

What do you think this passage says to us here in Lismore? What are practical ways that we can show respect (v.17) to those in our community?

Who are our current partners in Lismore?

How can we encourage healthy dialogue, and share resources, particularly as we recover from the devastating flood?

What could be a common goal that we could have with the community of Lismore, whilst still maintaining our missional focus?

Prayer.

Spend some time in prayer celebrating what God is doing both within and beyond our church walls. Pray for those people and organisations in whom we have partnerships; pray for fruit in the mission and a strengthening of the relationship, that God would do transformative work in our communities.



CORE 5

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

Growth Group Study Guide
Week 5

20 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 5—Partnership Oriented

What does it mean to be in a partnership? Think about partnerships you have been in previously; at work, in community projects, or in social groups. What was the value of these partnerships? What could you do in partnership that you couldn't have achieved on your own?

Today, we are looking at the final Core 5 value, **Partnership Oriented**.

Let's consider the three subpoints that accompany this value:

A. Recognizing and celebrating God at work both within and beyond our movement

Read Acts 14: 21-28

Paul and Barnabas had just returned from their first missionary journey. The writer emphasizes that Paul gave credit where it was due, stating that it was God who truly did the work. But not all by Himself. God had worked through Paul and his associates as His co-workers to spread the good news. Paul refers to himself and his team of ministers as "God's fellow workers" (2 Cor. 6:1). This dual partnership was both vertical (God and Paul) and horizontal (Paul and the church). Why is it important to emphasize this?

Think about Followers of Jesus, Christian ministries and churches outside the four walls of our church. Name some of them. How can we encourage, and be encouraged by these people? What can we celebrate?

B. Partnering with like-minded bodies in the mission of God both locally and globally

Read Acts 1:8.

Jesus left His Church with the mandate to witness the goodness of God's Kingdom in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the Ends of the Earth. These names represent the different areas that we are called to be witnesses. We can't do this mission on our own. Think about who we are currently, or could partner with in these areas.

| Acts 1:8 | Our Context | Who are our partners? |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Jerusalem (Local) | Lismore | |
| Judea (Regional) | Northern Rivers | |
| Samaria (Other Cultures) | People different to us | |
| Ends of the Earth | Global | |

C. Evidenced by mutual respect, healthy dialogue, and where appropriate resource sharing and the development of common goals

We often only think of fellow Christians as worth of our partnerships. God uses many partnerships for His purposes.

Read 1 Peter 2: 11-17

What do you see Peter saying in this passage?