

# MODULES

**Stepping Out** provides you with a practical way to bridge the divide between being church together and being part of the life of the neighbourhood. It is shaped around four modules which each include resources for participants and a *Leader's Guide* with all the information and direction you need to lead gatherings.

## 1. Becoming a people of relationship rather than outcomes

Assist people in your church to take some simple steps in building relationships with people rather than thinking primarily in terms of recruiting them to come to your church or being recipients of outreach. Jesus spent the vast majority of his ministry being with people: sharing stories, building relationships and participating in daily living.

*Participate in reflection exercises and action steps that assist you to look at the ways in which your congregation is currently connected in the community.*

## 2. Listening without agenda

We are so conditioned to listen in order to respond rather than to listen in order to understand. Before being able to even begin considering how we join with what the Spirit might be doing, we have to learn how to pay attention to what the Spirit might be doing in the lives of others. The Spirit is not contained in our church building nor limited to working only in the lives of those who are "believers". So, who are the people in our neighbourhoods? What might they have to tell us? Let go of assumptions and presuppositions and be open to what others may have to tell us because we do not control or contain the work of the Spirit.

*Participate in some simple listening conversations with people in your neighbourhood.*

## 3. Attending to the stories of people in the neighbourhood

Through listening, attend to the stories of the people in our neighbourhoods. We have so much to learn about what the Spirit is doing from the people who are not part of the life of our churches. The clues are in their stories. Listen to their stories in order to learn from and them and then share that learning with each other to discern what the Spirit is doing ahead of us.

*Deepen your listening by learning some of the stories of people in your neighbourhood and then share your learning with your group.*

## 4. Discerning what the Spirit might be saying to us

Begin to ask together how we might be hearing God. The whole point of being with people in the neighbourhood is to learn from them about what the Spirit is already doing so that we can join in. Throughout modules 1-3, you have been stepping out into the neighbourhood in ways that are not typically a part of church life.

*Reflect on your experiences in order to wonder about what next steps your congregation might want to consider in this journey of joining God.*

