

The background of the slide is a blurred photograph of a library or study area. In the foreground, an open book is visible with a black pen resting on its left page. The book's pages appear to have some handwritten notes. In the background, several rows of bookshelves filled with books are visible, creating a sense of a vast collection of knowledge.

01.

THEOLOGY OF MISSIONS

At The Vine, we believe that God desires for all humanity to be in restorative relationships with himself, between each other, and with His creation. The demonstration of these relationships is reflected across scripture, from the story of creation, to the reconciling work of Jesus, to the future renewal of all things promised through Christ.

As we personally experience this restoration in our lives, God calls us to turn that transformation outward by caring for our neighbour's physical needs (Luke 10:25–37, Mark 12:30–31) and drawing them to Him through discipleship and evangelism (Matthew 28:16–20). These actions form the foundation of our approach to missional and justice efforts which seek the total transformation of our lives to align with God's purposes.

All Christian mission is grounded in the nature of God himself who redeems and restores all things through Jesus Christ, the self-sacrificing missionary sent from heaven to earth. Our missional efforts are used by God in the redemption and restoration of broken relationships between Him and His creation.

OUR APPROACH

Our approach to missions and justice work is based on recognising the intrinsic value and dignity within humanity and all His creation. By acknowledging this we also recognise that any thought or action which diminishes or violates those principles should be seen as a sinful distortion of God's intention.

When we capture the true value and dignity of His creation, our response should be to reject activities that undermine God's original intention and work towards correcting the violations which distort it.

Our response in the face of injustice is to cry out as the Israelites did in the past. Our biblical mandate is to proclaim freedom for the captives, to care for the vulnerable, and humble the oppressors. Our desire should be for people to experience the full restoration of a redeemed relationship with their Creator. That desire is what underlines our approach to missions. Living missionally is our response in recognising that God created us with this purpose, and, that His creation exists to glorify Him.



02.

CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT



In this Pathway, we focus on those who will shape the future – youth. The writer of Psalm 71 declares that God teaches and guides us from our youth, and challenges us to do the same for the next generation. Interestingly, God called many of His servants at a young age, empowered them through His Word and mentorship, and gave them an identity in the community which shaped their future ministry. He also used the community around them to raise children under their care by teaching them as role models and mentors.

Family and professionals play a key role in mentoring the next generation. In the Old Testament, Abraham, being an extended family member, cared for Lot and shared with him the calling and blessing of God (Genesis 12:5). Eli, a 'professional' religious leader of the Israelites, guided Samuel in his journey of encountering God and through his early ministry (1 Samuel 3:9). In the Gospels, Jesus mentored many disciples, and walked closely with His Twelve. As a role model to many, he showed us what true humility, mentorship, and servant leadership is (John 13). He called "his own" (13:1) to know him (and, through him, to know the Father) and to re-present God's love to the world.

Cultural Shifts in Mentoring

Our modern culture has become more segmented and individualistic. Even though the type of mentoring relationship represented by Abraham and Eli has changed, as a community of believers, we continue to have a vital role in guiding future generations.

The question for us is how can we empower the next generation with the identity, knowledge, skills, and values as the Bible taught without limiting or restricting the development of those whom God has placed in our community? (1 Peter 5:2-3)

The Importance of Mentoring

Young people often find themselves lonely and lost in the vast landscape of the adult world. This is why mentoring is an essential part of quality education. While education is more than just passing on knowledge and skills, mentoring can help individuals reach their full potential by supporting their holistic personal growth and engagement in civic, political, social activities, as well as their career journey.

The United Nations has recognized the importance of youth mentoring in promoting equality, well-being, education, and empowerment of young people. Mentorship programs for young women and ethnic minorities can help them build skills and confidence, access education and career

opportunities. Mentoring is also included in both proactive and reactive approaches to at-risk youth. The US government's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) encourages mentoring as a way to reduce juvenile delinquency and promote positive youth development.



Mentoring Can Happen In Many Ways

The church family is designed to be a place of belonging where all of us can grow and experience acceptance. The healthy church family has the potential to be both a building block of society and a critical means by which we are introduced into a decisive relationship with God. When practised in an environment that values the individual and their unique skills and abilities, mentoring can support the development of a person into the fullness of who God created them to be.

To gain a deeper understanding of this area, its impact, and how you can ***play a role in God's redemptive story***, check out the following resources:

Mentoring guide books

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): Youth Mentoring Guidebook – <https://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Youth%20Empowerment/Youth%20Mentoring%20Guidebook.pdf>
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO): Mentoring Guidebook for Young People – <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000228769>
- United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC): Youth Mentoring for Sustainable Development - <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/youth-mentoring-for-sustainable-development.pdf>
- Guidebook for Mentors of Child Development Fund – https://www.cdf.gov.hk/en/resources/download/files/gb_mentors.pdf

Mentoring resources

- Youth Gov – <https://youth.gov/youth-topics/mentoring>
- Christian Association of Youth Mentoring – <https://www.caym.org/>
- Hong Kong Quality Mentorship Network – https://www.qmn.hk/en_index.php

Articles on Christian Mentorship

- <https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/2017/03/Mentoring-A-way-of-life>
- <https://gfm.intervarsity.org/resource/christian-theology-mentoring>

An aerial photograph of a river meandering through a dense, green forested area. A dark blue, semi-transparent rectangular overlay covers the central portion of the image, serving as a background for the text. The river is a light brownish-tan color, contrasting with the vibrant green of the surrounding vegetation. In the upper left, a small cluster of buildings and a dirt road are visible.

03.

**MISSIONS
PATHWAYS**

Missions was never intended to be restricted to a church ministry or special vocational calling. It is meant to permeate across all areas of our life. Each person's journey towards living missionally is deeply personal and reflective of where God is leading them. It is shaped by their skills, experiences, and passions. It allows for a personal connection between our faith and our skills to then influence systems of injustice and share the gospel.

Missions Pathways is designed to take you beyond knowing about an issue. It is a journey that empowers you to make a personal response. We do this by:

STEP 1 – COMMITTING TO PRAYERS

We believe prayer is at the core of all effective and impactful mission. We cannot effectively engage in missional efforts without continually seeking God's heart for justice and restoration while following His guidance on our involvement. We learn to fight battles through the armour and strategies He gives us. The best devised plans that don't carry God's heart will always be limited in their effect and reach.



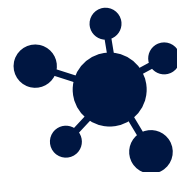
STEP 2 - BECOMING LEARNERS

The majority of broken and unjust systems that we see and experience are complex and have interconnected issues. The visible action that we consider unjust can often be just an expression of a much larger system which perpetuates and empowers that injustice. By positioning ourselves as learners we can explore the complexities and interconnected nature of injustices. Taking this posture can go against our natural desire to respond quickly however without it we may unknowingly hinder the efforts of others or even hurt the people we want to help.



STEP 3 - EXPLORE THE CONNECTIONS

The next step is to understand how the issue is interconnected across different people, industries, society, and perhaps even countries. With this knowledge we can begin to understand how we interface with it in our individual lives through the actions that we and others take on a daily basis. Gaining an understanding of the different components and our involvement will empower us to decide what we can do with our skills and resources to make a difference.



We can start this process by posing questions that are designed to understand the issue and direct future engagement. The resources highlighted in this pack are a starting point to gain a base understanding.

KEY QUESTIONS

- What is the underlying issue and how does it express itself?
- Why do vulnerable people experience this?
- What is the full impact that this has on people and society?
- How does it express itself in my city? Or in my day to day life?
- What would restoration look like if this issue was addressed?



STEP 4 - PLANNING OUR ACTION

With a broad knowledge of the issue, how it is connected across people and society, and an awareness on how we interact with it personally, we are now positioned to map out our personal response. There are a wide variety of ways we can respond to an issue and often the most impacting are determined by our skills, experiences, and passions. Planning our response takes discernment and wisdom – a plan that connects our skills and experiences can lead to long term and sustainable impact. Conversely, taking actions that are difficult to maintain over a longer term can short-circuit the impact or potentially create more damage.



Planning our response could include any or a mixture of the following:

1. Making lifestyle changes like consumption behaviors and how we interact with others
2. Supporting organizations financially or volunteering with our time and skills
3. Finding opportunities for short-term projects that allow us to engage more deeply with an organisation's work and add value to their efforts with our skills and experiences

Connecting with organisations that focus on the area that we are exploring can help guide the planning and future activities.

STEP 5 – ACTION AND ADVOCACY

Bringing others into the journey by sharing our personal response to an issue is one of the most effective advocacy tools that we can use. It provides an opportunity for our friends and coworkers to engage in the process and opens up the opportunity to share the faith that drives our response.

One of our partners, Tearfund provides a range of resources that will help you in this process. You can read more about mapping out your response [here](#)



Missions Pathways also helps facilitate this process for you through both our Inspire events and Catalyst. These opportunities are created with the purpose to not only inform and equip you but also invite others into that process.



04.

PARTNERS & ORGANISATIONS

The partnerships between The Vine, external organisations, and missionaries are a central part of our church's ability to empower work that brings redemption and restoration. We believe for us to effectively partner with others in serving the vulnerable and disadvantaged, we need to be strategic in identifying and building long-term relationships that reflect where God is leading us as a church and our congregation.

One of the ways we support the development of youth our city is by partnering with the below organizations and supporting their work.

YOUNG LIFE

Young Life is a Christian NGO that builds relationships with high school and university-aged students with the goal of introducing people to Christ and disciplining them in their faith. They provide spiritual and social support via on-campus activities, small group gatherings, and other events. In addition, they also provide social and spiritual support to young mothers (24 and under) through the Young Lives ministry.

<https://hongkongyounglife.org/>



INNER CITY MINISTRIES

Inner City Ministries has a mission "To engage the South Asian community, to equip them and bring life transformation through Christian Ministry". Since 1994, They work among the South Asian ethnic community (mainly Nepalese) around Yau Ma Tei area . They provide holistic care ministry to their neighbor, which includes family visits, mentoring, weekly activities and tuition for children and teens, vocational training such as women's sewing workshops, life skills

<https://innercityministries.org/>

