and those you are trying to reach) from knowing Jesus as Lord?
2. The items on the list of idols generally have both positive and negative connotations (a bright and a shadow side). When they are surrendered to Christ, they can be used to serve others or for kingdom purposes. When they usurp Christ's place, they become distorted. Spend time prayerfully reflecting on how starting with Christ as Lord impacts our ability to respond to the list in healthy ways.

*The handout for **Idol Tree** is located on page 18 of this guide. Make copies as needed to distribute during the session.*

Sending



As we encounter the Risen Christ

May our relationship with Jesus transform us

As we proclaim Jesus as Lord

May the addictions and idols in our life lose their power

As we seek the mind of Christ

May the Spirit breathe life into our very being

So that we are formed more and more into the image of the Christ

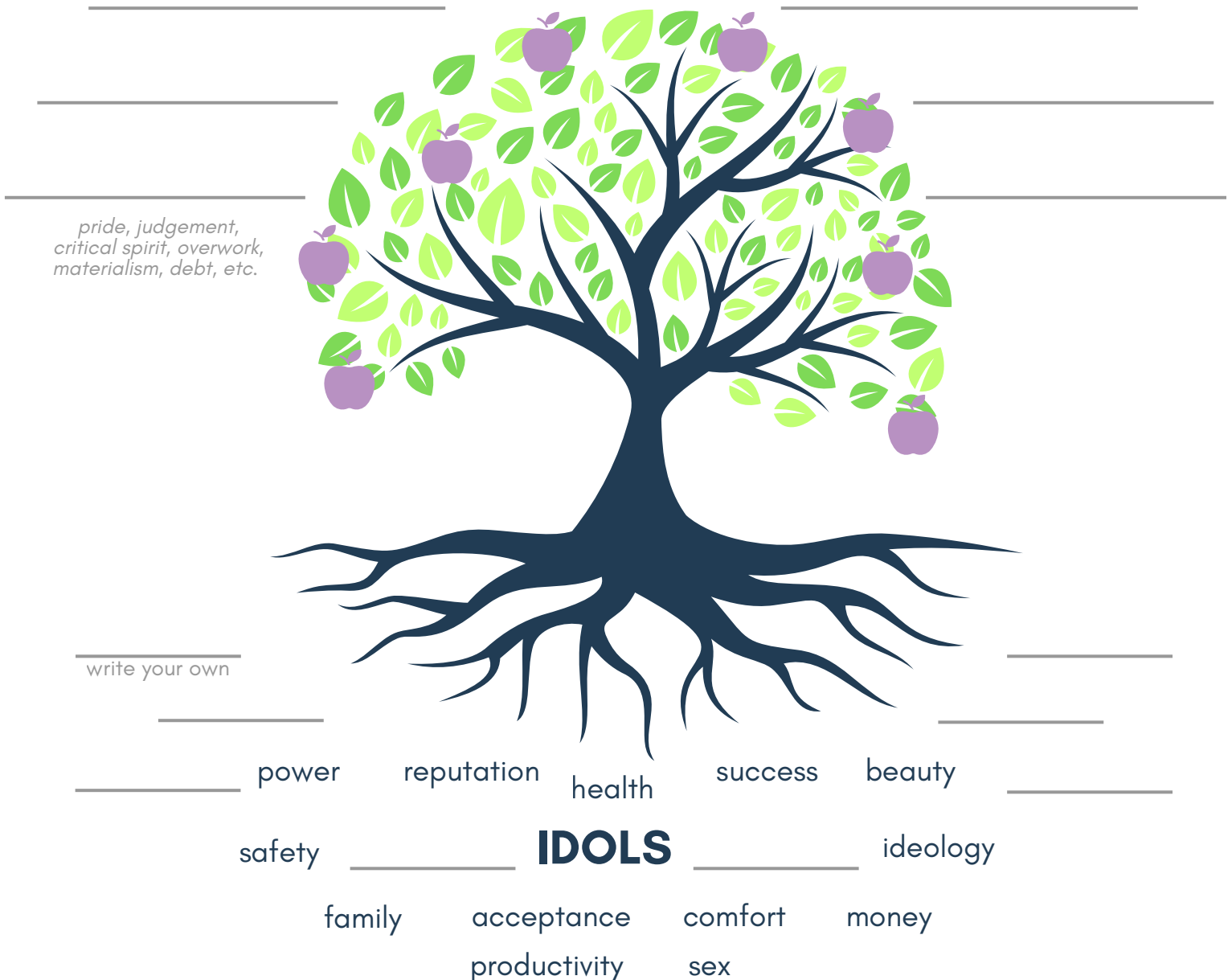
For the glory of God. Amen.

IDOL TREE

1. Circle any idols or list others that replace Jesus as Lord of your life.
2. What fruit is produced when these idols are on the throne of your life?
3. Confess them to God and your faith community and celebrate God's grace together.

"Return to me, and I will return to you," (Malachi 3:7)

FRUIT SINS



*My people have committed two crimes:
They have forsaken me, the spring of living water.
And they have dug wells, broken wells that can't hold water.*

Jeremiah 2:13 (CEB)

2.2- GROWING IN CHRIST

Session Summary

God's purpose for each of us is to continue to mature in our faith and in our relationship with Christ. This is a lifelong journey as we are "being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit" (2 Cor. 3:18b) until we "become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:13b).

Objectives

- To be challenged to continual growth and transformation in our relationship with Christ.
- To recommit ourselves to stay open to the work of the Spirit to bear good fruit.

Materials

- Bible or print out of the text--Scriptures used: Luke 10: 38-42, John 15.
- Participant's handout (see appendix) and **The Vineyard** (page 22)
- **Optional:** coloring materials (crayons, coloring pencils, etc.)

Gather (10-15 minutes)

Share the Purpose of the Session



We are here to understand more clearly Mosaic Mennonite Conference's three priorities:

Formational, Intercultural and Missional. In this session we will dive deeper into the formation priority, moving from knowing Christ to **growing in Christ**. In this lesson, we want to "grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ" (Eph 4:15b) by submitting ourselves to ongoing transformative power of the Spirit.

Opening Prayer



Gracious God, we understand that you long for a relationship with each of us that leads to us becoming the people you created us to be. Give us desire to move beyond the status quo, so that we continue to grow and be transformed—as individuals and as your body. May your Word and your Spirit keep transforming us, for your glory. In Jesus' name, amen.

Opening Question(s) Ideas

(depending on size of group, you may use mutual invitation, circle process, or dyads/triads).

Choose from one of the following or design your own question:



- What is needed to help plants or crops grow? How does that compare to what is needed in your life to help you continue to grow in your faith and relationship with Christ?
- Share a time in your life where you experienced significant growth or observed it in others. Consider what factors led to growth (facilitators may wish to help participants see that growth doesn't come just from trying harder to be good but from the Spirit's work within them).

Food for Thought



Anabaptist historian Harold Bender wrote that “The [early] Anabaptists could not understand a Christianity that made regeneration, holiness, and love primarily a matter of intellect, of doctrinal belief, or of subjective ‘experience,’ rather than one of the transformation of life. They demanded an outward expression of the inner experience.” In agreement with Paul’s writings, maturity and transformation would be a necessary outcome of **new birth in Christ**.

The formation priority of Mosaic Conference emphasizes our call to both know and follow God in our daily lives. ***As we grow toward maturity in Christ—through deepening scripture, the power of the Spirit, and accountability within the body of Christ—our faith will be expressed in mission, service, peacemaking, and an ever-increasing love for God and neighbor.***

Encounter (15-25 minutes)

Context of Biblical Story:



Luke places this famous story of Mary and Martha offering hospitality to Jesus after he is confronted by a lawyer who questioned him about what a person must DO to obtain eternal life. (Luke 10: 25-37). The law of Moses says a person must love God and neighbor. However, the lawyer wants to justify himself and asks, “who is my neighbor?” Jesus tells the story of the good Samaritan who showed mercy and true hospitality in concrete ways to the wounded stranger. Jesus doesn’t dismiss the wrong motives of the lawyer but challenges him to growth. In our story today, Jesus invites a distracted and self-justifying Martha to growth as well.

As the biblical story is read, **pay attention to the theme of hospitality and where the invitation to growth and maturity is made.**

Read Together: Luke 10:38-42

Discussion Questions

(depending on time and group size, choose 2-3 questions)



- Notice all the ways hospitality shows up in this story. Who is offering it? Who is receiving it? In what spirit is it being offered?
- Take some time to imagine yourself as each of the characters who would have been present in the story: Jesus, Mary, Martha, other disciples, Lazarus. What do you notice? What questions do you have?
- Being and doing are both important parts of our growth. If Jesus were to sit with you today, which would be your growing edge?
- What is the ‘one thing’ that Jesus speaks of in verse 42? How does that one thing make everything else possible?

Spiritual Practice (10-15 minutes)

Read Together

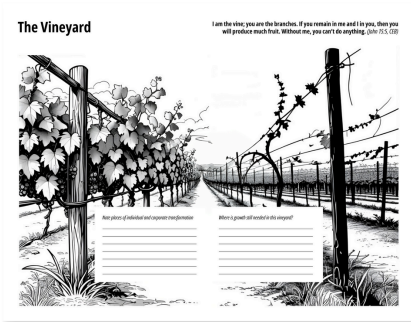
As Mosaic Mennonite Conference, we are committed to becoming like Jesus.

When Mosaic talks about formation, this is what we mean:

We are committed to Jesus as Lord.

**We expect our faith community to follow Jesus with our lives
so that we are transformed into the image of Jesus, even when it's costly.**

Transformation is often costly. It involves dying to our selfish ways and living into the new life Christ has made possible. John 15 compares our growth and transformation to a vineyard where we are branches on Jesus, the TRUE VINE. Pruning (like what Jesus did to Martha) may be necessary. But there is no life, no fruit, and no ability to be obedient without the connection to and nourishment from the Vine. Because of the Vine, *the branches are also connected to one another*. For the vineyard to flourish and produce grapes, all the branches need to stay healthy.



The handout for **The Vineyard** is located on page 22 of this guide. Make copies as needed to distribute during the session.

- Look at the image of the vineyard. If this represents your local body of Christ, where are you seeing new growth? How is growth being measured? How has Spirit-led transformation occurred? *[color and write on the image, noting places of individual and corporate transformation]*

After reflection, share with one another.

Pay attention to common themes and give glory to God!

- With hospitality and great love, Jesus invited the lawyer and Martha to on-going transformation. Where is growth still needed in this vineyard? Where is pruning necessary? *[invite the Spirit to continued growth for your life and the life of your congregation. Write this on the image.]*

After reflection, share with one another.

Is there something that surfaces that you could do as a group to open yourself to new growth? Is there a spiritual practice that all of you can do together? Examples below:

1. Set a phone alarm for noon each day. All participants stop at that time and pray for open hearts and minds to hear the Spirit's invitation
2. Commit to fasting and prayer each Monday for three months related to a particular area of growth needed in your congregation.
3. Commit to pairing up for accountability, prayer, and scripture reading weekly for three months.
4. Decide to offer the same hospitality that Jesus has extended to you, to a particular local group of people. Organize a creative way to care for them.

Keep in mind:

Although a spiritual practice is 'doing' something, its primary purpose is to create space for the Spirit to transform your 'being' so there is an abundance of love, peace, joy, hope, truth, compassion, and a heart for justice.

Sending



- Song: **"We Abide, We Abide in You"** by the Porter's Gate
<https://theportersgate.bandcamp.com/track/we-abide-we-abide-in-you-feat-paul-zach>
- Prayer: May the Lord guide us continually, and satisfy our needs in parched places, so we become like a well-watered garden, like spring of water, whose waters never fail. Amen.

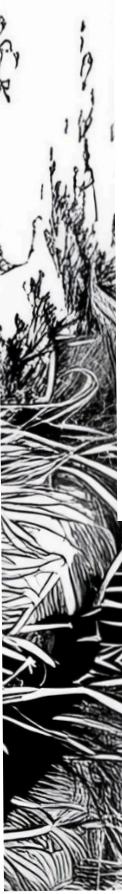
The Vineyard

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, then you will produce much fruit. Without me, you can't do anything. (John 15:5, CEB)



Note places of individual and corporate transformation

Where is growth still needed in this vineyard?



Section 3.0

INTERCULTURAL PRIORITY: LOVING LIKE JESUS

Love each other as I have loved you. (John 13:34)

In this section:

3.1 Loving with the Eyes of Jesus

3.2 Loving with the Heart of Jesus

3.1 LOVING WITH THE EYES OF JESUS

Session Summary

When we have the eyes of Jesus, we view everyone as created with dignity and honor. The image of God that is present in everyone should be honored and protected.

Objectives

- To consider how we are all made in the image of God
- To recognize when we have harmed the image of God in another person
- To understand that being intercultural is part of the heart of Jesus

Materials

- Bible or print out the text—Scriptures used Luke 10: 25-37; Psalm 139: 23-24
- Visio Divina Image (page 28) - displayed on screen or make copies as handout
- Participant's handout (see appendix)

Gather (10-15 minutes)

Share the Purpose of the Session



Over the last three sessions, we have reviewed Mosaic Conference's vision and mission as well as our formational priority of becoming like Jesus. We now shift toward our intercultural priority which has at its starting point learning to love with the eyes of Jesus. To do that we must remember that we are all made in the image of God and recognize when we have harmed the image of God in the other. We hope that by the end of this session, you will see that intercultural is not just the latest buzz word, but part of the heart of Jesus.

Food for Thought



The second priority we are committed to as Mosaic Conference is being intercultural--loving like Jesus. In the biblical story, we see God calling together people from all nations, tribes, and languages to God's throne (Rev 7:9). The church is called to the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:11-21) and in Christ Jesus we are reconciled together (Eph 2:14-21). We recognize that each person is created in the image of God (Gen 1:26-27) and that racial superiority, which leads to racism, is a sin. As followers of Jesus, God calls us to honor the dignity in each person and to show humility when encountering someone different from us. Being intercultural requires us to be open to mutual transformation. No one culture fully reflects the likeness of God. No one culture is dominant or superior over another. To fully display the kingdom of God, we need each other, and we can learn from each other.

As Mosaic Mennonite Conference, we are committed to loving like Jesus.

When Mosaic talks about being intercultural, this is what we mean:

Loving like Jesus so that we might be transformed by relationships with other.

We are committed to recognizing the image of God in others.

Opening Question



(depending on size of group, you may use mutual invitation, circle process, or dyads/triads).

- Which scripture (from Revelation, Ephesians, 2 Corinthians, or Genesis) stands out to you most from this explanation and why?

Opening Prayer



Almighty God, through your Holy Spirit you created unity in the midst of diversity.

We acknowledge that human diversity is an expression of your manifold love for your creation.

We confess that in our brokenness we turn diversity into a source of alienation, injustice, oppression, and wounding.

Empower us to recognize and celebrate differences as your great gift to the human family.

Enable us to be the architects of understanding, of respect and love.

Through the Lord, the source of all unity, we pray.

Encounter (15-25 minutes)

Context of Biblical Story:



The parable of the Good Samaritan isn't just a story to encourage kindness and helping others, but much deeper. The Jewish people and Samaritans shared a cultural history. But the Samaritans were considered to be corrupt Israelites and pagan foreigners by the Jewish people and were looked down upon. The priest and the Levite represented the highest religious leadership among the Jews while the Samaritan, a foreigner, was not expected to show sympathy to the Jewish people. He would have been labeled "inferior" and "enemy." This parable collides with our bias of who is considered righteous, who deserves our mercy, and our bias of self-justification.

As this story is read, **pay attention to how each character is seeing the other.**

Read Together: Luke 10: 25-37, The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Discussion Questions

(depending on time and group size, choose 2-3 questions)



- In what way(s) does this story help you to love with the eyes of Jesus?
- Which character in this scripture passage do you most identify with?
- If you could ask Jesus one clarifying question about this parable, what would it be?
- It's easy to look away from people we deem not worthy of our love, inferior to us, or we view as our enemy. Who in your life are you choosing to look away from? How can the Holy Spirit move in your heart to have the eyes of Jesus?

Spiritual Practice (10-15 minutes)

Read Together

Visio Divina is translated as “divine seeing”. It is related to the prayer form Lectio Divina (divine reading), but instead of Scripture, this form of prayer uses visual elements.



JESUS MAFA. *The Good Samaritan*, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

Print out a version of this picture or display it on a screen for everyone to see. (*Larger version on page 28*)

Begin by prayerfully reading Psalm 139:23-24.

As you look at this image, reflect on the following questions:

1. Which object are my eyes drawn to?
2. What does God want to speak to my heart?
3. What emotions arise in me?
4. What do I need to confess or surrender?

Depending on size of group, share in small groups, use mutual invitation, or circle process. After hearing responses, possibly ask the whole group what they noticed or wondered about. This helps provide a summary of how the Spirit was speaking to the group through this picture.

Sending



O God,
you created all people in your image.
We thank you for the astonishing variety
of races and cultures in this world.
Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of friendship,
and show us your presence
in those who differ most from us,
until our knowledge of your love is made perfect
in our love for all your children;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

- *From the Lutheran Book of Worship: Minister's Desk Edition*



JESUS MAFA. *The Good Samaritan*, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

3.2 LOVING WITH THE HEART OF JESUS

Session Summary

When we have the heart of Jesus, we celebrate cultural differences as a gift, and we seek to have reconciled relationships in Christ Jesus.

Objectives

- To discover how we can have the heart of Jesus
- To be open and humble as we build relationships with others who have a different culture than ourselves
- To learn how to celebrate differences and not view them as a threat

Materials

- Bible or handouts of the scripture text: Acts 10
- Participant's handout (see appendix)

Gather (10-15 minutes)



- Review previous lessons and learnings
- Remind the group the purpose of the Priority Identity Guide
- In this session we will explore a basic starting point understanding for the intercultural priority focused on the theme of: Loving with the Heart of Jesus
- Read the Session Objectives

Food for Thought



Loving with the Heart of Jesus.

After our eyes have been transformed to see others the way Jesus does, our hearts need to be transformed. If our hearts are not open and ready to receive what God has for us, we might miss out on the opportunity to serve God. In the story of Peter and Cornelius (Acts 10), both Peter and Cornelius needed to have open hearts to hear what God was speaking to them. God had prepared both of their hearts in advance and brought them together to be mutually transformed.

As Mosaic Mennonite Conference, we are committed to loving like Jesus.

When Mosaic talks about being Intercultural, this is what we mean.

Loving like Jesus so that we might be transformed by relationships with other.

We are committed to recognizing the image of God in others.

Opening Question



(depending on size of group, you may use mutual invitation, circle process, or dyads/triads).

- Share a story of a transformative relationship you have experienced from a person who was different from you.

Opening Prayer



You, the one
From whom on different paths
All of us have come.

To whom on different paths
All of us are going.

Make strong in our hearts what unites us;
Build bridges across all that divides us;
United make us rejoice in our diversity.
And at one in our witness to your peace,
A rainbow to your glory.

Encounter (20-25 minutes, large group conversation)

Context of Biblical Story:



Peter and Cornelius' cultural backgrounds were deeply intertwined with their roles in the early Christian church. Peter, a Jewish disciple of Jesus, was part of a community that adhered to Jewish customs and laws, which included dietary restrictions. Cornelius, a Roman centurion, was a Gentile who was respected by the Jewish community for his devoutness and generosity. Their interactions and the vision Peter received were significant in breaking down cultural and religious barriers within the early Christian church.

Understanding the background helps you see the weight of Peter's vision. At that time, Jewish customs strictly separated Jews and Gentiles. Dietary laws, like those in Leviticus 11, restricted certain foods, reinforcing cultural and religious boundaries. These rules weren't just about food; they symbolized identity and purity. Gentiles, including Cornelius, were often seen as outsiders, unclean by these laws.

Read Together: Acts 10, Peter and Cornelius

Discussion Questions



- What part of the story stands out to you most?
- Inviting Gentiles to be part of God's people was very new. How do you think the other disciples viewed Peter? How would you have felt if you were Peter and the Holy Spirit was inviting you to do something new?
- Has there ever been a time that you resisted what God was trying to tell you because you thought it was outside of God's boundaries? What happened and what did God teach you through that experience?
- What do you think is the role of the Holy Spirit in helping Mosaic become more intercultural? What excites you about having more intercultural relationships in the conference? What fears do you have?

Spiritual Practices



A larger version of “**How to Create an Intercultural Community**” is located on page 32 of this guide. Show on a screen or make copies as needed to distribute during the session.

- **Radical Hospitality-** Hospitality and food is important in many of our cultures. Hospitality is the ability to make others feel at home, welcome, and not strangers.
- **Look over the chart “How to Build an Intercultural Community” (page 32)-** Pick 2-3 items your family, church, or small group can try for 1 month.
- **Be transformed by relationships-** Connect with a fellow Mosaic congregation that you are unfamiliar with. Explore a relationship (worship together, do a service together, eat a meal together). How can you celebrate differences? How could this relationship transform your thinking or view of faith?
- **Celebrate Differences-** Explore your own cultural iceberg or the cultural iceberg of your church.
 - **(Video - 15 minutes)** Iceberg Analogy of Culture - Rev. Dr. Eric H. F. Law - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLdsyanUxUw>
 - **(Video - 2 minutes)** What is Cultural Iceberg? - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=woP0v-2nJCU>

Sending



May the God who created a world of diversity and vibrancy,
Go with us as we embrace life in all its fullness.

May the Son who teaches us to care for strangers and foreigners,
Go with us as we try to be good neighbors in our communities.

May the Spirit who breaks down our barriers and celebrates community,
Go with us as we find the courage to create a place of welcome for all.



HOW TO CREATE AN INTERCULTURAL COMMUNITY

ART, MUSIC & CULTURE

- Imagine other cultures through their art, poetry, film, and novels
- Listen to new music — dance to it!
- Notice the workings of power and privilege in your own culture
- Learn a second (or even a third) language
- Visit people, places, and cultures — not just tourist attractions
- Respect Indigenous cultures

ECONOMY

- Question consumerism and materialism that drive wealth disparity
- Eat local food, mostly organic
- Look for fair trade and union labels
- Understand that “free” trade is not the same as fair trade
- Recognize imperialism and militarism
- Support cooperatives
- Move your money to a credit union
- Know physical and political geography

RELATIONSHIPS

- Learn people’s history
- Judge governance by how well it meets everyone’s needs
- Question nationalism
- Think South, Central, and North — there are many Americas
- Recognize our shared humanity
- Know that no one is truly silent, though many are not heard
- Work to change this

Section 4.0

MISSIONAL PRIORITY: LIVING LIKE JESUS

As the Father has sent me, I am sending you. (John 20:21)

In this section:

4.1 Living Like Jesus: Sent to Connect

4.2 Living Like Jesus: Sent to Share

4.1- LIVING LIKE JESUS: SENT TO CONNECT

Session Summary

As followers of Jesus, empowered by the Spirit, God calls us to live out the good news in everyday life and to connect with others through our relationships, neighborhoods, and workplaces.

Objectives

- Understand the missional priority of being sent to connect.
- Live out the good news of Jesus in everyday life.
- See how Shared Spaces reveal where we are already walking with Jesus in relationships, neighborhoods, and workplaces.

Materials

- Bible or printed copy of Acts 2:42–47
- Participant's handout (see appendix) and **Shared Spaces** (page 38)
- *Optional*: Whiteboard, newsprint, and markers

Gather (10-15 minutes)

Opening Question(s) Ideas

(depending on size of group, you may use mutual invitation, circle process, or dyads/triads).

Choose from one of the following or design your own question:



Even though we're more connected than ever through phones and screens, we may often feel distracted and not fully present with others.

1. When was the last time you gave your full attention to someone or something for more than 10 minutes? How did it feel?
2. What things pull you away or distract you from being present with people? What helps you focus and slow down?
3. What could you change in your daily routine to be more present with others?

Share the Purpose of the Session



Mosaic Conference is all of us together, and as such, we live out this missional priority: As God's people, we are sent to heal what has been broken in our relationships, neighborhoods, and the world by sharing and living out the Good News of Jesus.

Missional doesn't only mean going far away—it also means being present in our homes, neighborhoods, and workplaces, alert to God's Spirit.

As Mosaic Mennonite Conference, we are committed to living like Jesus.

When Mosaic talks about missional, this is what we mean:

**We are committed to participating in the healing of our world
by sharing and living out the Good News of Jesus.**

Encounter (15-25 minutes)

Context of Biblical Story:



Let's look now at the early church in Acts 2:42–47. Here we see a group of believers living in the power of the Holy Spirit. They gathered to worship, spend time together, and share generously. Their life together showed the same rhythms they saw in Jesus' ministry. In the Gospels, Jesus moved in and out of different spaces, each helping people grow in love and mission:

- In big, public spaces (like crowds or synagogues), he shared the good news and invited many to follow him (Luke 4:16-21; Matthew 5:1-2).
- At shared tables and in one-on-one moments, he asked deep questions and helped people open their hearts (Luke 19:1-10; John 4:5-30).
- In small groups, he taught his disciples and shared life with them (Mark 3:13-14; Mark 6:30-32).
- In small, close circles, he shared his heart and helped others prepare to share the same love (John 13:1-17; Matthew 26:36-38).

This movement from public to personal, from inviting to transforming, continued in the early church and invites us to embody the reconciling love of Jesus in our broken and beautiful world.

Read Together: Acts 2:42–47

As we read Acts 2:42–47, listen for how different spaces helped the early church become a group committed to healing, hope, and bringing people together. Where might God be inviting us to create spaces like these in our life and ministry? Circle or underline words or phrases that stand out to you as you hear the story. (If time allows, you may want to read the passage in different versions.)

Discussion Questions

(optional: use a newsprint or whiteboard)







- Which part of this passage speaks to you today?
- Where do you see your community already living this out?
- Where might God be inviting you to lean in more deeply?

Spiritual Practice

Connecting in Shared Spaces

The church in Acts 2 lived in a rhythm (practice) that moved between big public gatherings and close-knit community. They didn't just meet in one way—they shared joyful meals, learned together, prayed, and cared for each other. **Shared Spaces** (see page 36) helps us explore these simple, powerful ways of being the church today.

This guide is designed to help you understand the columns and rows so you can reflect on your ministry and explore new possibilities for growth and connection.

Shared Space	What Is It	Examples Today	Posture or Practice
 The Holy Table (Epiphany) Public & Joyful "They shared food with gladness and simplicity." (Acts 2:46)	A fun and open space where people can meet, connect, and feed welcome.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cookouts hosted by church groups • House nights or open house parties • Cleaning parks and sharing meals afterward • Seasonal celebrations like fall harvest or winter • Baby showers or birthdays for new neighbors or single parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitality Table: Put up and practice warm introductions, asking simple, curious questions. Reflect: "How did this table welcome?" • Feasting Practice: Practice sharing the joy for those.
 The Table (Epiphany) Private Conversation "They shared meals and prayed together." (Acts 2:42)	A space for asking questions about God and talking about faith and next steps.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible study groups in homes or calls • Dinner Church with meals and discussion • Faith conversations in a casual setting • Language exchanges with faith stories • Men's or women's branch groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secret Questioning: In trials, share one honest faith question. Others respond with gentle questions. • Secret Questioning: In trials, share one honest faith question. Others respond with gentle questions.
 The Small Group (Conversion) Discipleship & Formation "They learned from the apostles and spent time together." (Acts 2:42)	A group where people grow in faith, learn together, and help each other.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small groups that meet every week • Mission groups helping others (see chapter 1) • Prayer and Bible groups with spiritual practices • Online groups for people in different places • Young adult groups focused on faith and life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment Check-In: Each person shares one intention for their spiritual walk this week. Others respond with encouragement or prayer. • Open Chat Prayer: Have an empty chat box where you can message others at any time. Pray together for God to show them.
 The Intimate Circle (Conversion) Vulnerability & Trusting "All the believers were together and shared everything." (Acts 2:44)	A safe and deep space to share life, struggles, and support each other.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentorship or spiritual direction groups • One-on-one discipleship for new converts • Prayer groups for healing and support • Prayer groups for healing and encouragement • Groups: groups to grow in faith and nurture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secret Silence: Begin with 2 minutes of silence. Then share one struggle or gratitude. Others respond only with a short listening prayer. • Compassionate Listening: In pairs, one person shares a struggle while the other listens with full attention, offering no advice or fixing, then shares their heart and offers a short prayer of healing. Switch roles. Then pray, thanking God for the gift of listening ears and open hearts.

The explanation for **Shared Spaces** is located on page 38 of this guide.

- **Shared Space:** What kinds of spaces do we use in our ministry or community? This column shows the different ways people can connect and grow together.
- **What Is It:** What is the purpose of each space? This part explains why each space matters and the way it helps people grow in faith and relationships.
- **Examples Today:** How do we see these spaces in the church today? Here are simple examples of how churches live this out in real life.
- **Posture or Practice:** How am I showing up with care and attention in this space? Think about questions, attitudes, or behaviors that can help you be present, attentive, and compassionate, creating space for honest and meaningful connections.

Small Group Conversation

Get into small groups and talk about these questions.
(If there's time later, you can share with the big group too.)

- Come up with a ministry or real life examples for each Shared Space.
- Which Shared Space feels most meaningful to you?
- Where have you seen God moving in these spaces?
- Commit to one Shared Space to be intentional in this week.





Sending Prayer



God who sends and walks alongside us, thank you for the peace you breathe into our lives, even when the way is uncertain. Thank you for inviting us to notice your presence in everyday places. Give us eyes to see where you are already moving, hearts ready to listen deeply, words shaped by hope, and hands open to join in your healing work. Make us faithful in small things. And may our lives reflect the gentleness and respect that Christ shows to all. In the name of Jesus, the One who was sent and still sends us. Amen.

Shared Spaces



Shared Space	What Is It	Examples Today	Posture or Practice
 <p>The Party (Invitation) <i>Public & Joyful</i></p> <p><i>“They shared food with gladness and simplicity.”</i> (Acts 2:46b)</p>	<p><i>A fun and open space where people can meet, connect, and feel welcome.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cookouts hosted by church groups • Movie nights or sports watch parties • Cleaning parks and sharing meals afterward • Seasonal celebrations (like fall festivals or caroling) • Baby showers or birthdays for new neighbors or single parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitality Walk: Pair up and practice warm introductions, asking simple, curious questions. Reflect: “How did it feel to be welcomed?” • Blessing Practice: Pray silently for one person you just met, asking God’s joy for them.
 <p>The Table (Exploration) <i>Honest Conversation</i></p> <p><i>“They shared meals and prayed together.”</i> (Acts 2:42b)</p>	<p><i>A space for asking questions about God and talking about faith in a real way.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible study groups in homes or cafés • Dinner Church with a meal and discussion • Faith conversations in a casual setting • Language exchanges with faith stories • Men’s or women’s brunch groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sacred Questioning: In triads, share one honest life/faith question. Others respond only with gentle questions, not answers. Close with prayer of thanks. • Noticing Practice: Read Acts 2:42–47 and share one “pattern” you notice about God’s work in community.
 <p>The Small Group (Commitment) <i>Discipleship & Formation</i></p> <p><i>“They learned from the apostles and spent time together.”</i> (Acts 2:42a)</p>	<p><i>A group where people grow in faith, learn together, and help each other.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small groups that meet every week • Mission groups helping others (like refugees) • Prayer and Bible groups with spiritual practices • Online groups for people in different places • Young adult groups focused on faith and life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covenant Check-In: Each person shares one intention for their spiritual walk this week. Others respond with encouragement or prayer. • Open Chair Prayer: Place an empty chair in the circle to represent those not yet present. Pray together for God to draw them in.
 <p>The Intimate Circle (Transparency) <i>Vulnerable & Trusting</i></p> <p><i>“All the believers were together and shared everything.”</i> (Acts 2:44)</p>	<p><i>A safe and deep space to share life, struggles, and support each other.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentorship or spiritual direction groups • Deep friendship circles that last many years • Prayer groups for healing and support • Pastor groups for sharing and encouragement • Couples’ groups to grow in faith and marriage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sacred Silence: Begin with 2 minutes of silence, then share one struggle or gratitude. Others respond only with a short blessing prayer. • Compassionate Listening: In pairs, one person shares a burden while the other listens with full attention, offering no advice or fixing. Afterward, the listener repeats back one phrase they heard and offers a short prayer of blessing. Switch roles, then close by thanking God for the gift of listening ears and open hearts.

4.2- LIVING LIKE JESUS: SENT TO SHARE

Session Summary

As beloved members of God's family, we are invited to live missionally in daily life, with Jesus and the Spirit transforming ordinary encounters into God's presence and guiding us to notice where God is at work.

Objectives

- Explore the missional priority in everyday life.
- Understand how everyday connections can become transformative encounters with God and others.
- Learn how the Missional Lane Practice helps us notice where God may be at work.

Materials

- Participant's handout (see appendix) and the Missional Lane (page 42)
- Sticky notes (enough for each participant)
- Pens or pencils for each participant

Gather (10-15 minutes)

Opening Question(s) Ideas

(depending on size of group, you may use mutual invitation, circle process, or dyads/triads).

Choose from one of the following or design your own question:



Sometimes in everyday talk, people share something real. Think about how you notice those moments and how you show care, ask kind questions, or offer something helpful.

1. Recall a time when someone shared something personal with you? What made them feel safe to do that?
2. When you talk about something important in your life or faith, what helps it feel natural?
3. What do you listen for that tells you someone might want to talk about something deeper?

Share the Purpose of the Session



As Mosaic Mennonite Conference, we are committed to living like Jesus. When Mosaic talks about missional, this is what we mean: **We are committed to participating in the healing of our world by sharing and living out the Good News of Jesus.**

- Mosaic Conference is all of us together, and as such, we live out this missional priority: *As God's people, we are sent to heal what has been broken in our relationships, neighborhoods, and the world by sharing and living out the Good News of Jesus.*
- Being missional is not only about going far away—it also means being fully present in our homes, neighborhoods, and workplaces, attentive to the Spirit of God.

Encounter (15-25 minutes)

Context of Biblical Story (Acts 8:26–40):



Acts is full of stories of people on the move, like Philip’s encounter with an Ethiopian eunuch—stories of faith carried into new places. Today, we’ll reflect on how God moves with people who are on the move—those who are living like Jesus and sent to share God’s good news.

Throughout Scripture and history, movement has been one of the ways God’s good news has traveled—through migrants, refugees, workers, students, and families. Wherever they go, people carry stories of faith, struggle, and hope.

From Genesis to Acts and beyond, God’s people have often lived as a diaspora people—scattered or sent, sometimes by calling, sometimes by choice, and often by forces beyond their control. The pain of displacement, especially when caused by violence, enslavement, or colonization, is real and should never be minimized. And yet, in the midst of such struggle, many have found ways to live faithfully in unfamiliar places, discerning how God’s Spirit is present even in places of exile.

At the same time, we must name the harm done when “being sent” has meant arriving with power rather than presence. As Randy Woodley, a Cherokee theologian and author, reminds us, mission must be disentangled from colonialism. And as Mekdes Haddis, an Ethiopian missiologist and author, writes, we are not called to fix or dominate but to be guests, learning, listening, and opening ourselves to mutual transformation.

Jesus shows us this kind of sentness. He came in humility, honored the dignity of others, and entered communities not to conquer but to dwell, to learn, and to love. He said, “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” (John 20:21)

So today, may we carry that kind of sentness—humble, rooted, and relational—as we listen, learn, and move through this session together.

Discussion Questions

Start with one or two of the questions below. Let the conversation flow and follow where the Spirit leads.



- What word or phrase stood out to you in this story?
- What do you notice about how God is at work here?
- How does Philip approach the Ethiopian eunuch, and what stands out about that?
- What does this story show us about listening well, being curious, and honoring someone else’s experience?
- How does this connect with your own faith journey or conversations you’ve had with others?
- Where have you heard the Spirit’s voice through someone else? How might we become more open to those moments?

Spiritual Practice

The Missional Lanes

The Lane	Scripture Connection	Examples	Practices / Practices
The Greeting Lane Focus: everyday encounters to connect and share kindness	• 1:27-28 Philip is present and available on the road. The Spirit prompts him to follow Jesus to connect and share kindness.	• Greet the cashier at the corner store. • Ask a coworker how their family is doing. • Ask the waitress what she's up to. • Chat with other parents at school pick-up.	1. In advance, ask God to bring forward one of your regular public spaces. 2. Turn to someone nearby, smile, and practice a simple greeting with a simple question: "How's your week been?" 3. End by sharing these words: "God bless you."
The Listening Lane Focus: conversations about life, struggles, and what matters most	• 1:30-31 Philip asks a meaningful question and listens. The official matter changes from a simple greeting to a deeper conversation.	• Talk at the lunchroom about daily routines. • Talk over coffee about life's challenges. • Ask a coworker what brought them to work today. • Share stories at a book party.	1. Identify your "first" space to be a good listener. 2. With a partner, practice asking one open question: "What's been on your mind this week?" 3. Listen deeply. Then share what you heard and experienced. 4. Pray silently for one person in your life.
The Story Lane Focus: conversations about faith, prayer, or Jesus	• 1:32-33 Philip explains Scripture and shares the significance of Jesus clearly and personally.	• Read a chapter of Scripture or practice. • Connect Scripture today to shared hopes. • Share a memory of a moment. • Invite someone to a community night.	1. Read Acts 1:32-33 aloud and pray. 2. In pairs, share a memory story of when you felt God's love or presence. 3. Each person shares a personal story with a word of hope, faith, or prayer. 4. Pray a short blessing for one another.
The Gift Lane Focus: conversations about how we can help one another	• 1:34-35 The Ethiopian official responds back and is baptized. The Spirit continues leading Philip.	• Volunteer with someone at a shelter. • Invite others into service or small group. • Check in and pray with someone struggling. • Meet weekly for mutual encouragement.	1. In small groups, each person shares one gift they see in someone else. 2. With permission, place a hand on their shoulder and pray a short blessing over that gift. 3. As a group, "Thank you" right before heading to the next lane. 4. Close with a simple blessing: "May the Spirit guide and send you."

The full version for **Missional Lanes** is located on page 42 of this guide.

Imagine a road with four “lanes,” each representing a different level of relational and spiritual depth. The invitation is to move naturally and prayerfully across the lanes, not to rush or force, but to walk in step with the Spirit.

The Missional Lanes is a simple, relational practice that helps us notice how everyday connections can grow into transformative encounters with God and others. It's not a rigid method, but a Spirit-led journey shaped by prayer, presence, and trust. We are invited to be present, listen well, and respond to the Spirit's leading. The goal isn't to move fast—but to move faithfully, recognizing that God is already at work in every relationship.

Small Group Conversation

Get into small groups and talk about these questions.
(If there's time later, you can share with the big group too.)

- How can I show kindness and presence in one of my regular public spaces this week?
- What space in my week might allow for an honest, open conversation?
- How might I share a moment from my faith that connects with someone's story?
- Who can I walk with in a way that encourages both of us and helps us take our next steps in what God is doing in our lives?

Group Sharing Time

Come back together for a short group conversation.

- What stood out to you from today's session?
- Where might God be inviting you to join in his work around you?
- **Finish this sentence:** "One thing I will do this week is..."

Sending Prayer



God of the journey, You moved through Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch one available, one open. Do the same with us. Help us be present, faithful, and open. Let our words be kind, our actions show your love, and our lives naturally point to Jesus. Send us with peace and readiness to join in what you are already doing. In Jesus' name, Amen.

The Missional Lanes



The Lanes	Scripture Connection	Examples	Posture / Practice
The Greeting Lane Warm, everyday moments to connect and show kindness	v. 27–29 Philip is present and available on the road; the Spirit prompts him to draw near to someone unfamiliar.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greet the cashier at the corner store. • Ask a coworker how their family is doing. • Say hi to someone sitting alone at church. • Chat with other parents at school pick-up. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In silence, ask God to bring to mind one of your regular public spaces. 2. Turn to someone nearby, smile, and practice a warm greeting with a simple question (“How’s your week been?”). 3. End by blessing those spaces/people in prayer.
The Listening Lane Honest conversations about life, struggles, and what matters most	v. 30–31 Philip asks a meaningful question and listens; the official invites dialogue about a deep spiritual question.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk at the laundromat about daily routines. • Chat over coffee about work/family balance. • Ask a church visitor what brought them. • Share stories at a block party. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quietly pray for God’s help to be a good listener. 2. With a partner, practice asking one open question (like “What’s been on your heart this week?”). 3. Listen deeply, then share what you heard and appreciated. 4. Pray silently for one person in your life.
The Story Lane Real conversations about faith, prayer, or Jesus	v. 32–35 Philip explains Scripture and shares the good news of Jesus clearly and personally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mention a helpful spiritual practice. • Connect someone’s story to deeper hope. • Share a weekly moment of reflection. • Invite someone to a community night. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Acts 8:32–35 aloud and pause. 2. In pairs, share a 2-minute story of when you felt God’s help or presence. 3. Practice connecting your partner’s story with a word of hope, Scripture, or prayer. 4. Pray a short blessing for one another.
The Gift Lane Encouraging one another to live and share God’s love	v. 36–40 The Ethiopian official responds in faith and is baptized; the Spirit continues sending Philip elsewhere.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer with someone at a shelter. • Invite others into service or small group. • Check in and pray with someone struggling. • Meet weekly for mutual encouragement. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In small groups, each person names one gift they see in someone else. 2. With permission, place a hand on their shoulder and pray a short blessing over that gift. 3. Ask together: “What step might God be inviting us to take this week?” 4. Close with a sending blessing: “May the Spirit guide and send you.”

APPENDIX

Participant's Handouts
Additional Resources and Commentary
*Sermon Starters & Builders**

*Sermon Starters and Builders were developed by **Josh Meyer**, Leadership Minister intended as inspiration and resources for pastors and ministry leaders.



1.1- MOSAIC VISION AND MISSION



Gathering



Opening Question

As you think about your life (this could be family, work, school, neighborhood, church, or the broader world), where do you see brokenness? Where do you see beauty? Are there any situations where you see both at the same time?



Food for Thought

When Mosaic Conference was formed in 2020, our board felt God's Spirit drawing us to the following vision and mission statements. As we read these statements together, pay attention to or underline any words or images that you particularly like, notice, or are uncertain about.

Vision: Embody the reconciling love of Jesus in our broken and beautiful world.

Mission: Mosaic is a community celebrating and extending God's grace, justice, and peace. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we shape our relationships and work around missional, intercultural and formational priorities.

Encounter



As the biblical story is read, listen for moments of brokenness and beauty. Consider who embodies reconciling love in this story and who doesn't.

Read together: Mark 2:1-12



Discussion Questions

1. Besides Jesus, who do you see embodying reconciling love in this story? Who doesn't embody love? How does Jesus' response change when he interacts with each of these groups?
2. As you think about the words we highlighted in our vision and mission statements, what did you notice in this story? What does this story tell us about our purpose as a community of people following Jesus together?
3. Can you think of a time when our church was given an opportunity to extend God's grace, justice, or peace? As you think about our response to that situation, which character in this story were we most like? Share your story.
4. At the end of this story, the crowd responded to what they had seen with amazement. When have you been amazed by something you saw God's Spirit do in our church community or neighborhood?

Spiritual Practice

As a conference, our vision and mission statements invite us to both notice and participate in God's healing work in our world. We acknowledge that God is already present in the world around us, actively working toward healing what is broken and drawing all people to God's self. We see beauty in the world God made and celebrate when we see God's Spirit pop up in unexpected places. Like Jesus in today's story, we are invited to notice and celebrate when we see people who are doing things that reflect God's love!

At the same time, as we seek to pay attention to what God is doing all around us, we accept God's invitation to be a part of it: whether that's working for justice, making peace, or extending God's grace as we help provide the food, shelter, and safety that our neighbors need. Like the friends who wouldn't let anything stand in their way, we are invited to join in God's healing work. As we do these things, we celebrate God's love, expressed to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

This week consider walking in your neighborhood at least once or twice, either by yourself or with a friend. If you can, take your time and leave your earbuds at home. As you walk, pay attention to what and who you see. Where is there beauty? Where is there brokenness? Where do you see people already extending God's grace, justice, or peace? What invitation do you sense from God's Spirit to change how you see or interact with the people around you?

Sending Prayer



*God of the broken and beautiful,
we are grateful for the ways that you are already present in our lives,
our church, and our neighborhoods.
Give us eyes to see you this week as we go about the rhythms of life.
Give us courage to act with grace, justice, and peace.
Continue to make us like you,
so that we embody your reconciling love to everyone we meet.
In the name of Jesus, amen.*



PRAYER WALK

Walk in your neighborhood, paying attention to what and whom you see. Keeping the Vision and Mission in mind, where do you notice beauty and where do you notice brokenness? How are you invited to pray? What is the invitation from the Spirit?



MOSAIC
mennonite
conference

Vision: Embody the reconciling love of Jesus in our broken and beautiful world.
Mission: Mosaic is a community celebrating and extending God's grace, justice, and peace. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we shape our relationships and work around missional, intercultural and formational priorities.

1.1 Additional Activities

- Print each word of the conference vision and mission statements on a small card or popsicle stick. Have participants position themselves in the correct word order and then each say their own word. For children or youth, consider making the game more challenging by taping the word to each person's back or forehead and enforcing a "no talking" rule OR having them memorize their word and then take the cards back before they put themselves in order.
- Go on a walk together in the neighborhood around where your congregation meets. Use the questions in the "spiritual practice" section to guide your walk and reflection afterward.
- Corporate Prayer practice: Place blocks of some kind in heap (like broken rubble) in the center of the table. Invite people to pick up a block(s) and prayerfully name aloud something broken in the world/community/church/self. Once most of the blocks are taken, invite people to place blocks back and pray aloud naming and imagining God's dream for that which has been broken. As people place blocks on the table, they should be building something new. [may want to use Is. 58: 9-12 in between the two prayer times).

1:1 Additional Resources

- Learning Mosaic Podcast, episode 1: **"A Conversation about Mosaic's Vision & Mission"**
 - <https://open.spotify.com/episode/1JiKoh2xLyzuGRwjoczbQp?si=d175a95afaea4216>

1.1 Additional Commentary

The book of Mark is shaped by a sense of urgency. The author often uses words like "suddenly" and "right away" to keep things moving and indicate the immediacy of Jesus' ministry. We also see this urgency reflected in the frantic crowds who follow Jesus around, desperate for healing. Jesus' teaching and healing ministry was not just a nice diversion for the crowds following him—it was a matter of life or death.

As you reflect on Mark 2:1-12, consider where you sense urgency in the world: what is happening in your congregation, neighborhood, or across the globe that feels important and needs immediate attention? When you think about those needs, what emotions do you feel? Do you feel worried, guilty, afraid, angry, or hopeless? Do you want to respond to these situations? Which emotion is motivating your desire to help?

In Mark 2:1-12, Jesus describes the help of the paralyzed man's friends as an act of faith. What if we were motivated to participate in God's healing work because of faith, hope, and love (1 Corinthians 13:13) instead of guilt, anger, or fear? How might that change in attitude change the way we shape our relationships, programs, or interventions?

The God we see expressed in Jesus is a God filled with urgent love. As we think about embodying the reconciling love of Jesus in our broken and beautiful world, how can we reflect the urgency of God's love to everyone we encounter?

1.1 Sermon Starters

Mosaic Vision and Mission – Embodying the Reconciling Love of Jesus (Mark 2:1–12)

Overall Theme: God’s urgent love heals what is broken and reveals beauty.

Preaching Angle: The friends of the paralyzed man embody our vision: they refused to let obstacles keep them from bringing someone to Jesus.

Prompts:

- Where do we see both brokenness and beauty in our community?
- How does urgency in love reshape our priorities as a congregation?
- What might it mean for us to “tear the roof open” so that others can experience God’s grace, justice, and peace?

1.1 Sermon Builders

Sermon Outline: “Tearing the Roof Off”

Text: Mark 2:1–12

Theme: God’s urgent love heals what is broken and reveals beauty.

Conference Tie-In: Our vision is to *embody the reconciling love of Jesus in our broken and beautiful world.*

Introduction

- Share a quick story of people going to great lengths to help someone in need (ex: firefighters carrying someone to safety, or friends rallying to support a family in crisis).
 - **Transition:** The friends in Mark 2 embody that same urgent love—tearing through obstacles to bring their friend to Jesus.
 - **Key Question:** *What would it look like for our church to love with that same urgency?*
-

Idea 1: A World of Brokenness and Beauty

- The paralyzed man’s story is set in a house packed with people—signs of both hunger for Jesus and barriers to access.
- Our communities hold both beauty (signs of God’s Spirit at work) and brokenness (places of pain, injustice, and exclusion).
- Mosaic’s mission names this tension: we are called to embody Jesus’ reconciling love in the midst of both.

Application: Where do we see both brokenness and beauty in our neighborhood?

Idea 2: Faith Finds a Way

- The friends refuse to let the crowd stop them—they literally rip the roof open.
- Jesus calls this determination “faith” (v. 5).
- True faith is not just believing something in our minds; it’s taking action for the sake of others.
- Our Conference vision is not just words on paper; it calls us to urgent, barrier-breaking action.

Application: What roofs might we need to tear off to bring others closer to Jesus? (social barriers, fear, comfort zones, cultural divisions).

Idea 3: Healing Beyond Expectations

- The man receives not only physical healing but forgiveness—a sign that Jesus’ reconciling love addresses both **spiritual** and **physical** brokenness.
- The crowd is amazed: “We have never seen anything like this!” (v. 12).
- This is the amazement we long for in our congregations and communities: visible signs of God’s Spirit at work.

Application: How might our church embody grace, justice, and peace so fully that our neighbors say, “We’ve never seen anything like this”?

Conclusion

- Reiterate Mosaic’s vision: “*Embody the reconciling love of Jesus in our broken and beautiful world.*”
 - Invite the congregation to imagine:
 - Where is Jesus calling us to notice beauty and brokenness?
 - What roofs are we being asked to tear away?
 - How might we join God’s healing work so that amazement rises in our community?
-

Closing Image or Story

- Could return to opening illustration: just as rescuers or helpers act with urgency, so we are called to urgent, reconciling love.
 - Or: picture a neighborhood where barriers come down and Jesus’ presence is unmistakable.
-

Sending Prayer

*God of the broken and beautiful,
give us eyes to see as you see,
faith that refuses to give up,
and courage to act with love.*

*Make us a people who embody your reconciling presence
so that the world may be amazed at what you are doing.*

In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Gathering



Opening Question

Share a Bible story, verse, or song from early in your faith journey that shaped your understanding of who Jesus is.



Food for Thought

Early Anabaptist Hans Denck (ca. 1500-1527) is noted for saying, “No one can truly know Christ except he follow Him in life and not one can follow Christ in daily life unless they truly know him.” which reflects the teaching in 1 John 2: 3-6: we know him when we obey his commandments— whoever says I abide in him ought to walk as he walked.

The formation priority of Mosaic Conference emphasizes our call to both know and follow God in our lives. Formation is a lifelong commitment to learning and living the Way of Jesus. We learn to know Christ through scripture, in worship, through discipleship/obedience, in community, and with the help of the Spirit. Formation is both individual and corporate as we participate fully within the body of Christ.

As Mosaic Mennonite Conference, we are committed to becoming like Jesus.

When Mosaic talks about formation, this is what we mean:

We are committed to Jesus as Lord.

We invite our faith community to follow Jesus with our lives

so that we are transformed into the image of Jesus, even when it's costly.

Encounter



As we read the scripture together listen for what the people believed about God's Messiah and mission in the world vs. how Jesus described the mission God gave him.

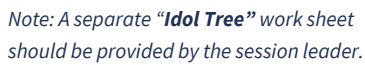
Read together: Luke 4:16-30



Discussion Questions

1. What do you notice about Jesus in this account? What does Luke, the gospel writer, want us to understand about Jesus?
2. The people in Jesus' hometown thought they knew Jesus. What made them so angry? Why did the congregation turn on Jesus?
3. What happens when Jesus reveals the truth about the character of God and God's mission, and it conflicts with previous understanding or our own desires? Has this ever happened to you? Explain.
4. As we think about formation, getting to know Jesus is not just an intellectual exercise or list of beliefs about Jesus. It is a life-altering relationship with Christ, the Living God. How has knowing Jesus Christ changed your life?

Idol Tree



A relationship with the Risen Christ impacts everything. It changes how we think, speak, spend money, share resources, treat one another, respond to criticism, etc. In Philippians 2, Paul describes how the people of God will think and act because they know Jesus and have the mind of Christ. The Christ hymn (v.6-11) reveals that though Jesus was God, he humbled himself and took on human flesh and was obedient to the point of death. Therefore, God honored him and gave him the name above all names, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, and every tongue confess, Jesus Christ is Lord.

When Jesus is Lord, when all is surrendered to him, what will change?
What fruit will you bear?

2.1 Additional Commentary

The passage that Jesus read from Isaiah was much loved. Aside from the part Jesus quoted (freeing captives, sight to the blind), it speaks of how God’s servant (Messiah) will help to restore their people who had once been exiled and how the day of the LORD will come, and how God will punish those who have oppressed them. It speaks of a rebuilt city with images of tall trees and a flourishing garden. So, when Jesus chose that text to read, their first thoughts would have been hopeful and encouraging. Yes! God will send a Messiah to save us.

The people who lived at this time had strong feelings about their poverty and the oppressive Roman government and military occupation. The people of Nazareth had feelings about Gentiles from places like Damascus and Zarephath settling in Galilee. So, the short sermon (or Midrash) Jesus preached after the reading made them angry. His examples of foreigners that God chose to bless (the widow of Zarephath and Naaman, a Syrian commander) instead of Israelites triggered quite a response in them. They did not like Jesus’ implication of the words from the prophet Isaiah. It’s one thing to preach good news to Jewish YHWH followers. It’s another to imagine that God’s good news is for our enemies as well. Jesus’ words often reveal idols or other things that are on their throne of our hearts. What are some of the things that prevent us from staying open to God’s big plan or block us from joyfully joining God’s mission in the world?

2.1 Sermon Starters

Knowing Christ – Jesus as Lord of Life (Luke 4:16–30; Philippians 2)

Overall Theme: Truly knowing Christ means following him, not just believing about him.

Preaching Angle: Jesus’ hometown rejected his expansive vision of God’s kingdom. Knowing him requires surrender of idols and openness to God’s mission.

Prompts:

- How do we sometimes resist Jesus’ mission because it threatens our comfort or assumptions?
- What idols (individual or communal) keep us from proclaiming Jesus as Lord?
- How does humility, as described in Philippians 2, shape our daily discipleship?

2.1 Sermon Builders

Sermon Outline: *“Do We Really Know Him?”*

Text: Luke 4:16–30; Philippians 2:5–11

Theme: Knowing Christ means surrendering our idols and following him, even when it is costly.

Conference Tie-In: Formational Priority – *Becoming like Jesus by knowing him as Lord.*

Introduction

- Share an illustration about thinking you “know” someone but later discovering a side of them that surprised you (ex: a childhood friend, a coworker, or a public figure).
- **Transition:** The people in Jesus’ hometown thought they knew him—Joseph’s son, the carpenter. But when he revealed his true mission, they resisted.
- **Key question for the congregation:** *Do we truly know Jesus—or just the version of him we’re comfortable with?*

Idea 1: The Familiar Jesus (Luke 4:16–22)

- Jesus reads from Isaiah: a beloved passage about freedom, healing, and God’s favor.
- At first, the crowd responds warmly—“Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” They think they know him.

Application: Many of us grow up with a “familiar Jesus”—a safe figure who fits our assumptions. Do we stop there, or are we open to the fullness of who he really is?

Idea 2: The Confronting Jesus (Luke 4:23–30)

- Jesus reminds them of stories where God’s blessing went to outsiders (the widow of Zarephath, Naaman the Syrian).
- The crowd erupts in anger because Jesus revealed a bigger, boundary-breaking mission.

Application: Jesus still confronts us today. He exposes idols, prejudices, and comforts that keep us from following him fully. How do we respond when Jesus challenges us?

Idea 3: The Lordship of Jesus (Philippians 2:5–11)

- Paul’s hymn shows the true nature of Christ: humility, obedience, and exaltation.
- To know Jesus is to adopt his mindset: laying aside pride, embracing humility, and living in costly obedience.

Application: Knowing Christ is not just intellectual agreement, it’s daily surrender and transformation. Our words, finances, relationships, and communities come under Christ’s Lordship.

Conclusion

- The crowd in Nazareth thought they knew Jesus, but they resisted his true identity and mission.
- We face the same choice: Will we cling to our idols and assumptions, or will we bow the knee and confess, “*Jesus Christ is Lord*”?

Invitation: Reflect on the “Idol Tree” of your own life. What needs to be dethroned so that Jesus truly reigns?

Closing Story or Image

- Tell a short story of someone who surrendered an idol (success, money, comfort) to follow Christ more fully, and how it changed their life.
 - Or use the image of Jesus knocking at the door (Rev 3:20), not content to be a guest but asking to be Lord of the house.
-

Sending Prayer

Jesus, you are Lord.

Forgive us for clinging to idols and false images of you.

Open our eyes to your true mission.

Give us humility to follow you,

courage to surrender daily,

and faith to confess with our lips and lives:

Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Gathering



Opening Questions

1. What is needed to help plants or crops grow? How does that compare to what is needed in your life to help you continue to grow in your faith and relationship with Christ?
2. Share a time in your life where you experienced significant growth or observed it in others. Consider what factors led to growth?



Food for Thought

Anabaptist historian Harold Bender wrote that “The [early] Anabaptists could not understand a Christianity that made regeneration, holiness, and love primarily a matter of intellect, of doctrinal belief, or of subjective ‘experience,’ rather than one of the transformation of life. They demanded an outward expression of the inner experience.” In agreement with Paul’s writings, maturity and transformation would be a necessary outcome of new birth in Christ.

The formation priority of Mosaic Conference emphasizes our call to both **know and follow** God in our daily lives. ***As we grow toward maturity in Christ—through deepening scripture, the power of the Spirit, and accountability within the body of Christ—our faith will be expressed in mission, service, peacemaking, and an ever-increasing love for God and neighbor.***

Encounter



As the biblical story is read, **pay attention to the theme of hospitality and where the invitation to growth and maturity is made.**

Read together: Luke 10:38-42



Discussion Questions

1. Notice all the ways hospitality shows up in this story. Who is offering it? Who is receiving it? In what spirit is it being offered?
2. Take some time to imagine yourself as each of the characters who would have been present in the story: Jesus, Mary, Martha, other disciples, Lazarus. What do you notice? What questions do you have?
3. Being and doing are both important parts of our growth. If Jesus were to sit with you today, which would be your growing edge?
4. What is the ‘one thing’ that Jesus speaks of in verse 42? How does that one thing make everything else possible?

Spiritual Practice

The Vineyard

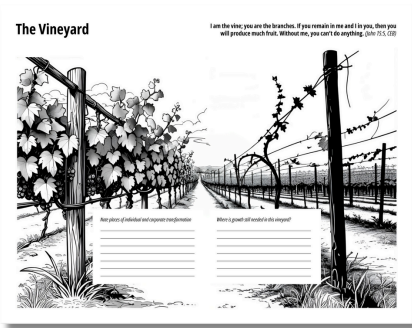
As Mosaic Mennonite Conference, we are committed to becoming like Jesus.

When Mosaic talks about formation, this is what we mean:

We are committed to Jesus as Lord.

**We invite our faith community to follow Jesus with our lives
so that we are transformed into the image of Jesus, even when it's costly.**

Transformation is often costly. It involves dying to our selfish ways and living into the new life Christ has made possible. John 15 compares our growth and transformation to a vineyard where we are branches on Jesus, the TRUE VINE. Pruning (like what Jesus did to Martha) may be necessary. But there is no life, no fruit, and no ability to be obedient without the connection to and nourishment from the Vine. Because of the Vine, the branches are also connected to one another. For the vineyard to flourish and produce grapes, all the branches need to stay healthy.



Note: A separate “**Vineyard**” sheet should be provided by the session leader. This coloring page is intended to be printed and distributed during the session.

Keep in mind:

Although a spiritual practice is ‘doing’ something, its primary purpose is to create space for the Spirit to transform your ‘being’ so there is an abundance of love, peace, joy, hope, truth, compassion, and a heart for justice.

- Look at the image of the vineyard. If this represents your local body of Christ, where are you seeing new growth? How is growth being measured? How has Spirit-led transformation occurred? *[write on the image, noting places of individual and corporate transformation]*

After reflection, share with one another.

Pay attention to common themes and give glory to God!

- With hospitality and great love, Jesus invited the lawyer and Martha, to on-going transformation. Where is growth still needed in this vineyard? Where is pruning necessary? *[invite the Spirit to continued growth for your life and the life of your congregation. Write this on the image.]*

After reflection, share with one another.

Is there something that surfaces that you could do as a group to open yourself to new growth? Is there a spiritual practice that all of you can do together? Examples below:

1. Set a phone alarm for noon each day. All participants stop at that time and pray for open hearts and minds to hear the Spirit’s invitation
2. Commit to fasting and prayer each Monday for three months related to a particular area of growth needed in your congregation.
3. Commit to pairing up for accountability, prayer, and scripture reading weekly for three months.
4. Decide to offer the same hospitality that Jesus has extended to you, to a particular local group of people. Organize a creative way to care for them.

2.2 Sermon Starters

Growing in Christ – Maturing in Faith (Luke 10:38–42; John 15)

Overall Theme: Spiritual maturity means both being and doing, rooted in Christ the True Vine.

Preaching Angle: Mary and Martha reveal different pathways toward growth; Jesus calls us to the “one thing” that grounds all.

Prompts:

- What does ongoing growth in Christ look like for our congregation?
- Where is pruning needed in our lives or church so that new fruit can grow?
- How do we balance active service with attentive listening at Jesus’ feet?

2.2 Sermon Builders

Sermon Outline: “The One Thing”

Text: Luke 10:38–42; John 15

Theme: Spiritual maturity means both being and doing, rooted in Christ the True Vine.

Conference Tie-In: Formational Priority – *Becoming like Jesus through ongoing growth and transformation.*

Introduction

- Growth in faith is like growth in a vineyard: not forced, but nurtured through connection, care, and pruning.
 - Mary and Martha’s story reveals two different approaches—one distracted by doing, the other centered in being.
 - Jesus ties both together in John 15: our growth comes when we abide in him, the True Vine.
 - **Key Question:** What does ongoing growth in Christ look like for us as disciples and as a congregation?
-

Idea 1: Distracted Discipleship (Luke 10:38–40)

- Martha welcomes Jesus but quickly shifts her focus to tasks instead of presence.
- Her service is good, but her anxiety reveals disconnection from the “one thing” needed.
- Distraction is not just busyness—it’s the spiritual drift that happens when our doing is cut off from the Vine.

Application: Spiritual maturity cannot take root when our discipleship is distracted; growth requires us to slow down and remain connected to Christ the Vine.

Idea 2: Choosing the One Thing (Luke 10:41–42)

- Mary sits at Jesus’ feet, choosing attentiveness over activity.
- Jesus commends her for choosing the better part, which will not be taken from her.
- True growth starts with presence—abiding in Christ—rather than with performance.

Application: Growth begins when we choose the “one thing” of abiding in Christ, letting our service flow from intimacy with him rather than anxiety.

Idea 3: Abiding and Pruning (John 15:1–8)

- Jesus is the Vine, the source of life and nourishment for every branch.
- Branches that do not remain in him wither and bear no fruit.
- Pruning, though painful, is an act of love by the Gardener, preparing us for greater fruitfulness.

Application: Abiding in Christ means trusting the Gardener’s pruning, allowing God to cut away what hinders so that our lives and churches bear lasting fruit.

Conclusion

- Mary and Martha remind us that both being and doing matter, but all service must grow out of abiding.
- John 15 assures us that apart from Christ, we can do nothing—but in him, we bear much fruit.

Invitation: Where might pruning be necessary in your life or in our congregation so that God’s Spirit can bring about new growth?

Closing Story or Image

- Use the image of a vineyard in winter: vines pruned back, looking barren, yet preparing for abundance.
 - Or share a testimony of someone whose painful “pruning season” later led to deeper joy and fruitfulness in faith.
-

Sending Prayer

*Jesus, True Vine,
keep us rooted in your love,
trusting your pruning hand,
and open to the growth your Spirit brings.*

*Let our lives bear fruit that lasts—
for your glory and for the good of the world.
Amen.*

Gathering



Food for Thought

The second priority we are committed to as Mosaic conference is being Intercultural--loving like Jesus. From the biblical story, we see God calling together people from all nations, tribes, and languages to his throne (Rev 7:9). The church is called to the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:11-21) and in Christ Jesus we are reconciled together (Eph 2:14-21). We recognize that each person is created in the image of God (Gen 1:26-27) and that racial superiority which leads to racism, is a sin. As followers of Jesus, God calls us to honor the dignity in each person and to show humility when encountering someone different from us. Being intercultural requires us to be open to mutual transformation. No one culture fully reflects the likeness of God. No one culture is dominant or superior over another. To fully display the kingdom of God, we need each other, and we can learn from each other.

As Mosaic Mennonite Conference, we are committed to loving like Jesus.

When Mosaic talks about being Intercultural, this is what we mean:

Loving like Jesus so that we might be transformed by relationships with other.

We are committed to recognizing the image of God in others.



Circle Question

Which scripture stands out to you most from this explanation and why?

Encounter



Read together: Luke 10: 25-37 (The Parable of the Good Samaritan)



Discussion Questions

1. In what way(s) does this story help you to love with the eyes of Jesus?
2. Which character in this scripture passage do you most identify with?
3. If you could ask Jesus one clarifying question about this parable, what would it be?
4. It's easy to look away from people we deem not worthy of our love, inferior to us, or we view as our enemy. Who in your life are you choosing to look away from? How can the Holy Spirit move in your heart to have the eyes of Jesus?

Spiritual Practice

Visio Divina

Visio Divina is translated as “divine seeing”. It is related to the prayer form Lectio Divina (divine reading), but instead of Scripture, this form of prayer uses visual elements to help set your mind on prayer. It allows God to speak into your heart through the image.



As you look at this image, reflect on the following questions:

- Which object are my eyes drawn to?
- What does God want to speak to my heart?
- What emotions arise in me?
- What do I need to confess or surrender?

3.1 Sermon Starters

Loving with the Eyes of Jesus – Seeing the Image of God in Others (Luke 10:25–37)

Overall Theme: Seeing with Jesus’ eyes reveals dignity in those we might otherwise ignore.

Preaching Angle: The Good Samaritan overturns cultural prejudice, teaching us to see “enemies” as neighbors.

Prompts:

- Who are we tempted to look past, dismiss, or avoid?
- How does seeing God’s image in others transform how we love?
- What would it mean for our church to be known for seeing with compassion first?

3.1 Sermon Builders

Sermon Outline: “Who Do You See?”

Text: Luke 10:25–37 (The Good Samaritan)

Theme: Loving with the eyes of Jesus means seeing the image of God in every person, even those we are tempted to ignore or despise.

Conference Tie-In: Intercultural Priority – *Loving like Jesus by recognizing the image of God in others.*

Introduction

- Sight is not just physical—it’s spiritual. We often “see” people through the lens of assumptions, fears, or categories.
- Jesus tells a story where the difference lies not in what people looked at, but in how they saw.
- **Key Question:** Who are we learning to see with the eyes of Jesus?

Idea 1: The Lawyer’s Question (Luke 10:25–29)

- The lawyer wants to test Jesus, asking, “Who is my neighbor?”
- His vision is narrow, seeking boundaries and limits to love.
- The very question reveals his desire to justify himself rather than expand compassion.

Application: When we ask, “Who is my neighbor?” with the hope of limiting responsibility, we reveal our blindness to the image of God in those who seem most unlike us.

Idea 2: The Religious Leaders’ Blindness (Luke 10:30–32)

- The priest and Levite see the wounded man but choose to pass by on the other side.
- Their ritual purity, busyness, or fear becomes more important than compassion.
- Their eyes are open, but their hearts are closed. They do not see the man as a bearer of God’s image.

Application: When we see people only as problems or interruptions, we fail to love with the eyes of Jesus, who never looked away from the broken and hurting.

Idea 3: The Samaritan’s Vision (Luke 10:33–35)

- The Samaritan, considered an enemy, sees the man and is moved with compassion.
- He recognizes the wounded man’s dignity and takes costly steps to care for him.
- His vision aligns with God’s: seeing a neighbor, not a stranger; seeing a person, not a problem.

Application: Loving with the eyes of Jesus means seeing the image of God in every person and responding with compassion, even when it disrupts our plans or challenges our prejudices.

Conclusion

- Jesus asks the lawyer, “Which of these was a neighbor?” The answer is clear: the one who showed mercy.
- The invitation is equally clear for us: Go and do likewise.

Invitation: Where are we being called to open our eyes wider, to see the image of God where we have been tempted to see only difference, discomfort, or threat?

Closing Story or Image

- Share a story of someone who broke through cultural or racial boundaries to show love, and the healing that resulted.
 - Or use the image of looking through a dirty window: once cleaned, the same scene looks different. Seeing with Jesus’ eyes changes everything.
-

Sending Prayer

*God of All People,
you created each person in your image,
full of dignity, beauty, and worth.*

*Open our eyes to see as Jesus sees.
Give us courage to cross boundaries, to show mercy,
and to recognize neighbors in unexpected places.
Through Christ our Lord, Amen.*

Gathering



Circle Question

Share a story of a transformative relationship you have experienced from a person who was different from you.



Food for Thought

The second priority we are committed to as Mosaic conference is being Intercultural—loving like Jesus. After our eyes have been transformed to see others the way Jesus does, our hearts need to be transformed. If our hearts are not open and ready to receive what God has for us, we might miss out on the opportunity to serve God. In the story of Peter and Cornelius (Acts 10), both Peter and Cornelius needed to have open hearts to hear what God was speaking to them. God had prepared both of their hearts in advance and brought them together to be mutually transformed.

As Mosaic Mennonite Conference, we are committed to loving like Jesus.

When Mosaic talks about being Intercultural, this is what we mean:

Loving like Jesus so that we might be transformed by relationships with other.

We are committed to recognizing the image of God in others.

Encounter



Read together: Peter and Cornelius (Acts 10)



Discussion Questions

1. What part of the story stands out to you most?
2. Inviting Gentiles to be part of God's people was very new. How do you think the other disciples viewed Peter? How would you have felt if you were Peter and the Holy Spirit was inviting you to do something new?
3. Has there ever been a time that you resisted what God was trying to tell you because you thought it was outside of God's boundaries? What happened and what did God teach you through that experience?
4. What do you think is the role of the Holy Spirit in helping Mosaic become more intercultural? What excites you about having more intercultural relationships in the conference? What fears do you have?

Spiritual Practice

Radical Hospitality

Hospitality and food is important in many of our cultures. Hospitality is the ability to make others feel at home, welcome, and not strangers. Look over the chart “**How to Create an Intercultural Community**”, make your suggestions on what to add to the chart. Pick 2-3 items your family, church, or small group can try for one month.



Art and Music:

Economy:

Relationships:

Be Transformed by Relationships

Connect with a fellow Mosaic congregation that you are unfamiliar with. Explore a relationship (attend a service, invite them to your church, do a service project together, eat a meal together). How can you celebrate differences? How could this relationship transform your thinking or view of faith?

Celebrate Differences

Explore your own cultural iceberg or the cultural iceberg of your church.

3.2 Sermon Starters

Loving with the Heart of Jesus – Crossing Boundaries with Hospitality

Overall Theme: God transforms us when our hearts are open to those different from us.

Preaching Angle: Peter and Cornelius each had to receive new vision from God to embrace one another. The Spirit leads us toward mutual transformation.

Prompts:

- What boundaries has God already broken down in our community?
- Where might fear or prejudice keep us from receiving someone God is sending?
- How could radical hospitality open us to the Spirit’s surprising work?

3.2 Sermon Builders

Sermon Outline: “Hearts Wide Open”

Text: Acts 10 (Peter and Cornelius)

Theme: Loving with the heart of Jesus means celebrating differences as gifts and being open to mutual transformation through the Spirit.

Conference Tie-In: Intercultural Priority – *Loving like Jesus by being transformed through relationships with others.*

Introduction

- Sometimes our hearts close before our eyes do; we can “see” people but resist truly welcoming them.
- In Acts 10, Peter and Cornelius both experience God opening their hearts in new ways.
- **Key Question:** Where is God asking us to open our hearts wider than we thought possible?

Idea 1: Peter’s Closed Heart (Acts 10:9–16)

- Peter is hungry, praying on the rooftop when he sees the vision of unclean animals.
- At first, he resists the voice telling him to “kill and eat,” because it seems to violate his religious convictions.
- The vision isn’t just about food—it’s about God reshaping his heart toward people he once considered unclean.

Application: When we cling to boundaries that God is breaking down, our hearts remain closed to the people God is calling us to love.

Idea 2: Cornelius’ Open Heart (Acts 10:1–8, 17–23)

- Cornelius, a Gentile centurion, is described as devout, generous, and prayerful.
- He listens when God’s angel directs him to send for Peter.
- His openness creates space for an encounter that will transform both him and Peter.

Application: Sometimes the Spirit prepares others before us, and our role is to enter with humility, ready to be changed as much as to offer change.

Idea 3: Hearts Transformed Together (Acts 10:24–48)

- When Peter meets Cornelius, he confesses, “God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean.”
- As Peter preaches, the Spirit falls on all who hear—even Gentiles—astonishing the Jewish believers.
- This moment reshapes the early church into a community that celebrates diversity and unity in Christ.

Application: Loving with the heart of Jesus means allowing the Spirit to transform us through relationships, so that differences become gifts that enrich the whole body of Christ.

Conclusion

- Peter and Cornelius show us that God is always working on both sides of a relationship.
- The Spirit’s work is to open hearts—ours and others’—so that reconciliation can flourish.

Invitation: Where might God be calling us to let go of fear, prejudice, or control so that we can truly love with the heart of Jesus?

Closing Story or Image

- Share a story of two groups or individuals who came from very different backgrounds, but found unity in Christ when they opened their hearts.
 - Or use the image of a heart transplant: life comes not from clinging to the old, but receiving something new.
-

Sending Prayer

*God of all nations,
you open doors we thought were closed
and create family where we saw only strangers.*

*Give us hearts wide open to your Spirit,
ready to be changed and ready to love.*

*Make us one in Christ Jesus,
so the world may see your reconciling power.
Amen.*

Gathering



In this session, we'll look at the missional priority and what it means to be sent to connect—living out the good news of Jesus in our everyday lives. We'll also explore how Shared Spaces help us see where we're already walking with Jesus in our relationships, neighborhoods, and workplaces.



Opening Questions

Even though we're more connected than ever through phones and screens, we may often feel distracted and not fully present with others.

1. When was the last time you gave your full attention to someone or something for more than 10 minutes? How did it feel?
2. What things pull you away or distract you from being present with people? What helps you focus and slow down?
3. What could you change in your daily routine to be more present with others?

As Mosaic Mennonite Conference, we are committed to living like Jesus.

When Mosaic talks about missional, this is what we mean:

We are committed to participating in the healing of our world by sharing and living out the Good News of Jesus.

- “We are sent to heal what has been broken in our relationships, neighborhoods, and the world by sharing and living out the Good News of Jesus.”
- Missional means being present, not just in faraway places, but in our daily spaces where God is already working.

Encounter



Read together: Acts 2:42–47 (Note words or phrases that stand out)



Discussion Questions

1. What part of this passage speaks to you today?
2. Where do you see your community already living this out?
3. Where might God be inviting you to lean in more deeply?

Spiritual Practice

Shared Spaces

The early church met in many kinds of spaces. So can we. These “**Shared Spaces**” are simple rhythms from Jesus’ life that we can live out today.

Small Group Conversation

- Come up with a ministry or real life examples for each Shared Space.
- Which Shared Space feels most meaningful to you?
- Where have you seen God moving in these spaces?
- Commit to one Shared Space to be intentional in this week.



4.1 Sermon Starters

Living Like Jesus: Sent to Connect – Everyday Presence (Acts 2:42–47)

Overall Theme: The Spirit sends us into daily spaces to embody Christ’s peace and hope.

Preaching Angle: The early church lived rhythms of connection—in public gatherings, tables, small groups, and intimate circles—that revealed the kingdom.

Prompts:

- How do we practice being fully present with others amid distraction?
- Which “shared spaces” already exist in our church’s life? Which need nurturing?
- What would it look like for our congregation to be known as a people who listen well & create space for others?

4.1 Sermon Builders

Sermon Outline: “Sent to Connect”

Text: Acts 2:42–47

Theme: Living like Jesus means being sent into relationships and everyday spaces where God’s Spirit is already at work.

Conference Tie-In: Missional Priority – *Living like Jesus by being sent to connect with others in everyday life.*

Introduction

- In a world more “connected” by screens than ever, many people feel isolated, unseen, or hurried.
- The early church in Acts 2 paints a different picture: life shared deeply, joyfully, and consistently.

Key Question: How might we live as people sent to connect in our homes, neighborhoods, and communities?

Idea 1: Devoted to Shared Life (Acts 2:42)

- The believers were devoted to the apostles’ teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer.
- Their connections were intentional—centered on Christ, not just casual relationships.
- Spiritual practices were lived out together, shaping them as a community of witness.

Application: Being sent to connect means devoting ourselves to shared rhythms of learning, prayer, and fellowship that draw us deeper into Christ and into one another.

Idea 2: Generosity and Care (Acts 2:44–45)

- The believers held possessions loosely and shared with any who had need.
- Their connection was not surface-level but sacrificial, marked by generosity.
- Their way of living showed the watching world what the love of Jesus looked like.

Application: Being sent to connect means embodying God’s care by meeting needs with generosity and love, showing others that Christ’s compassion is real.

Idea 3: Joyful Presence (Acts 2:46–47)

- They met daily in the temple and in homes, breaking bread with glad and sincere hearts.
- Their joy and authenticity drew others toward Christ.
- God added to their number daily as their connections overflowed into mission.

Application: Being sent to connect means showing up with presence, joy, and authenticity, trusting that God uses ordinary relationships to draw people to himself.

Conclusion

- Jesus modeled connection in every space: crowds, tables, small groups, and intimate circles.
- The early church lived out those same patterns...and so can we.

Invitation: Where is God inviting us to be more present, more generous, or more joyful in our connections?

Closing Story or Image

- Tell a story of a small act of presence (a shared meal, a listening ear) that led to surprising transformation.
 - Or use the image of concentric circles: crowds, community, close friends—each a space where Christ connects with us and through us.
-

Sending Prayer

*God who sends,
you connect us to Christ and to one another.*

*Teach us to slow down, to notice,
and to be fully present.*

*Send us with joy and generosity,
so our ordinary connections become
signs of your extraordinary grace.
In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Gathering



In this session, we'll explore the missional priority and how everyday connections can become transformative encounters with God and others. We'll also consider how the Missional Lane Practice can help us notice where God may be at work.



Opening Questions

Sometimes in everyday talk, people share something real. Think about how you notice those moments and how you show care, ask kind questions, or offer something helpful.

1. Recall a time when someone shared something personal with you? What made them feel safe to do that?
2. When you talk about something important in your life or faith, what helps it feel natural?
3. What do you listen for that tells you someone might want to talk about something deeper?

As Mosaic Mennonite Conference, we are committed to living like Jesus.

When Mosaic talks about missional, this is what we mean:

We are committed to participating in the healing of our world by sharing and living out the Good News of Jesus.

- Mosaic Conference is all of us together, and as such, we live out this missional priority: *As God's people, we are sent to heal what has been broken in our relationships, neighborhoods, and the world by sharing and living out the Good News of Jesus.*
- Being missional is not only about going far away—it also means being fully present in our homes, neighborhoods, and workplaces, attentive to the Spirit of God.

Encounter



Read together: Acts 8:26–40

Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch were both on journeys.

Watch how God connects people through movement, curiosity, and openness.



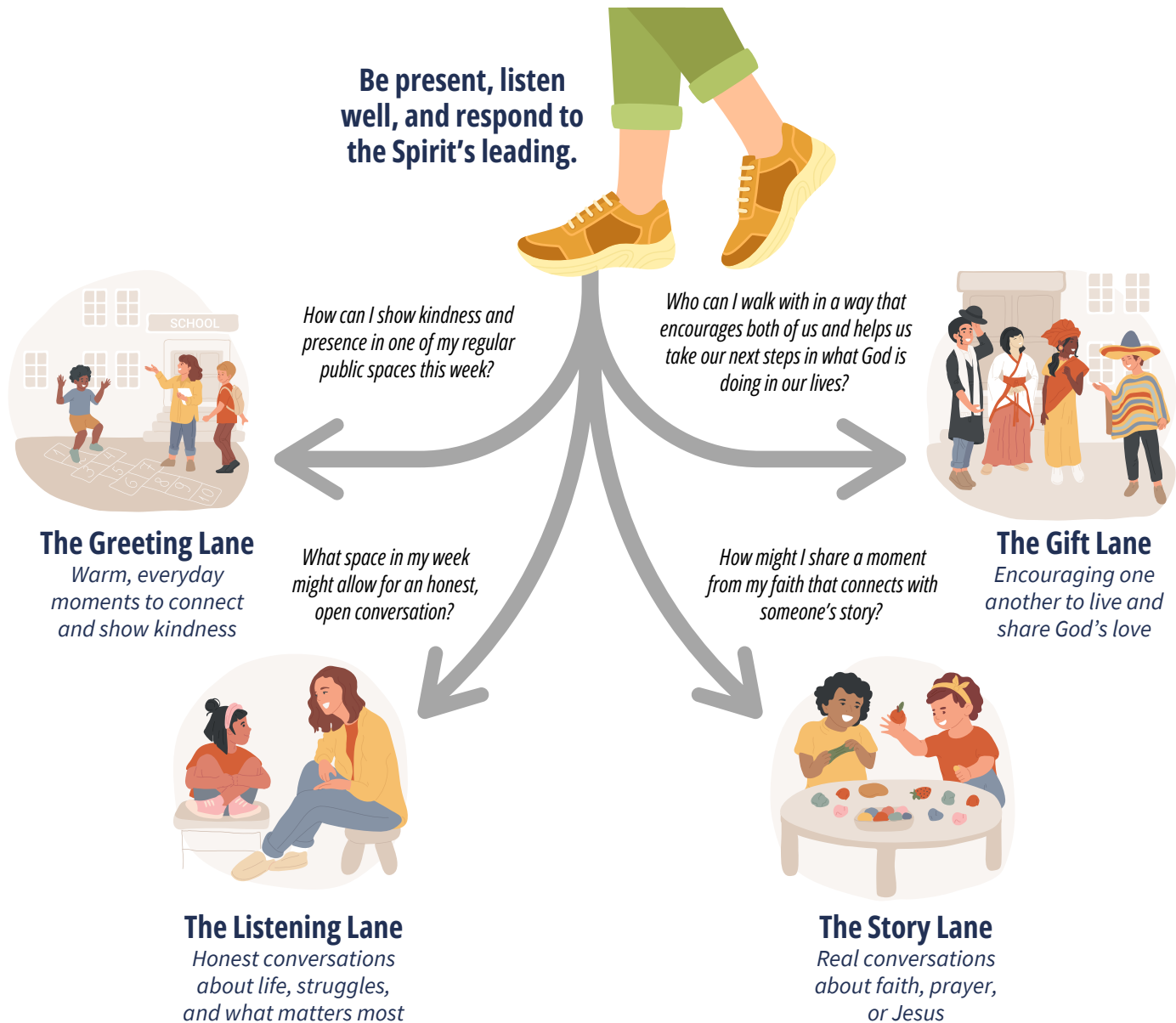
Small Group Discussion

- What word or phrase stood out?
- How does Philip approach the Ethiopian eunuch?
- What does this show about listening and honoring others' experiences?
- Where might you be sensing God's movement in your life?

Spiritual Practice

The Missional Lanes

The Missional Lanes is a simple, relational practice that helps us notice how everyday connections can grow into transformative encounters with God and others. It's not a rigid method, but a Spirit-led journey shaped by prayer, presence, and trust. We are invited to be present, listen well, and respond to the Spirit's leading. The goal isn't to move fast—but to move faithfully, recognizing that God is already at work in every relationship.



4.2 Additional Activity

Activity: Acts 8:26–40 (Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch)

Entering the Story Together: A Hands-On Encounter with Scripture

We're going to engage with the story of Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch in a hands-on way. Let's see how God moves through people and how the Scriptures unfold in real-time.

Steps for the Activity

This group exercise is inspired by a dynamic shared by Ismael Conchacala Gil, a member of the Wiwa Indigenous community from the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta region in northern Colombia. Used with his permission.



- 1. Form groups of 6-8.**
- 2. Distribute the Scripture text packet.** Texts can be shared. One person receives the full passage and serves as the “verifier”—but they don’t share it until the end.
- 3. Read aloud.** Read each text to the group. It won’t be in order at first.
- 4. Put the story in order.** Work together to arrange the verses in the correct sequence. Once you agree, invite the verifier to confirm or correct. Then check the full passage in Acts 8:26–40 and make any final adjustments.
- 5. Read and Reflect Together.** Once the passage is in order—or if your group is starting here due to time—take turns reading Acts 8:26–40 aloud from the full copy provided. Listen for a word or phrase that stands out to you.
 - If your group completed the ordering activity, write your word or phrase on a sticky note and place it with the verse it connects to.
 - If you're beginning here, simply write your word or phrase on a sticky note and keep it with you as a point of reflection during the conversation.

4.2 Additional Commentary

Three Observations from the Passage

1. Movement Opens Space for Divine Encounters

The Ethiopian eunuch and Philip were both on journeys. The Spirit brought their paths together.

Reflection: How might different kinds of journeys—whether chosen, called, or compelled—create spaces where we encounter God already at work?

2. Faith Travels with People

The Ethiopian Eunuch may have carried the good news into a new region.

Reflection: How can we honor and learn from immigrant and displaced believers who live out their faith and form new faith communities in new places?

3. The Spirit Leads in Unpredictable and Life-Giving Ways

Philip responded to the Spirit’s leading with openness and trust.

Reflection: Where might the Spirit be inviting us to move—physically, emotionally, or spiritually—as a way of participating in God’s healing and presence?

Three Invitations We Can Carry with Us:

- 1. Pray** – Ask God to help us see how the Spirit is moving through people on the move.
- 2. Pay Attention** – Notice where God is already present in our communities and in the lives around us.
- 3. Be Willing** – As those who are sent, we show up with humility—ready to listen, learn, and be mutually transformed as we follow the Spirit and honor those we encounter.

4.2 Sermon Starters

Living Like Jesus: Sent to Share – Joining God’s Mission with Openness (Acts 8:26–40)

Overall Theme: God’s Spirit creates divine encounters when we are willing to listen and share.

Preaching Angle: Philip didn’t force his way in—he came alongside the Ethiopian, asked questions, and shared the good news naturally.

Prompts:

- **Where are people around us already hungry for good news?**
- **How can we listen first and speak with humility, trusting the Spirit?**
- **What stories of faith can we carry with us into everyday encounters?**

4.2 Sermon Builders

Sermon Outline: “Sent to Share”

Text: Acts 8:26–40 (Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch)

Overall Theme: Living like Jesus means being attentive to the Spirit and ready to share the good news in everyday encounters.

Conference Tie-In: Missional Priority – *Living like Jesus by being sent to share the Good News with humility and openness.*

Introduction

- Some of the most life-changing conversations begin with simple questions or small acts of presence.
- Philip’s encounter with the Ethiopian eunuch shows how God’s Spirit opens doors for sharing faith.

Key Question: How can we be available and attentive to share the hope of Jesus in our everyday lives?

Idea 1: Spirit-Led Encounters (Acts 8:26–29)

- Philip is prompted by the Spirit to go toward a desert road.
- He doesn’t know the full plan, but he obeys and draws near to the chariot.
- The Spirit is the initiator of mission, orchestrating encounters we could never plan.

Application: Being sent to share begins with attentiveness, listening for the Spirit’s nudges that lead us into conversations of grace.

Idea 2: Honest Questions (Acts 8:30–34)

- Philip hears the eunuch reading Isaiah and asks, “Do you understand what you are reading?”
- The eunuch admits his need: “How can I, unless someone explains it to me?”
- Sharing begins not with answers, but with good questions and genuine curiosity.

Application: Being sent to share means creating safe spaces for honest questions, entering conversations with humility rather than superiority.

Idea 3: Hope in Jesus (Acts 8:35–38)

- Philip begins with Scripture and tells the good news about Jesus.
- The eunuch responds eagerly, asking to be baptized on the spot.
- The encounter is simple but transformative—rooted in hope, centered on Christ.

Application: Being sent to share means pointing people to Jesus with clarity and hope, trusting the Spirit to bring transformation in God’s timing.

Idea 4: Sent Again (Acts 8:39–40)

- After the baptism, the Spirit carries Philip to new places, and the eunuch goes on his way rejoicing.
- The mission of God keeps moving, carried by Spirit-filled people into new spaces.
- God’s good news continues to ripple outward, beyond what either could imagine.

Application: Being sent to share means releasing control, trusting that God will keep working in others long after our part of the story ends.

Conclusion

Philip and the eunuch remind us that God’s mission is Spirit-led, question-shaped, and Jesus-centered.

Invitation: Where might God be calling us to listen more deeply, to ask better questions, or to speak hope with gentleness this week?

Closing Story or Image

- Share a story of someone whose small act of witness or listening changed another person’s life.
 - Or use the image of seeds scattered by the wind: we may never see where they land, but God brings growth.
-

Sending Prayer

*God of the journey,
thank you for the Spirit who sends us,
for neighbors who ask questions,
and for the hope we have in Jesus.*

*Make us attentive, curious, and bold,
so that our words and actions
point to your good news.*

*Send us again, and again, and again,
until the whole world rejoices in you.
Amen.*

