



LLF: Newcastle Open Synod

10th June 2021

AIMS

- To be clear about the purpose of LLF
- To know what resources are available
- To have experienced engaging with sample elements of the LLF Course
- To have begun to think about how to engage with LLF in my context
- To have my questions answered

Welcome, prayer and introduction

| | | |
|-------|---------------------------|---------|
| 18.30 | Welcome and prayer | |
| 18.35 | Overview of the resources | Plenary |

Topic 1: What does it mean to learn together as followers of Jesus Christ?

| | | |
|-------|---------------------------------|---------|
| 18.50 | How can we learn together well? | Plenary |
|-------|---------------------------------|---------|

Topic 2: How does our identity in Christ relate to sex and gender?

| | | |
|-------|------------------------------------|---------|
| 19.05 | Bible Study: Genesis and Galatians | Plenary |
| 19.20 | Studying the Bible together | Groups |

19.35 – 19.45 ***Refreshment break***

Topic 3: What kinds of relationships does God call us to?

| | | |
|-------|---------------------------|---------|
| 19.45 | Thinking about friendship | Plenary |
| 20.00 | Learning together | Groups |

Next steps: How might we use the LLF resources in our context?

| | | |
|-------|---------------------------|---------|
| 20.15 | What's next? | Plenary |
| 20.20 | Reflections and questions | Plenary |
| 20.30 | Close | Plenary |

Thinking about learning together safely

Matters of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage are deeply personal, and may be the cause of both deep joy and pain. That's why it is important for all of us to pay close attention to how we speak and behave towards one another as we learn together. Learning can only happen when everyone commits to creating a space where all can be as open and honest about themselves as they wish to be without fearing judgement, hurt or rejection. Learning together safely is about being kind and building trust.

Here are some ways in which everyone can play a part in learning together safely:

Cultivate a desire to understand and learn from people who are different from you.

Discipline yourself to be more eager to listen than to speak.

Remember that you do not know the stories, feelings or convictions of others in the group or outside it. Be careful not to make any assumptions about others when you speak.

Resist the temptation to judge when someone shares their experiences, or to contradict when someone talks about their convictions with which you disagree. Instead, acknowledge your disagreement, listen with compassion to people's experiences and seek to understand better how they have come to their beliefs.

Check with others if the words you use or the views you express are experienced as offensive or hurtful. Help each other to find language that opens up conversations rather than closing them down.

Notice your own feelings and those of others. Be particularly aware of the power of memories or fear to trigger intense feelings that erupt in violent responses in yourself or others. Respond to others with compassion and invite the person to take time out if necessary. If you are struggling and in pain, ask to meet with a trusted chaplain or someone with pastoral responsibility in your church.

Commitments for learning together well

In our learning and meeting together we commit to... ❖

holding each other before God in prayer

- ❖ praying for the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit in all our conversations ❖ learning together from Scripture and from each other ❖ enabling everyone to speak
- ❖ making space for those whose voices have not yet been heard to contribute – but without putting people on the spot if they don't wish to speak
- ❖ avoiding interrupting each other, instead acknowledging what others say before moving on to have our say
- ❖ keeping confidential anything personal that is shared
- ❖ taking care about how we speak about others who are not in the room ❖ looking out for and being sensitive to people's feelings ❖ giving each other time to reflect before sharing with others
- ❖ taking time out as a group from time to time, offering one another an opportunity to say if there is anything in the discussion they have found difficult but haven't been able to express ❖ learning together how we can live more fully in the way of Christ.

*The fruit of the Spirit is love,
joy, peace,
patience, kindness, generosity,
faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
There is no law against such things. (Galatians
5.22-23)*