

## CLOSING ACTIVITY

Even as your church is going through the process of closing, there's joy to be found in being able to bless others with the resources God has given to you. With the right partners, the vision and values God gave your congregation can be extended beyond your church into the future. It's possible that you've already decided how your remaining assets will be distributed (perhaps to fund a new congregation or ministry with Resonate Global Mission). Even still, it will be important to clarify your plan for leaving a legacy. This activity will help connect the values and experiences from earlier in this process to a concrete plan for directing funds to other ministry partners.

### Time needed for activity

An initial 60-minute meeting, followed by conversations with ministry partners and reporting back to the congregation

### Group size

Ideally a small group of people who are familiar with the church's ministry partners and budget. They should share the results of the conversation with the rest of the church.

### Steps for Activity

1. Read Acts 1:6-11. If you're willing, dwell in this passage, as you did in the ["Listening to God"](#) activity. As Jesus gets ready to end his ministry on earth, he tells his disciples, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8, NLT). As we see throughout the rest of Acts, the gospel spread from Jerusalem into Judea and Samaria, their region, and beyond, to the ends of the earth as they knew it then.
2. Over the history of your church, you've partnered with organizations, missionaries, and other churches in ways that have helped the gospel spread in your local community and around the world. Create three lists as described below and populate them with what your church has done in each one.
  - (Jerusalem) Programs/initiatives that are/were owned and managed by your church that have witnessed to people about Jesus (*example*: We do Kids Hope in Beavercrest Elementary School.)
  - (Judea and Samaria) Programs/initiatives owned by another church or organization that you have partnered with to bring the gospel to your community (*example*: a local food pantry).
  - (the ends of the earth) Organizations and/or missionaries you have partnered with to bring the gospel around the world (*example*: a [Resonate Global Mission](#) partner in Japan).

*Note:* If you engaged in the [Online Catalog of the Congregation's Impact](#) activity during the *Engaging the Past* stage, you can use that information for this step.

3. Determine how the resources available from closing your church would bless your ministry partners. The best way to know is to ask them. You may want to divide the ministries up among the members of your small group to have a conversation with each partner. Or you may want to send a short questionnaire to each of the partners, using questions like these:

- Tell us about where you see God working in your ministry right now.
- What do you anticipate God may be doing next in your ministry?
- What is one dream that God has given you for this ministry that additional funding could make possible? How much funding would it take?

Report back to the small group what you've learned. Pray for all of your partners and what you've heard from them. Ask God for discernment to steward your resources well. Using the questions below, ask your facilitator to lead you through a discernment conversation about what you've heard.

Share the results of the conversation with the rest of the church.

### **Facilitator's Questions**

*(to be asked throughout this activity)*

1. Help the group make these lists as complete as possible so that all of the ministry partners are represented well. Simply ask, "Who else?"
2. Do you see any themes in what you've heard from these partners?
3. Do any of these partners stand out as people or programs that God is asking you to bless?
4. How would you describe the legacy of your church, if you blessed these partners in this way?