

In some ways we're all called to be leaders. However 'leading' is also identified as a specific gift in Paul's list in Romans 12. 'People empowering' means always being on the look-out to identify, develop and empower these ones. How do you think we might do this in our church life today?

C. Respecting our heritage whilst championing further innovation

Read Isaiah 43:19. List examples where God has done a 'new thing' through history (as recorded in the Bible).

What are some dangers of change?

What are some dangers of not changing?

What do you think this has to do with 'People empowering'?

Wrapping up

As we approach the end of this study, reflect on Jesus' life and ministry and share ways we can see that he was **'People empowering'**.

What would have happened to the early church if 'People empowering' wasn't the way of Jesus and his early followers?

What do you think the Holy Spirit has to do with all this?

Finish by praying that we can support each other as we seek to be people who empower people to grow as disciples of Jesus, and who raise up leaders ready to serve in well-grounded but brave new ways.



CORE 5

Declarations of What We Value
Most and the Reflection of How We
Serve Jesus

Growth Group Study Guide
Week 4

6 November 2022

Series Overview:

We are currently on a **Vision Journey**, seeking where God will take us into the future. We are discovering **Purpose, Values, and Vision** for Lismore Baptist Church.

In order to encourage us in this process, we are spending the next few weeks in our sermons to reflect on the Values of our Baptist Movement, called the **'Core 5'**. Each week we will look at one of these values, and consider what that means for us as a Faith Community in Lismore. May this be an opportunity to uncover what we value as we serve and worship together.

CORE VALUE 4 - PEOPLE EMPOWERING

Today we look at the 4th of the 'Core 5' values of our Baptist Association: ***Christ centred, Mission shaped, Relationally committed, People empowering and Partnership oriented.***

It's often said: 20% of the people do 80% of the work. Not just in churches but definitely including churches. Maintaining a positive 'solution-focused' posture (and not a negative critical posture), consider whether this has been your experience of church-life? What are your thoughts on why this may be?

The challenges to participation are rarely simple. They can come from people themselves not being willing or feeling able to participate, or they can come from leadership, not being willing or feeling able to encourage others to participate.

However, equipping, empowering and releasing every person to serve as part of the body of Christ according to their God-given gifts and passions is Biblical and fundamentally important. It's about the church being the church!

The Baptist Association have given us 3 statements to help us unpack what it looks like to be People Empowering:

A. nurturing a disciple making culture that encourages, shapes and releases every person to glorify God in all of their life

Read Acts 18:1-3, 18-28. This short account describes TWO generations of followers of Jesus equipping, encouraging, empowering and releasing others to follow and serve Jesus. Who raised up who, and what was involved?

Where do you see this happening in our life and ministry together at Lismore Baptist Church?

How are you involved?

What challenges do we face in this area of 'nurturing a disciple making culture'?

What thoughts do you have about how we might grow more into this?

B. Investing strategically in the identification, development and empowerment of leaders

Read 1 Peter 2:9. What does this tell us about who is called by God to 'lead'?

Review at least one of the following passages that talk about gifts in the body of Christ: 1 Corinthians 12:1-31, Ephesians 4:11-16; Romans 12:4-8; also 1 Peter 4:8-11. What do these passages tell us about who has a part to play in God's purposes in his world?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:21-22 (if you haven't already). How does this make you feel about your own contribution?