

# **BUILDING BLOCKS: HEALTHY PARISHES**

## **Three Foundational Building Blocks**

1. Christian Formation
2. Building Disciples
3. Leadership Models.

## **Christian Formation is...**

- Introducing Christianity
- Fostering spiritual (re-)awakening
- A life-long process of 'growing'
- Leads to spiritual fulfillment
- Is more than education

## **THE GREAT COMMISSION**

Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you." – *Matthew 28:19,20a*

### **John 1:35-42 (NRSV) - The First Disciples of Jesus**

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

### **John 3:22 (NRSV)**

After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he spent some time there with them and baptized.

### **Luke 10:1-11 (NRSV) - The Mission of the Seventy**

After this the Lord appointed 70 others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.'

## **Acts 16:13-15 (NRSV)**

On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

## **IDEAS AND RESOURCES**

Many of these are available from our Diocesan website: [www.nspeidiocese.ca](http://www.nspeidiocese.ca)

- **Faith Sharing Cards** - Print a set on card-stock weight paper. Download the PDF. Click on the 'Leadership' drop-down bar and go to 'VSST & Task Groups' to 'Healthy Parishes', send them to your printer (black & white works fine), and cut them out. There is also a version you can print directly to business card specialty paper.
- **Christian Formation studies** – Lists of possible courses and studies to consider for *Christian Formation*, *Christian Formation Follow-up* and *Anglican Identity*. Click on the 'Resources' drop-down bar and go to 'Christian Formation Resources.' This includes information on The Alpha Course, Emmaus study, Pilgrim courses, VIA Media, The Living Faith program and MORE!
- **Education for Ministry (EFM)** – See the 'Ministry' drop-down bar.
- **Teens Encounter Christ (TEC)** - Click on the 'Leadership' drop-down bar and go to 'VSST & Task Groups' to 'Youth & Family Ministry'. Scroll down to 'TEC.'
- **Cursillo retreats** – See the 'Ministry' drop-down bar.
- **Diocesan Youth Conference** - Click on the 'Leadership' drop-down bar and go to 'VSST & Task Groups' to 'Youth & Family Ministry'. Scroll down to 'DYC.'
- **Bulletin and Newsletter inserts** – Publish faith questions for reflection, teaching notes, articles, etc.
- **Movie Nights & Book Clubs** – Host a small group gathering and explore Christian themes present in the narratives
- **You Tube videos/channels** – Show video clips during meetings and other small group gatherings as discussion starters on topics of faith.
- **Faith Explorers group** – Host sessions where participants are encouraged to discuss a particular aspect of Christianity or 'Quiz the Clergy' events so people can ask any question.
- **Sermon Series on the basics of faith** – Clergy and lay preachers unpack Christian fundamentals. Consider topics like grace, forgiveness, reconciliation, prayer, healing, The Bible, the church, the sacraments, etc.

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