

# 1 LSM1-1

## Opening prayer

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God of mission,  
Who alone brings growth to your Church,  
Send your Holy Spirit to give  
Vision to our planning,  
Wisdom to our actions,  
And power to our witness.  
Help our church to grow in numbers,  
In spiritual commitment to you,  
And in service to our local community,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Bible

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<sup>8</sup> *The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim.*

<sup>9</sup> *Moses said to Joshua, "Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands."*

<sup>10</sup> *So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. <sup>11</sup> As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. <sup>12</sup> When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up – one on one side, one on the other – so that his hands remained steady till sunset. <sup>13</sup> So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.*

Exodus 17:8-13 (NIV)

Discuss together in groups of 3 or 4:

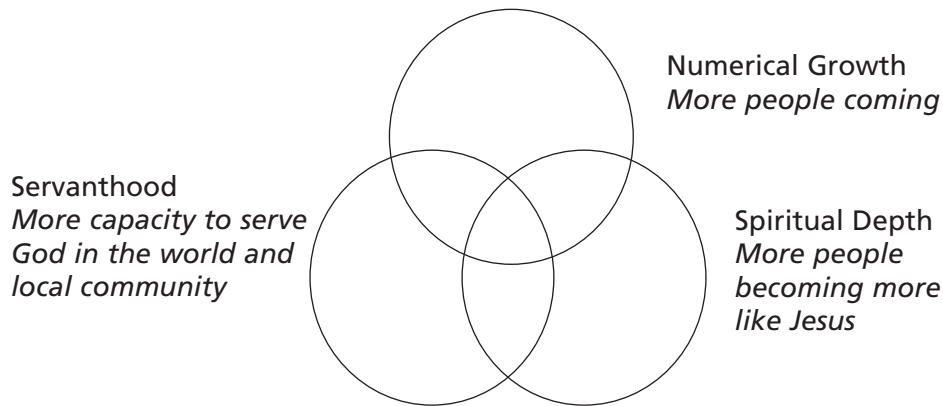
- What causes us to feel attacked or defeated?
- What gives us hope?
- How can we 'raise our arms' so we see God at work?
- Who or what would give support to us?

## LSM1-2

### Exercise: Three circles



Tick the circle you think your church needs to focus on.



### Exercise: Positive and negative leaders



Are you a positive or negative leader? Put a cross somewhere on the line below, to show where you see yourself.

Negative

Positive

Discuss your responses in pairs.

You might also like to consider the following questions:

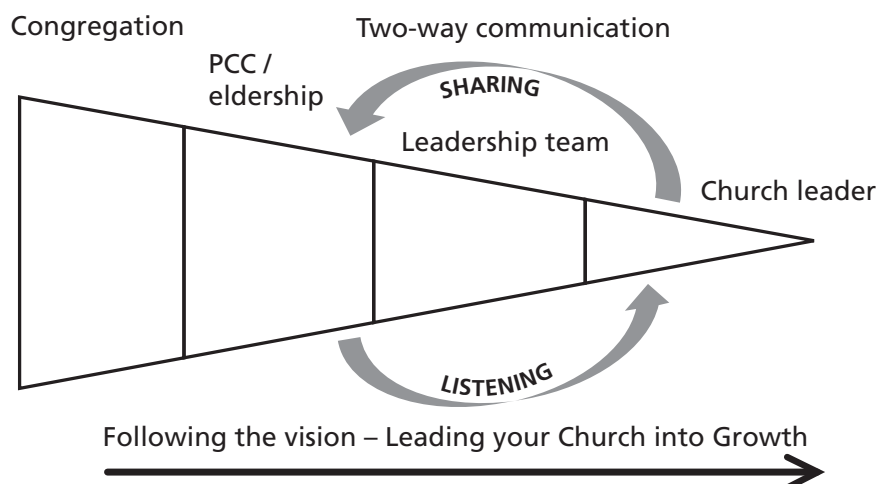
- Who do you think is the most positive leader in the Bible and why?
- What qualities do you think they demonstrate?

### Exercise: Leadership diagram



Working as a whole group:

- What thoughts do you have about the diagram below?
- Does this shape and description work for you as a church?
- Do you have a sense of moving forward as a church?
- Where do you feel God may want to lead you?

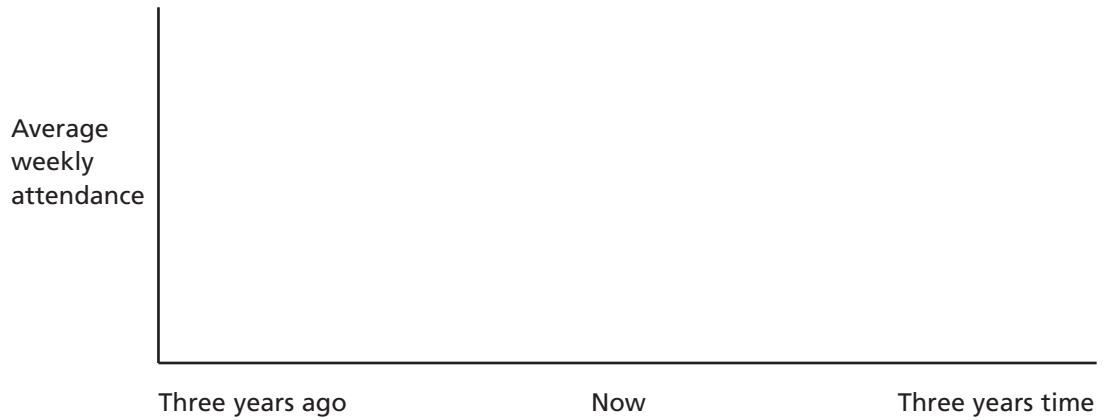


### LSM1-3

## Exercise: The three year graph



Plot a point on the graph to indicate your current weekly attendance. Now add the average weekly attendance three years ago, and an estimate of what it might be in three years' time. Join the points to make an attendance graph.



## Exercise: See, share and shape



Discuss the following question in groups of three or four:

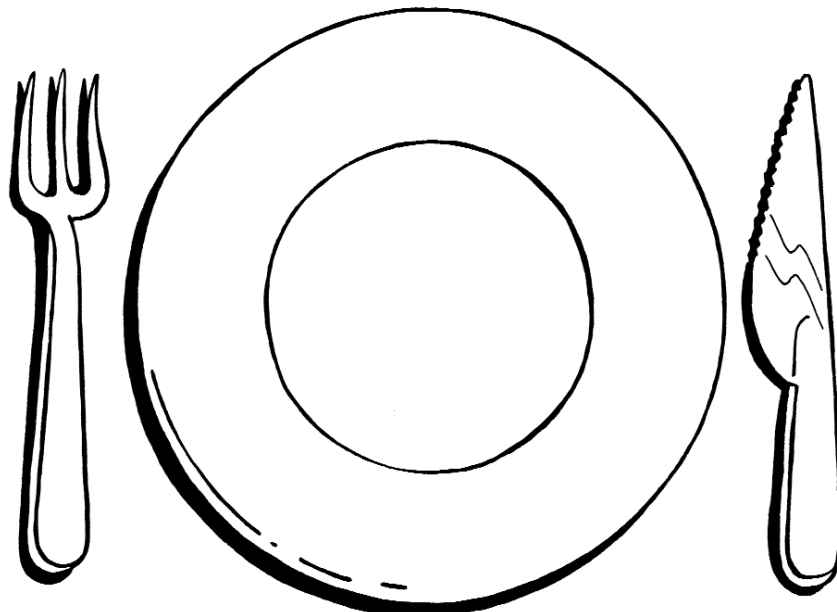
- What do you think is God's vision for your church?
- How well has that vision been shared and communicated?
- How has the vision been shaped and moulded by the membership of the church?

### LSM1-4

## Exercise: How much do you want it?



On the dinner plate below draw a meal that shows how hungry you are for your church to grow.



The LYCiG *local* course continues with six sessions exploring the following themes:

1. Our Focus – Committing ourselves to growth
2. Our Plan – Developing a strategy for growth and doing it!
3. Our Culture – Developing a community of invitation, welcome and hospitality

There is another gathering for leaders after session 3, followed by three more sessions for the church members:

4. Our Calling – Telling our story and helping people meet Jesus
5. Our Journey – Growing and going deeper as followers of Jesus
6. Our Heart – Developing worship that helps the church to grow

Of these six topics or areas of work, which do you think is the most important? Write your answer in the box below.

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## Reflection and Prayer



*<sup>6</sup> I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. <sup>7</sup> So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. <sup>8</sup> The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labour. <sup>9</sup> For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.*

1 Corinthians 3:6-9 (NIV)