

VITAL CHURCH MARITIMES 2021 CONFERENCE

TABLE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Session #1- Thursday, 3:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

*** IMPORTANT REMINDER:** All voices are valued, so be mindful that the conversation is shared among the group members as best as possible. Respect differences. Keep confidentiality. You have permission to imagine. Be open to diverse perspectives. Go deep! Be specific (avoid generalizing).

Each person *'briefly'* introduces themselves

- Name
- Where you live
- Where you worship



- Our conference theme is *Wilderness Calling: trusting in Jesus*. Discuss the following statements:
 - “The world in front of you is nothing like the world behind you.”
 - How is this wilderness time we’re in different? Be specific.
 - In particular, what are the potential exciting opportunities for us to do ministry now?
 - “In uncharted territory (unfamiliar social landscape), adaptation is everything.”
 - How might you and/or your congregation adapt to this new world emerging?
 - What strengths or blessings do you have that could be used differently?

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Session #2 - Friday, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

- Continuing with our conference theme, *Wilderness Calling: trusting in Jesus*. Discuss the following:
 - In the wilderness, “everybody will be changed.” (Especially those who are active in churches and are in some form of leadership.)
 - What do you think will be changed?
 - What might be (positive and) possible? Be specific.
 - Thriving in the wilderness means learning, growing and experimenting.
 - What are some ways you and/or your congregation can actively work on these?
 - What opportunities are there to build on or start gatherings in which to engage, listen and ‘do life’ with your neighbours? (new people)
 - Ministering in wilderness times means we may have to face losses or let go of some things that we do in the church that are no longer helpful.
 - What are the activities that are weighing us down, that if we let go of them, would free us up to move forward in missional ministry?



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Session #3 - Saturday, 11 a.m. to 12-noon

- **Considering our theme, *Wilderness Calling: trusting in Jesus*, discuss the following:**
 - **What have you learned at VCM that encourages, motivates or inspires you to learn a new way of ministering in this 'wilderness' time?**
 - **What topics or opportunities would you like to explore more?**
 - **Are there ministries that you are curious about?**
 - **Do you require training, education, a mentor or coach? Explain**
 - **What still doesn't make sense as you think about moving forward in missional ministry? What questions do you have?**
 - **What do you need to begin to do differently if you are going to adapt to this uncharted social landscape?**
 - **What about your congregation (or committee, small group)?**
 - **What steps (even small ones) can you make together?**
 - **Is there someone in your congregation who might join you in missional ministry in this wilderness time?**
 - **How might you join together?**
 - **What is a good way to start?**

