



FRUITFULNESS ON THE FRONTLINE.



DISCUSSION GUIDE

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We're delighted you are using *Fruitfulness on the Frontline* as a group and we hope that it will be a significant time for you – both as individuals and together. It's our prayer that it helps you to better see where God might be working with you and through you in your different contexts during the week.

During each session, you'll watch a short film (8-13 mins) and then have the opportunity to discuss and share from your own experiences on your frontline. Each session ends with a 'Takeaway Action' – a small activity to try out on your frontline in the week. Think about how you can encourage others in your group in these. An email or text mid-week can be hugely helpful.

As you progress through the series, you'll probably find people become a lot more vocal in sharing stories of where they have seen God at work in their everyday. If you're excited about the stories emerging in your group, share them with us! We'd love to use them to encourage others. Get in touch by emailing mail@licc.org.uk.

God bless you,
The LICC Team

A note to session leaders

As you facilitate discussion during the sessions, don't feel bound to use every question in the guide. What's more important is that everyone in the group has the opportunity to offer thoughts. As you prepare and read over the material, keep these few questions in mind:

- Who is in my group? Where are their particular frontlines?
- Are there any pastoral issues that this session could raise?
- Would certain questions be better if discussed in pairs or smaller groups?

It may be helpful for every member of the group to be able to see a copy of the discussion guide during the session, so consider handing out photocopies. This will make it much easier for participants to understand and respond to the questions. Some groups find it hard to engage when only the leader has a copy of the questions.

You'll find more supporting material at licc.org.uk/fruitfulness, including how to get hold of the 6M Prayer Cards. There's also a short promotional video which you might find helpful when setting up the series with the group.



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Kirsty : **WHEN DID YOU FIRST DECIDE YOU WANTED TO BE A NUN?**

Sister Wendy : **I WAS A BABY. IT WAS THE ONLY THING I WANTED BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WERE OTHER WAYS TO LOVE GOD COMPLETELY. I NOW KNOW OF COURSE THAT YOU CAN BE A BUS CONDUCTRESS OR A TELEVISION PERSON AND LOVE GOD COMPLETELY.**



Interview of Sister Wendy Beckett by Kirsty Young, *Desert Island Discs*



SESSION 1: THE BIG PICTURE

'So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life – and place it before God as an offering.' Romans 12:1, The Message

Key Question: How am I already being fruitful on my frontline?

Aim: To see that everyone has a frontline. To begin to develop a rich understanding of fruitful living for God.

Core Text: Colossians 1:15-20

Materials: Bibles, pens, post-it notes, 6M prayer cards (see p6) – one per person. Available to print yourself or to order at licc.org.uk/fruitfulness.

FRONTLINE: Your frontline is the place where you spend significant time through the week in contact with non-Christians.

Pre-Film Discussion (10 mins)

Has your group previously used the *Life on the Frontline* DVD?

YES

Discuss the impact of *Life on the Frontline* before diving into the new material:

How has doing *Life on the Frontline* changed the way you live and think? What, if anything, has changed in the way this group operates?

NO

Take a moment to discuss this introductory question:

Where is your 'frontline'? Where do you spend significant time through the week in contact with non-Christians?





PLAY FILM to pause point (5 mins)

Pause Point Questions - on screen

What struck you about Peter's story? In what ways has Peter been fruitful?



RESUME FILM to end (8 mins)

Questions to Discuss after the Film (15 mins)

Having been introduced to six expressions of fruitfulness, consider the following:

- How does the 6M framework broaden your understanding of what it means to be fruitful?
- On a post-it note, each write down the 'M' that you feel you are strongest at. Can you think of an example of this 'M' in action on your frontline to share with the group?
- Reviewing the group's post-it notes, where are the group's strengths? Where might you pray for particular growth over the coming weeks?

Bible Reflection (20 mins)

COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

This passage is part of a letter that Paul sent to the Christians living in Colossae, a small city in modern-day Turkey. As the opening of chapter 2 tells us, Paul is writing to ensure that the believers are not swayed by false teaching. In this hymn-like passage, Paul declares Christ's supremacy over the entire universe in order to set the scene for the very practical teaching that will follow. For us too, this big understanding of the lordship of Christ provides a rich foundation for our daily actions on our frontlines.

- Which words are repeated numerous times in the passage? What does this tell us about Jesus' lordship?

Questions continue on the next page...



- As Christians, we believe that we have been reconciled individually to God through Christ's death. How might v19-20 expand our understanding of God's work of reconciliation?
- Many in today's society believe that faith should remain private and has nothing beneficial to contribute to workplaces, politics, family life, or society in general. How might the fact that Jesus made everything and died to reconcile all things change the way we see our frontlines?

Praying Forwards (10 mins)

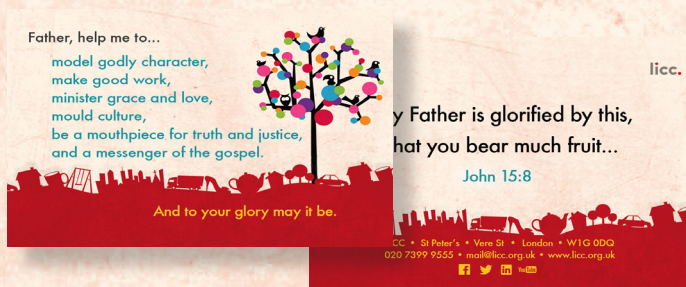
Pray for an increased awareness that God is with you on your frontline this week and that Jesus is Lord in that place, whatever happens.

Pray for eyes to see where you are already being fruitful on your frontline and for greater confidence in God's promise to be at work in us.



Takeaway Action

Where might you place a 6M prayer card to prompt you to think and pray about the different ways that you can be fruitful for Christ this week on your frontline?



This card is available to print yourself or to order at licc.org.uk/fruitfulness

There are all kinds of ways to be fruitful on your frontline, and therefore all kinds of ways you are probably already being fruitful. On the next page are the 6Ms with short summaries to explore. How might you do, or already be doing, each of these things?

THE 6MS

● **Model godly character**

In tough times and easy ones, with difficult people and delightful people, how might you manifest the fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control? Which one is a struggle for you? Are you praying that you grow in the Christlikeness of your responses?

● **Make good work**

This includes both what we do and how we do it. It means doing good work that serves other people, contributes to human flourishing, and stewards creation. It means doing your tasks consciously for the Lord, in the Spirit, to his glory, seeking his wisdom, his strength, and his touch. Your best with his transforming help.

● **Minister grace and love**

There are many ways to do this, not only in practical care and kindness for those who need it, but through the way we respond in difficult and indeed ordinary situations. How do we engage with the check-out person, or the lonely shopper in the charity shop, or the new parent at the school gate, or do an appraisal with the other person's long-term interests at heart, not just the company's?

● **Mould culture**

Culture is 'the way we do things round here'. Although you may not be able to change the way your company or your gym or your parents' association does things by next Monday, you may well be able to begin with a few people and a few small actions. What things bother you – and what are the values that underpin them? What could be done differently that would make it a better place for people to flourish? What would make it more like God's will being done on earth as in heaven?

● **Be a Mouthpiece for truth and justice**

There will be times when being a disciple means speaking up against things that are unfair, unhealthy, or untruthful, and speaking up for things that are true and just and good. It takes courage, wisdom, and prayer.

● **Be a Messenger of the gospel**

You may not get an opportunity every day, or even every month, but ask God who he might want you to pray for. Ask someone else to pray for you, to offer wisdom and hold you accountable. Be ready 'to give a reason for the hope that is in you' (1 Peter 3:15). Don't be driven by false guilt. Rest in God, trust his timing, build trust and relationships, care for people, and share what Jesus has done in your life and what he offers to everyone. Celebrate the steps you see people making towards Jesus.

