

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES



**MISSION
RESOLUTION**
*listening to the voice
of young people*

PURPOSE OF THIS RESOURCE

To help churches unpack the Baptist Mission Resolution with young people so that the voice of young people can be heard and their contribution to the discernment valued.

To ensure that the Baptist Mission Resolution truly reflects the whole of our Baptist family, by including the insights and perspectives of young people.

To provide tools to enable this to happen in an accessible way for young people.

More information on the background to the Mission Resolution for Baptists Together and the original text can be found here

https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/442656/Mission_Resolution.aspx

OUR MISSION

Below is a more accessible version of the Mission Resolution which doesn't replace the original statement but might be easier for the young people to engage with.

We believe God is bringing healing and hope to the world through Jesus.

God invites us to be part of this mission.

As Baptists, we believe what we say about Jesus and how we *live* belong together.

We share the good news of Jesus with our words

and show God's love through our actions —

by caring for people in need,

working for justice,

and looking after God's creation.

We thank God for those who have gone before us

and for Christians around the world who remind us that God's mission is for everyone, everywhere.

Together, we commit to:

- sharing our hope in Jesus with kindness and respect,
- serving others with compassion,
- supporting one another as we follow Jesus together.

TOOLS

Tools to help the young people reflect on their understanding of mission

Spectrum Activity

Picture of boots at one end to represent an activity or project and a megaphone at the other to represent speaking (sharing faith with words). Where would you place yourself in relation to your understanding of mission? Why? You could make it more interesting by developing the spectrum into 4 points and having a body (embodying) at one end and the environment (creation care) at the other (more like a compass). And where would you stand in this picture? Where do you think the church would stand?

Take the time to explore the different views and to understand one another. Can you appreciate why someone might be in a different place to you? Having listened to each other would you stand somewhere different?

Pyramid Activity

Type the following up (feel free to add to the examples) and then cut each one out so that they're on different slips of paper. Individually or in pairs invite the young people to rank them in order of what ones are more missional in their opinion.

Offering to pray for your mate at school
Preaching on a street corner
Starting up a group for those interested in faith at school (Christian Union)
Writing to your MP about an issue that you're concerned about
Supporting your local food bank
Going on a march for climate care
Inviting mates to a youth alpha
Sharing your faith story
Becoming a fair-trade church
Becoming an eco-church
The church hosting space for the homeless in winter
The church opening up its space when there's been a tragedy in the community
Mission trip abroad
Christingles at the town Christmas market
Church running a youth club
Coffee morning
Financially supporting a person, project or organisation.

Walk round and look at how others have placed theirs. What strikes you? What questions do you have? Where is the commonality and where are the differences? Are there any Bible stories or verses that you would turn to that's shaped your thinking? How does your understanding of God impact your understanding of mission?

Mission Audit

On post it notes write down the different things that your church is involved with and together see where they might fit in the categories suggested in the mission resolution.

Sharing faith with our words
Caring for people in need
Working for justice
Looking after God's creation

Is there a bias? Are you comfortable with this? Does the practice of the church match what it says about itself? If there are any gaps, are you sensing that your church is being nudged by God?

REFLECTION AND RESPONSE

Personal Response

Luke 4: 18-19

Read this passage and hold some silence together.

Give some time for the young people to consider these questions, they may want to journal.

What/who/where has God place on your heart? How does the mission that God is inviting you to relate to your church? How can your church support you in the mission that God has called you to?

If people feel comfortable sharing, then give space to that and for praying for one another too.

Feeding back to the church

This might be a follow up session or as part of the same session.

What has stood out for you?

What has challenged you?

What does the church need to hear from your perspective?

What do you think God is wanting to say to your church?

Are there any stories that you would like to share of how you're seeing the mission of God playing out?

As a group is there anything you'd like to say with one voice?