



The Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island



Reimagining Church



freshexpressions.ca

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Last week:

Session 1: Brave New World?

- How culture has changed – not just in the past 25 years, but even just in the past two years!
- What do our churches add to our communities?
- The Marks of Mission
- Do our current activities reach out into our communities?
- Mixed Economy churches & “Fresh Expressions”

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For Discussion

- What of all we discussed did you remember during the week?
- What did you think further about?
- What did you notice that was related to our sharing about the changing culture?

3

What in the World is God up to?

Session Two

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cultural changes of the past 25 years . . .



Like the change from navigating
the roads to . . .



. . . navigating the oceans

5

5

worship

Almighty God, we know you are present whenever two or three have gathered in your name. We give thanks for our past and pray for a vision of the future that lies ahead. We thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit that leads us this day and empowers us in the renewal and mission of your Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

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Dr. Tony
Campolo

For Discussion

- Would a church that throws birthday parties for prostitutes be a good thing? Why or why not?
- Can you imagine such a church? What would it be like?
- What would happen if the prostitutes wanted to join the church?
- Would you want to belong to such a church? Why or why not?

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How we think about mission

We begin with church as it is, as we have experienced it, as we assume it has always been.



We assume that God likes the way church is done at present, and does not want or need any big changes.



We assume therefore that “mission” means getting people into church as it is.

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Three big questions

Question 1: What is the Gospel?

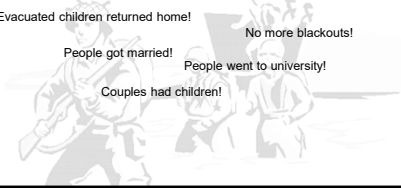
- What would **you** say the Gospel is?
- What is good news about Christianity for you?



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What happened at the end of World War II?

Danger of Nazism over!
 Democracy safe!
 Food rationing ended!
 Servicemen and women came home!
 Street & city signs restored!
 Evacuated children returned home!
 No more blackouts!
 People got married!
 People went to university!
 Couples had children!



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The end of the War meant:

- My husband came home!
- I got to go to university!
- I got to eat bananas!



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?

God loves me

Jesus' resurrection gives hope for life after death

My sins are forgiven

A sense of purpose

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What is the Gospel?

"The time is fulfilled,
and the Kingdom of God
has come near:
repent and believe
in the Gospel!"

Mark 1:14-15



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The story of the Kingdom

- Act 1: God makes a good and beautiful world
- Act 2: humankind betrays the Creator's trust
- Act 3: the Creator starts over with the promise to Abraham
- Act 4: the Creator enters the story—lives, dies, rises again
- Act 5: we learn to play our part in God's story
- Act 6: the Creator intervenes to bring down the curtain

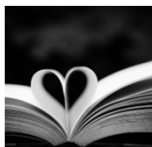
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What is the Gospel?

*The Creator has not given up on our world, but is at work to
renew the world and put everything to rights.*

*The heart of God's work in the world is the life, death and
resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

*This is the **missio dei** — the mission of God.*



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15 We look at Jesus, this Son, and see the God who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God's original purpose in everything created. **16** For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels—everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him. **17** He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment. **18** And when it comes to the church, he organizes and holds it together, like a head does a body. **19** So spacious is he, so roomy, that everything of God finds its proper place in him without crowding. **20** Not only that, but all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe—people and things, animals and atoms—get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of his death, his blood that poured down from the Cross.

Colossians 1:15-20, The Message

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For Discussion

- What is one thing you learn about Jesus from this passage?
- How does this passage relate to Jesus' teaching about the kingdom?
- What is one encouraging thing for you in this passage?

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Three big questions

Question 2: What is the Church?

- What is the Church to you?
- What would the person in the street say the Church is?



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Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, 15 and saying, ***The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.*** 16 As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. 17 And Jesus said to them, ***Follow me and I will make you fish for people.*** 18 ***And immediately they left their nets and followed him.*** 19 As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. 20 Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Mark 1:14-20

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How does church relate to Gospel?

- If the Gospel is that God is at work to restore all things through Jesus Christ . . .
- The heart of Church is the community of those who have responded to Jesus' call ("repent and believe") by baptism to join God in God's work
- The Gospel *creates* the Church

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It's not that the church of God
has a mission in the world,
but that
the God of mission
has a church in the world

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Three big questions



Question 3: What is a Christian?

- What would you say?

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Three big questions

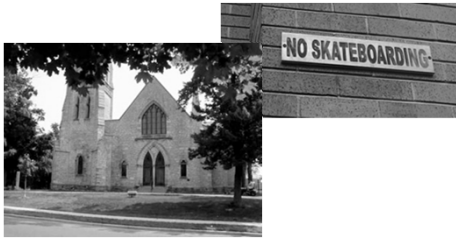


Question 3: What is a Christian?

- Someone who has responded to Jesus' invitation to be a disciple
- Someone who has become a part of God's mission to transform the world
- Someone who in baptism has joined the church, which is God's mission agency

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St James, Perth, Ontario
The Skater Church



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The church is the only society
in the world that exists for
the benefit of its non-
members.

William Temple
Archbishop of Canterbury




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Time for Reflection – The Examen



When was I encouraged, or touched, or joyful?
 What might God be saying?
 How might I respond?

When was I troubled, or sad, or angry?
 What might God be saying?
 How might I respond?





Reimagining Church 1

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For next week . . .

- Think of someone you know who has no church connection—and maybe never did.
- What would church look like for them?
- If they came to your church as it presently is, what would they like?
- What would they find weird or difficult?
- If you could design a church that they would want to attend, what would it be like?

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closing prayer

Almighty God —
 You call your people to proclaim afresh in every generation the good news of Jesus your Son.
 By the power of your Spirit rekindle in us gifts of courage and compassion.
 Open our eyes to see your grace at work beyond our church buildings and institutions.
 Help us to work with you in building communities of faith allowing your mission to be expressed in our hurting world.
 May we proclaim afresh your faithfulness and constant love in a changing and uncertain world.
 For the building of your kingdom and to glory of your name. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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Next week . . .

The School of Jesus

See you then!

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Program Resources

- Go to <https://www.nspeidiocese.ca/cmc-vsst>
- Click on Re-Imagining Church at the bottom of the left side menu
- You can re-watch any of the videos we have shown, or the previous session(s)

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