

# Members of the Household of God

## DVD Discussion Guide



Diocese of Toronto  
Anglican Church of Canada

## **Diocesan Multicultural prayer**

**God of the nations,  
you call us to share in the life  
and ministry of your Church.**

**Enable us, though different in colour,  
customs and heritage, to celebrate  
our oneness in you and the shared  
inheritance of your Kingdom.**

**Prosper our work as we endeavour to  
build bridges of love, understanding  
and cooperation, that, transformed  
and renewed by your Holy Spirit, we  
will be no longer strangers to one  
another, but together, as members of  
your household, always give you glory,  
through your Son, Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

No Longer Strangers Conference 1995  
Composed by The Rev. Canon Stephen Fields



## Welcome to *Members of the Household of God!*

*Members of the Household of God* and the supporting material that you now have before you has been produced to help Anglicans in the Diocese of Toronto to more fully understand and celebrate the colourful, multicultural, and ethnically-diverse community that we have become.

As you will see, the video is designed as a tool for a group discussion/reflection process, but it is intended to be used with great flexibility. You are encouraged to develop a process and select video Chapters that are particularly relevant in your context and that will work best for you. You may even wish to use portions of the DVD at parish meetings, during coffee breaks on Sunday morning, and/or at other congregational gatherings and small groups.

On the other hand, the DVD lends itself well to presentation in a “workshop” or discussion group format, as will become apparent when you view it.

### The Shape of the Session

As you preview the *Members of the Household of God* DVD, you will notice that the order of the material in the video assumes that your session will have the following basic structure—

- First of all, the **Gathering**: Before starting the DVD, gather your group together, in a circle if possible, and take a few minutes and invite participants to introduce themselves. Finally, provide an overview of the session that you have planned.
- The **Opening**: View Chapter 1 of the video, which includes remarks by Bishop Colin Johnson and an opening prayer.
- **Scripture Reading**: Pause the video for a brief Bible study/reflection period. (Suggestions for suitable scripture passages and tips on the Bible study process are included in this discussion guide.)
- **DVD program Chapters**: View the chapter (or Chapters) of the video that you have reviewed and selected for use by your group, allowing a pause for discussion and/or individual or group reflection. (Some suggestions for discussion questions are outlined below.)
- The **Closing**: In conclusion, view chapter 7 of the video, which consists of closing remarks from Bishop Colin and a closing prayer.

On the next page, you will find a detailed listing of the content of the DVD. Space has been provided there for you to make notes as you preview the video to begin your planning.

## ***DVD Table of Contents—Video Preview Page***

<i>Time</i>	<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Themes / Focus</i>	<i>Notes</i>
0:00	<b>CHAPTER 1</b>	Opening: Welcome and prayer featuring Bishop Colin Johnson.	
2:18	<b>* PAUSE *</b>	Direction to pause the video for Bible study.	
2:25	<b>CHAPTER 2</b>	“Changing Times.”	
6:33	<b>CHAPTER 3</b>	“Ethnic and Linguistic Ministry.”	
11:48	<b>CHAPTER 4</b>	“Welcoming and Belonging.”	
22:29	<b>CHAPTER 5</b>	“Inner City Ministry.”	
26:56	<b>CHAPTER 6</b>	“Rural Ministry.”	
30:39	<b>CHAPTER 7</b>	Closing remarks and closing prayer.	

## ***Groups Discussing Scripture: Notes***

### ***Ground Rules for Bible Studies—***

**The text, not the leader, is the focus.** The leader poses questions that enable the participants to enter into dialogue with the meaning of the text at all levels.

**Everyone is invited to join the conversation.** Each member of the group has a different perspective to offer that will increase understanding of the text and its application.

**Everyone is equal before the text.** Both learned scholars and beginners have their own responses to the text.

### ***One model for a group conversation about Scripture—***

- Step 1. Have one participant read the passage aloud.
- Step 2. Allow a moment of silent reflection:  
“Which phrases or actions in this reading speak to your heart?”
- Step 3. Spend a few minutes sharing individual responses coming out of that reflection.
- Step 4. Then, as a group, consider a broader question, such as:  
“How might this Scripture help us better understand where we are as a worshipping Anglican community?”
- Step 5. If there is time enough, have another volunteer read the scripture passage again.
- Step 6. Finally, introduce the video chapter(s) that you have chosen for the group and begin viewing.

## ***Suggested Scripture Readings***

### **Suggestions for DVD CHAPTER 2—Changing Times:**

#### ***Acts 2:41-47***

So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the Apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and

distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day, the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

### **Suggestions for DVD CHAPTER 3—Ethnic and Linguistic Ministry:**

#### ***Ephesians 2:13-22***

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.

So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.

So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him, the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together.

**Suggestion for DVD CHAPTER 4—Welcoming and Belonging:**

***John 4: 5-34, 39-42***

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her,

'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work.'

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

*Suggested Scripture Readings (Continued)*

**Suggestions for DVD CHAPTER 5—Inner City Ministry:**

***Romans 12:1-8***

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ

according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

**Suggestions for DVD CHAPTER 6—Rural Ministry:**

***Leviticus 19:33-34***

When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien.<sup>34</sup> The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.





## *Suggested DVD Discussion Questions*

### Suggestions for DVD **CHAPTER 2—Changing Times** and DVD **CHAPTER 3—Ethnic and Linguistic Ministry:**

- What new branches (opportunities) are available in order for us to grow?
- What has remained the same in our neighbourhood / parish?
- What has changed in our neighbourhood / parish?
- Do I like change? Do my community members like change?
- What languages are represented in our parish?
- What ethnic cultures are represented in our parish?
- What are the challenges and opportunities that exist?
- *Please feel free to add to this list.*

### Suggestions for DVD **CHAPTER 4—Welcoming and Belonging:**

- Are we a welcoming parish to new people?
- How do we know we are welcoming?
- Are we deliberate about welcoming?
- Do we have individuals trained to welcome new people?
- How do we learn to be a welcoming community?
- The Bishops charge challenges us to grow by 2%. Have we accepted this challenge?
- How can we improve?
- Is there anyone on our parish records that we have not seen for a while? Will we contact them?
- *Please feel free to add to this list.*

### Suggestions for DVD **CHAPTER 5—Inner City Ministry** and DVD **CHAPTER 6—Rural Ministry:**

- What is our ministry vision?
- What are the needs in our area?
- What do we offer the local community? What is our ministry?
- How do we reach out to the community around us?
- How do we live out being a community of hope and compassion?
- How do we reach out to the community around us?
- What makes us diverse?
- What are our greatest challenges?
- How do we live out being a community of hope and compassion?
- *Please feel free to add to this list.*