



Prayer:

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,  
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;  
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.  
All things come from you,  
and of your own do we give you. Amen.**

DVD 2:1



Bible: Romans 12 1-8



**12** *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

*<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. <sup>4</sup>For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup>We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; <sup>7</sup>if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup>if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*

Worship v 1-2

- What ideas does Paul use to describe our offering of worship? What do you make of these?

Service v 3-8

- Paul uses the image of a body to describe the church. Why do you think he uses this image?
- When our physical bodies don't work, we often take steps to put things right. How can we ensure that the church works well as a body?
- Do you think any gifts are more important than others? You might like to discuss your responses.

**Round or square pegs?**



We know that in church, as in family life, there are things that just have to get done, but as part of God’s family, how are we making sure we make the best use of every part of the body and each gift?

- Tick the “Good Fit” column if you’re doing it and it’s a good fit. (there are some blank lines if what you do isn’t on the list or just cross something out and write at the side)
- Tick the “Bad Fit” column if you’re doing the role and you feel it’s not your thing – it’s frustrating and you feel like a ‘square peg in a round hole’.

If you’re not involved but feel God prompting you to have a go, tick the “Have a Go” column.

|  | What we do                                | How I feel about this role |         |           |
|--|---|----------------------------|---------|-----------|
|  |   | Good Fit                   | Bad Fit | Have a go |
| <b>Helping people feel welcome and cared for</b> | Welcomer/Sidesperson                      |                            |         |           |
|  | Refreshments                              |                            |         |           |
|  | Pastoral Care                             |                            |         |           |
| <b>Preparing for worship</b>                     | Cleaning rota                             |                            |         |           |
|  | Arranging flowers                         |                            |         |           |
|  |   |                            |         |           |
| <b>Helping make worship happen</b>               | Reading bible in services                 |                            |         |           |
|  | Leading intercessions                     |                            |         |           |
|  | Occasional preacher/Service leader/Reader |                            |         |           |
|  | Organist/choir/Musician/singer            |                            |         |           |
|  | Sound desk/Audio Visual                   |                            |         |           |
|  | Servers/ Preparing linen                  |                            |         |           |
|  | Bread/wafers and wine available/laid out  |                            |         |           |
|  |   |                            |         |           |
| <b>Helping people find and grow in faith</b>     | Sunday School/Children’s/Youth work       |                            |         |           |
|  | Leading study or enquirers groups         |                            |         |           |
|  | Planning faith sharing events             |                            |         |           |
|  | Personal faith sharing                    |                            |         |           |
| <b>Enabling Ministry</b>                         | Warden/Treasury/Secretary                 |                            |         |           |
|  | Parish Safeguarding Officer               |                            |         |           |
|  | PCC Member                                |                            |         |           |
|  | Helping with administration               |                            |         |           |
|  | Helping with website                      |                            |         |           |
|  | Helping with Facebook                     |                            |         |           |
|  | Preparing Notice sheets                   |                            |         |           |
| <b>Practical and necessary</b>                   | Maintenance                               |                            |         |           |
|  | Gardening                                 |                            |         |           |
| <b>Serving the local and worldwide community</b> | School assemblies/governor                |                            |         |           |
|  | Local community groups                    |                            |         |           |
|  | Serving others                            |                            |         |           |
|  | Foodbank/Foodmarket                       |                            |         |           |
|  | Community project groups                  |                            |         |           |
|  | Social justice                            |                            |         |           |

DVD 2:2



**Serving God on our Frontline**



Your Frontline is the place where you spend the majority of your time outside the church, the place where you are in contact with non-Christians.

Your personal Frontline could be your workplace, your home, or your neighbourhood and might change from one year to the next.

Wherever it is, there will be people there who are loved by God and situations where God might use you to make a difference. Just as no two people are the same, no two person's frontlines will be identical. Whether you are young or old, in paid employment or not, sick or well, you will have your own Frontline.

What gifts and skills has God given you that you can see you are already using or could start to use as you live out your faith on your Front Line.

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | Where do you spend most of your time?   |
|  | Where do you connect with people outside church?  |
|  | Where is your front line?   |
|  | What gifts and skills has God given you that you can see you are using as you live out your faith on your Front Line. |
|  | How might God be asking you to serve him on your Front Line?  |



**Prayer: (3 minutes)**

Spend some moments in silence reflecting on the sheets from the two exercises. You might like to play some quiet music in the background.

Listen to the following verses

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will. <sup>5</sup>In Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup>We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. **Romans 12:1,2,5,6a***



**Take Away activity: (1 minute)**

Encourage course members to reflect on the gifts and skills that God has given them and how they are using them to serve God as part of the body.

If people would like to spend more time exploring their Gifts, then there is a 6-session course 'Shaped for God's Purpose' that can be downloaded from the Blackburn Diocesan Website. Other Gifts and Skills audits are available, and your church leader may be able to recommend one to you