

## **CLOSING WORSHIP**

*A HYMN or SONG may be included here*

Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

**Lord Jesus Christ,  
we thank you that we are all members  
of your body here on earth.  
We thank you for the gifts of the Holy Spirit  
that equip us to work for you.**

**As we offer ourselves to your service,  
help us to value one another’s gifts,  
to work together effectively,  
and to have a true partnership in the Gospel  
as we seek to live for your praise and glory.  
Amen.**

Diocese of York

**Generous Churches Making and Nurturing Disciples**

# *Five Marks of Growing Churches*

**Worship Material  
for  
Session Four**

# **Numbers**

# OPENING WORSHIP

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth:  
**Worship the LORD with gladness.**

Come into his presence with singing:  
**Enter his gates with thanksgiving.**

Enter and his courts with praise:  
**Give thanks to him and bless his name.**

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## BIBLE READING:

*Acts 15.36-16.5 (New Revised Standard Version)*

<sup>36</sup>After some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Come, let us return and visit the believers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.” <sup>37</sup>Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. <sup>38</sup>But Paul decided not to take with them one who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not accompanied them in the work. <sup>39</sup>The disagreement became so sharp that they parted company; Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. <sup>40</sup>But Paul chose Silas and set out, the believers commending him to the grace of the Lord. <sup>41</sup>He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

<sup>1</sup>Paul went on also to Derbe and to Lystra, where there was a disciple named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer; but his father was a Greek. <sup>2</sup>He was well spoken of by the believers in Lystra and Iconium. <sup>3</sup>Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him; and he took him and had him circumcised because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. <sup>4</sup>As they went from town to town, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup>So the churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in numbers daily.

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## CONCLUSION

Lord Jesus, as we gather in your name:  
**Inspire us and guide us by your Spirit.**

May all that we think and do and say:  
**Bring glory to your holy name.**

May blessing and honour and glory and power:  
**Be yours for ever and ever.**  
**Amen.**