

BONUS PACK

GOING DEEPER



WHAT NOW?

A creative tool to help congregations
make decisions in the age of Covid-19



GOING DEEPER

This bonus section includes additional content for each of the main sections of the What Now? tool. Consider whether to use these in addition to the main tool or as a way of continuing the conversation after using the tool. There are also additional worksheets for the activities worksheet on page 18 and the ideas worksheet on page 29.



GOING DEEPER: MISSION & PURPOSE

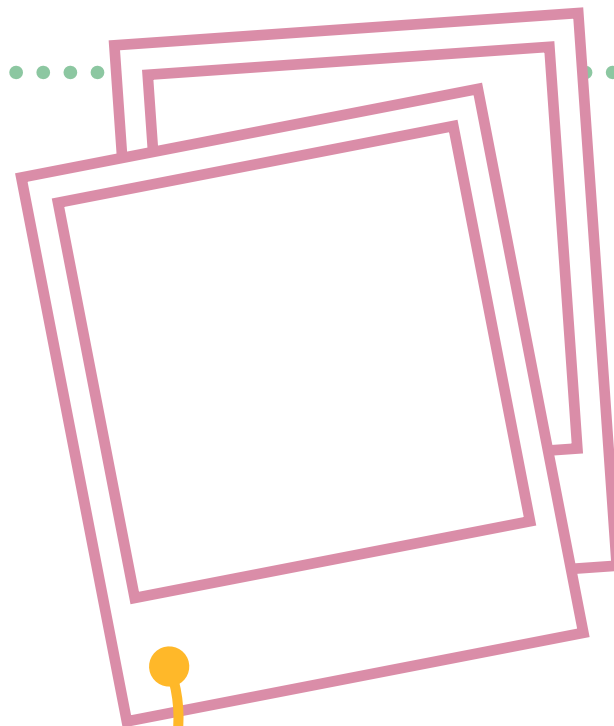


ACTIVITY: LOOKING BACK

10 minutes



If you want to know where to go, it is always helpful to pause, look back and see where you have come from. This section asks you to reflect on where you have seen your congregation most fully alive and, through this, understand a little more about your congregation's mission and purpose. Through the questions below, spend some time thinking about the stories, pictures, people and moments that best capture this.



**1. What activities
have we done really
well in the past 3 years?**

**2. What is a favorite story of
when someone in the local
community was blessed
by our congregation?**

**3. What is the most creative thing we
have done in the last 18 months?**

ACTIVITY: OVERCOMING CHALLENGES



10 minutes



What was a challenging moment for the congregation in the last five years? Pick one that most of the group are aware of. Then have a short discussion about what you did to overcome and move on from that challenge. Write down in the space provided some of the key things you learned from that experience.

Take courage! You have overcome challenges in the past. You will overcome challenges in the present!

Take a moment and think about a scripture passage that has helped you face difficulty in the past.



What helped us in the past overcome challenges?

Our challenging moment:



GO DEEPER: NEEDS

Pick one or more of these optional activities to learn more about the needs of your members and community. Listen carefully and try to put your assumptions aside. You may be surprised by what you learn!



Create a simple one question survey to send out to your members asking them what their biggest needs are right now. Distribute via email, social media, or in the mail. If a survey doesn't work well in your context, make phone calls to members to ask the question.



Call three local community leaders (city council members, non-profit leaders, etc.) to ask them to describe the top five needs they see in the community now and over the next year.



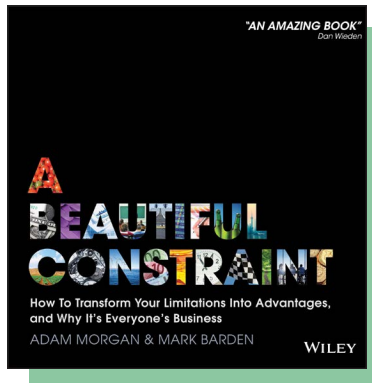
Play the I-Spy game looking for needs in the community (contact info@rootedgood.org).



GOING DEEPER: CONSTRAINTS

Check out this article about how constraints are useful:
<https://fortheinterested.com/dont-think-outside-the-box-create-the-box/>

Read the book Beautiful Constraints
<https://www.amazon.com/Beautiful-Constraint-Transform-Limitations-Advantages/dp/1511309849>





GOING DEEPER: LOSS

Ritualize your grief. Finding ways to collectively share and identify loss can be powerful.

There is always loss in life and right now there is loss in our nation, our communities and our families. That loss might well be the loss of a loved one, but there are other types of loss as well — financial loss, the loss of security or stability, the loss of support. We can't avoid the lifeshocks we experience, but we can choose how to react to them, and the church has an opportunity in this moment to help people live and respond in these days in a way that can bring strength, courage and hope to individuals and our wider communities.

Memorials and rituals can help people and communities move forward from trauma and loss. When gathering for a funeral may not be the wisest thing to do think about different ways you can help your congregation and your community mark the losses that they are experiencing.

A few ideas:

1) Create a cairn or stack of stones somewhere on your church property. Send out an invitation inviting members to the community to reflect on a loss or grief, to bring the stone and lay down the stone as a memorial act. You can make this an opportunity to help your wider community participate in a spiritual practice.

A cairn is a man-made pile (or stack) of stones. The word cairn comes from Scottish Gaelic. Cairns have been and are used for a broad variety of purposes, from prehistoric times to the present, they have been used as landmarks, burial monuments and for other ceremonial purposes.

Whatever you choose to do remember the church has a richness of tradition to help people and communities to help people both celebrate and mourn, it is part of our spiritual practice.

2) Create bracelets or prayer cards with the names of the individuals that have died from Covid-19 and invite people in the congregation and wider community to join you in praying for their families for the next 30 days. This might remind you of the bracelets that were created for MIA/POWs from Vietnam.

3) if you need to find a way to mourn someone that has passed away in the life of the community consider having members of the community bring photos and create an outdoor exhibition OR create a tree planting ceremony which could be easily set up with social distancing protocols.

“a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance”

ECCLESIASTES 3:4





GOING DEEPER: RESOURCES & ASSETS



Play '**Mission Possible**', a game we created to teach the principles of design thinking in a fun and creative way.

LINK:

<https://rootedgood.org/mission-possible-suite/>



Read about **Asset Based Community Development** – a methodology that starts with the strengths of a community, not its weaknesses.

LINK:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asset-based_community_development

Check out the **Community Discovery Tool** – One of the key ways to discover your resources is to discover what is happening in your community. This tool will help you see where community is forming near you, what groups in your area you could learn from or partner with.

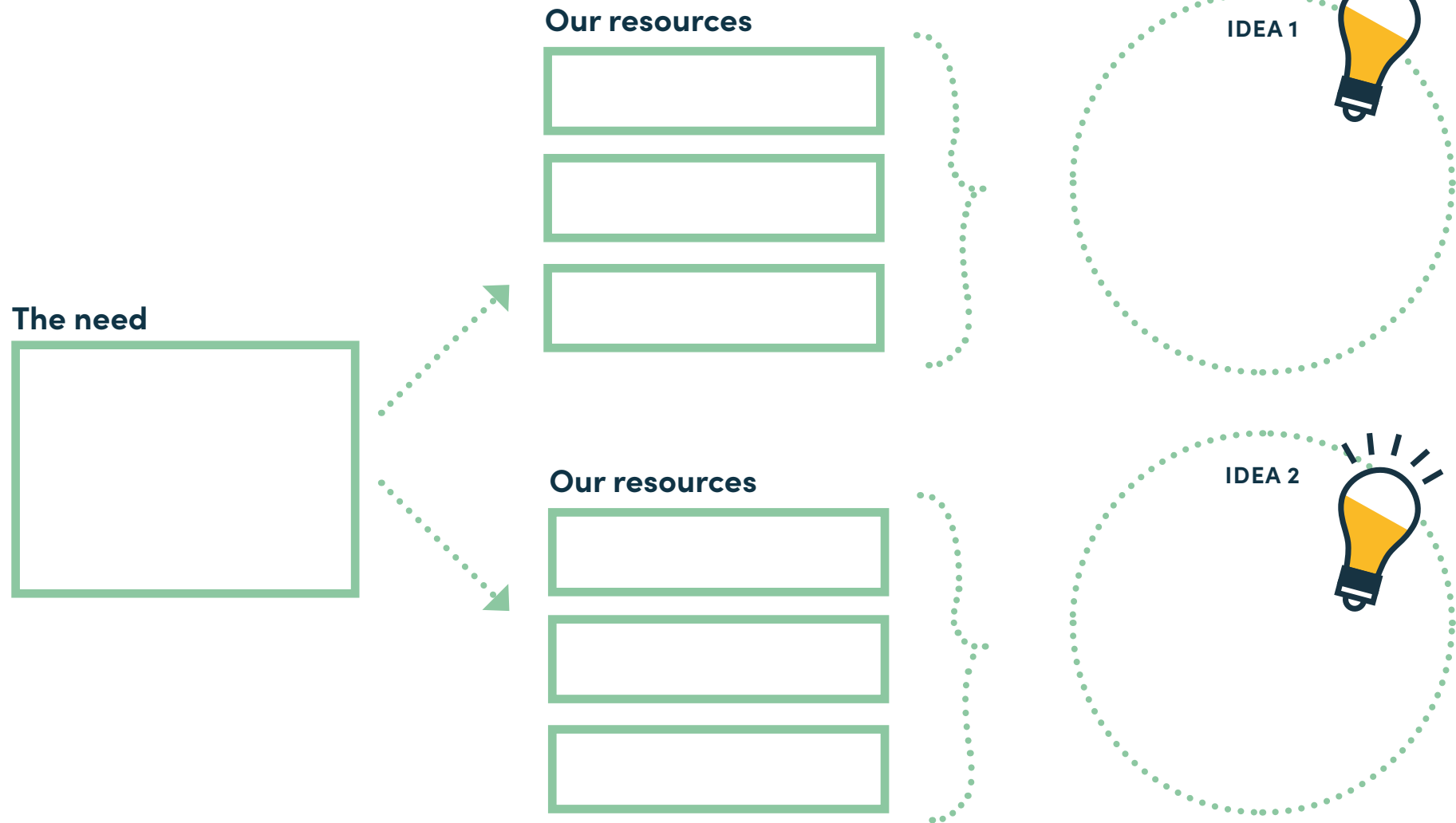
LINK:

<https://rootedgood.org/resource/community-discovery-tool/>



ADDITIONAL WORKSHEETS

OUR IDEAS



Checked against our constraints:

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TYPICAL ACTIVITIES

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Thank you for using this free tool. If you would like to make a donation to RootedGood in order to support our work, we would be grateful.

rootedgood.org/donate

We are passionate about making a difference. Please give feedback on your use of this tool and how it has helped [here](#).

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