

VISION

CATCH UP

Play your part

Read: Isaiah 54:1-3 | Speaker: Jess

Watch the sermon: 1:00:17-1:37:54 | VISION, Part 2

Jess continued the vision teaching with a picture of pitching a tent: a large tent needs people working together. Making room for others, extending our reach and strengthening our foundations likewise needs the whole church, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

She reminded us that church belongs to God's wider story of restoring and making all things new. We gather around Jesus and are sent to make his love visible. Jess also acknowledged the pain people have experienced in church and the need to pursue a community that is safe, loving and caring.

01 **Build community: make room for people.**

Belonging grows where people can be known and seen. Jess highlighted life groups, shared meals and creative ways of gathering. Adding another chair to the table can be a simple act of welcome that helps someone find a home.

02 **Love Worcester: extend our reach.**

The church is called to serve beyond its own walls. Stories from Foodbank, Lightbox, Night Reach and other ministries showed how ordinary acts of care make a difference. Jess asked who we are not yet reaching and what new opportunities God might be showing us.

03 **Follow Jesus: strengthen our foundations.**

Jesus is the vision. Prayer and discipleship sustain everything else: we need people who follow Jesus and help others follow him. Caring for buildings and practical structures also serves the purpose of welcoming people to encounter him.

Jess offered five responses: pray, play your part, plug into community, give, and live like the kingdom is near. The invitation was to respond concretely, rather than leave the vision as an inspiring idea.

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DISCUSS + RESPOND

Explore it together

Read the passage aloud. Use the questions that best serve your group.

- 01 When have you experienced church as a community where you were known and seen?
- 02 Read Isaiah 54:1-3. How did the image of a tent help Jess describe our shared calling as a church?
- 03 Who could we make room for around our table or in our group? What would a thoughtful welcome look like?
- 04 Which story of loving Worcester stayed with you? Who might be overlooked in our own everyday circles?
- 05 How can prayer and helping others follow Jesus become more central to our group's life?
- 06 Of the five responses – pray, serve, belong, give and live with kingdom purpose – which is God inviting you to act on? What is one manageable next step?

Prayer and response

Thank Jesus for welcoming us into his church and mission. Pray for people seeking belonging, for healing where church has caused hurt, and for those serving Worcester. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide one concrete response this week; leave space for people to respond without pressure.

My response this week
