

## 8<sup>th</sup> September 2019 – Frontline Sunday 1

### WELCOME

- Where do you feel most awkward as a Christian?

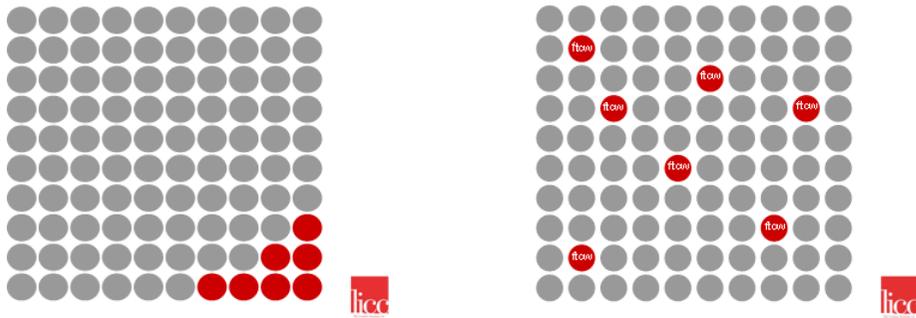
### WORSHIP

- Read **Psalm 139:1-10** together. Offer prayers of thanks that wherever you are God is there with you.

### WORD

Read 1 Peter 1:1-2

Peter is writing to Christian groups in Turkey. Reminding them of two things. They are called by God (elect) and they are scattered (exiles or strangers in the world). This can be illustrated by the two figures below:



*The six dark dots (red in the videos), out of 100 altogether, represents the approximate percentage of people in the UK who worship in a church once a month or more (6%). To the left the red dots in the corner reflect us in the times when we gather as a church community (usually on a Sunday). To the right, the scattered dots reflect the times when we are apart, scattered in our Monday-Saturday lives.*

#### 1. Gathered Dots:

- What strikes you about the gathered dots?
- How does it feel to be Christian minority in our nation?
- Read **Genesis 12:2-3** – What do you think it meant for Abraham, and by extension Israel, to be a blessing?

- How does this help us to understand what God wants from us today?
- How are we (Christians) distinct as a gathered people of God? What do we believe and do that is different from the rest of our society?

#### 2. Scattered Dots:

- What strikes you about the scattered dots?
- What are the specific places where you are scattered during the week (let each person contribute in turn)?
- What are your experiences of being a Christian there?
- How distinctively Christian are we in those places
- Read **Jeremiah 29:4-7** – How would this command have felt for the Jews living in exile?
- How are Jeremiah's words relevant for us today?

### WITNESS:

Frontlines – everyday places where we live, work, study or play and where we are likely to connect with people who aren't Christians.

- Where are your frontlines?
- Read **Philippians 2:14-16** – What do these verses say about living on our frontlines.
- Read **Ephesians 6:10-18** – If your frontline feels like a battleground are these verses helpful?
- What might God's purpose be for you on your frontlines?

### Prayer:

Thinking about what you have shared and heard from the above ask each person:

- What can you give thanks for? – From your frontline.
  - What do you want to ask God to do? – On your frontline.
- Pray for these things now, but also commit to praying for each other over the next week.