



Session Objective

God commands us, as individuals and as a church, to “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly” (Micah 6:8). Jesus commissioned us to make disciples, baptize, and teach the gospel (Matthew 28:16-20). Your participants will learn how the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) understands and lives out these commands.

Faith Statement

The great ends of the church are the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

—Book of Order (G-1.0200)



Engage

Open your time together in prayer and lead a conversation based on the following questions:

- What do Presbyterians do?
- As Reformed Christians, what priorities do Presbyterians have in their various ministries?
- How do the priorities of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) compare to the priorities of other Christian denominations?
- How is your congregation at work in the world?



Explore

Read John 21:15-17 and explore these questions:

- What exactly does Jesus mean when he tells Peter to “feed my lambs”? In what ways does your congregation follow this instruction?
- What exactly does Jesus mean when he tells Peter to “tend my sheep”? In what ways does your congregation follow this instruction?
- What exactly does Jesus mean when he tells Peter to “feed my sheep”? In what ways does your congregation follow this instruction?

Read the Faith Statement together and explore these questions:

- What is another way to say *great ends*? (*goals, purpose statements*)
- What is this paragraph about? (*the things God has called the church to do*)
- Why is it a good idea for the ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to be organized around these great ends?
- Which of the great ends connect with the instructions found in John 21:15-17?



Express

Use the following questions to help the young people express what they've learned.

- How would you respond if someone asked you, “What do Presbyterians do in the world?”
- How is your congregation active in the life of your community?
- Based on all that you've learned in this mini-course, how would you describe Presbyterianism to someone who had never heard of it?



Exit

Give each person an opportunity to share one thing that he or she has learned about being Presbyterian while you've been using this curriculum. Close in prayer, remembering those in the world who are in special need of God's love.

