

# Living God's way

## session handout

### The Maker's instructions

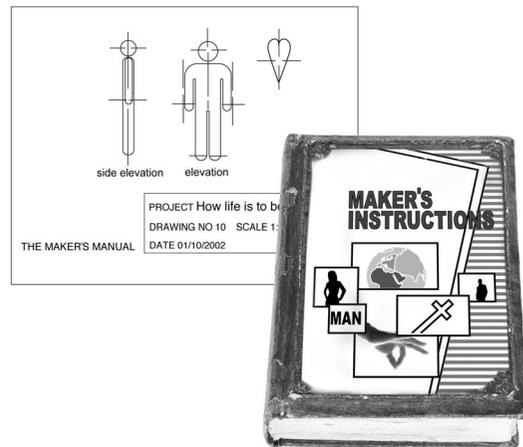
Being a Christian is not simply a matter of what you believe. It is not simply a matter, either, of being committed to things that will help you to grow.

Being a Christian needs to affect the whole of the way we live.

God's guidelines for human behaviour are laid down in the Scriptures.

They are not to be seen as narrow rules but the Maker's instructions on how life is to be lived.

For every Christian there is a call to become more like Christ over the days and years as Christ dwells in our hearts through faith.



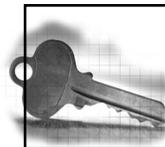
### Loving God and loving others

This is the way Jesus summarized all of the Jewish law:

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:  
The first commandment is this:  
'Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.  
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'  
There is no other commandment greater than these.  
On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

*Common Worship, p. 163*



Christians are called to live in this rhythm of worship and mission: loving God and loving our neighbour.

### The Good Samaritan

What does it mean to love our neighbour? See the story Jesus told in Luke 10.25-37.

In the light of this story – who is my neighbour?

- *in the place where I live?*
- *in the place where I work?*
- *in the context of the whole world?*

## Putting it into practice

Even for Christians who are mature, it may not be always that simple to think through what is right or wrong in a situation and to put it into practice – especially when God is concerned not just for individuals but for communities and the whole world.

In small groups, take one or two of the following situations each and discuss what you would do, or what you think the Church's response should be:

- *Diane has become a Christian recently. She has been living with her boyfriend for three years and the couple have a young daughter. Now she has become a Christian, Diane wonders what she should do about this situation. How do you advise her?*
- *Eric works for a haulage company. He discovers that his colleagues and the works foreman are cheating the company. In the past this hasn't bothered him. Now he is a Christian, it does. How should he act?*
- *Susan is a school governor at the local Church school. She discovers strong racist attitudes there among the governors and some of the staff in the school, which apply in the admissions policy and in the appointment of staff. What should she do?*
- *The Church Council is reviewing the church finances for this year. A deficit is forecast of about 10 per cent of the total budget. Some members of the Council propose that the amount allocated to be given to mission and relief work be cut for that year (about ten per cent). What should the Council do?*
- *God has given you and one or two other church members a strong burden to protect the environment. How can you make a difference in your own home, in your church and in your town?*

## Fight valiantly!

It is not always easy to live as God calls us to live. The Bible tells us we will meet difficulty and opposition in the Christian life both from within ourselves and in the world around us. According to these words from the baptism service we fight on three fronts:

Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ against sin, the world, and the devil, and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.  
*Common Worship: Initiation Services, p. 37*



## Strength for the Christian life

Perseverance is a vital Christian discipline. The continued renewal of grace to live as Christ calls us comes in large measure through the sacraments and the ministry of the Church. Receiving Holy Communion regularly, developing good disciplines of prayer and Bible reading, having the support of a group of other Christians, regularly confessing sins and seeking the ministry of healing are all ways we stay spiritually fit.

## For reflection

Where is God calling you to change your lifestyle at the present time?  
Where do you need forgiveness and help? What strength do you need?

In the week to come, read Ephesians 6.10-20. Practise putting on the armour of God each day and standing firm in the Christian life.

