

Shapes for Living

Week 3 Working

'This time tomorrow...' exercise

The object of this exercise is to explore how we as Christians live our faith not just on Sundays but also throughout our working week. The exercise also helps us to get to know each other better as individuals and discover new ways to use our gifts and skills to support each other. Over time this leads to more informed intercession and greater understanding of lives in the community.

Let someone be invited (weekly/monthly?) to talk to the congregation in your church service for 5-10 minutes about what they will be doing 'this time tomorrow'. This can be slotted in to the worship service maybe before The Peace, or after the sermon, or around the time the Notices are given – whatever works for you.

This does not need to be restricted to people you perceive to have 'interesting' jobs – not every congregation has its own astronaut or wildlife photographer! It may be someone who has stories to share about voluntary work – e.g. working in a foodbank, or running a playgroup. The more diverse the better, as this nurtures respect and understanding for the many and varied contributions people make.

Have an interviewer who has agreed the questions with the interviewee beforehand – no surprises! Use a microphone (linked to a loop system if you have one) so that everyone can hear what is being said clearly.

Stick to set questions to manage time – for example:

What is your name and what work do you do?
What does your typical week look like?
Why do you like doing it?
...and what will you be doing this time tomorrow?

But if you have more time you might explore:

What does being a Christian mean to you in the workplace - where you work and who you work with?
Do you have any personal 'rules' (ethics)?

Conclude the interview by asking the congregation to pray for the person who has shared this, asking for God's blessing on them as they do their everyday work.