**Innovate Mission: Listening for Mission (Gap Activity 1)**

**Aim**

To use the learning from the session titled ‘Listening for Mission’ in young people’s home contexts in a practical way through a simple act of listening for mission, making a plan, than carrying that plan out.

**Resources**

- Lining paper (available from DIY shops, A3 or A4 paper stuck together will also work), masking tape and pens
- Maps / Google images of your local area
- Freshly ground pepper from a pepper mill
- Maltesers for every person in your group (or other chocolate – whatever your group likes, it just needs to be sweet)
- Glasses of water / squash for everyone in your group

**Session Outline**

**What** | **Instructions**
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**Map**

(30 minutes)

Using lining paper, encourage your young people to draw a map of the local area, add in as much detail as you can in the time you have. Use Google maps, an Ordnance Survey or A-Z Map if it’s useful. Whilst they are drawing out the map, ask your young people:

- What kind of people live in this area? (Think different ages, ethnicities, levels of wealth / poverty etc.)
- What goes on in this area? (Think shops, businesses, farms, factories, schools, places of worship, social issues etc.)
- What are the good and exciting things about your community?
- What are the hard and challenging things about your community?

As you complete your map, or begin to run out of time, ask them what they have noticed about their local area as they draw.

**Read**

(20 minutes)

Ask one or two young people to read out Luke 10:25-37. In this passage, Jesus makes it clear that we are to love God with everything we have, and to love our neighbour as much as we love ourselves, our neighbours may even include the people whom are so different to us that it might be easier to choose to hate them instead, just as the Israelites and the Samaritans hated each other in our bible passage (cf. v37, where the man talking to Jesus in our story can’t even say the word ‘Samaritan’)

Ask the young people for their reflections about what this passage might have to say for you all. You might like to ask the following questions to support their thinking:

- At Innovate Day 1, we explored the way Jesus met Bartimaeus’ need by
healing him (Mk. 10:46-52), how might this passage and the one we have just read link together?

- You could also use the questions found on the Swedish Bible Study resource found here: http://www.going4growth.com/growth_in_faith_and_worship/bible/bible_study_with_young_people

- When God’s kingdom comes, communities flourish, people are freed from oppression and peace and wholeness abounds. With this in mind, what might flourishing look like in your local area?

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**Pray & Plan**

(30 minutes or more – this part may be split into two sessions if this is useful.)

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**AT THIS POINT you may wish to split the session in two. If you do, continue your second planning and prayer session with a game and a recap of what you did last time.**

Using the information you have placed on the map, go into a time of prayer with the following steps:

1. Whilst standing up, close your eyes and notice your breathing, make your breathing in an invitation to God, and your breathing out a symbol of you getting rid of everything that distracts you from prayer.
2. Once settled, sit down and look at the map you have created. Notice the details on the map.
3. When they’re ready, encourage the group to take a pinch of pepper and place it on their tongue. As they taste the spicy, peppery unpleasantness of the pepper, ask them to talk with God about the things in their community that leave a bitter taste in God’s mouth. Offer them a chance to note down what they think God might be saying on the map, along with an opportunity for a sip of water to cleanse their palate.
4. Next offer them a Malteser (or sweet alternative), encourage them to talk with God about the things that are sweet and good in God’s eyes. Using a different colour pen, invite the group to mark these things down on the map as well.
5. Bring your prayer time to an end and help the group to settle down again (there may be hilarity as they eat the pepper, and other talking whilst they eat the chocolate.)

Discuss together what you noticed as you prayed.

- Was there anything you were thinking about that God wants more of in your community? Is there anything God would like for you to change?
- Explore with the group what one simple, achievable thing could the group do to make this happen?
  - Who is already doing something like this that you could join in with?
  - Whose assistance might you need to it?
  - What roles will everyone take? How will you know when you’ve done it?
  - What will you say when you’re asked why you’re doing this activity?

Write these things down, and before the next Innovate day, plan a time to make your Gap Activity happen.