

## Exploring the 'frontline' - Group Exercise

The 'frontline' is imagery from the battlefield. It's where two armies meet.

Imagine the places where you meet with the people and places of this world your 'frontlines'. You may have several frontlines - your home, or extended family, or your workplace, or your community, or a leisure activity that you do, or the shops. You don't necessarily need to be in a fight in any of these places! But these are the places where you engage with other people and with the world.

This is the group exercise....

1. On your own for 3 minutes ...  
Write down a list of your frontlines.

Against each of those frontlines, write down an issue you're wrestling with in that context. So it might be a workplace stress, or a bereavement, or financial struggles .... But it doesn't have to be something negative. You might be excited by the birth of a new baby yet wondering about how to wisely handle the changes in your marriage that come with a growing family. One of your frontlines could be a systemic issue that's faced by your country or by the world, something that you're passionate about e.g. poverty, AIDS, the credit crunch, the impact of globalisation, sex trade ...

Then write down what help or resources you think that you need to live well on these frontlines.

2. On your own for another 3 minutes ...  
Repeat the same exercise thinking about someone you know in your ministry or project.

3. Come together as a group. You have 10 minutes for this last part of the exercise!

For this exercise, imagine that you all belong to the same church or Christian community. Draw the 'Mapping our frontlines' diagram illustrated over the page on to your flip chart. Map out the frontlines of your group members and the other people you've been thinking about onto this diagram by noting them onto the diagram on three rings:

- a. The frontlines that are very connected into the life of your church or community e.g. a mums & toddlers group, or a lunch for the elderly ... This is the inner ring around your church/community
- b. The frontlines that are connected into the national or global issues that you face e.g. poverty, Africa ... This is the far outer ring around your community.

- c. The frontlines in between e.g. your home, your workplace ... This is the middle ring.

Then make a list of the issues you have noted in these three frontline areas: inner, middle and outer frontlines.

And a list of the help or resources you think you need to live well on these frontlines.

### ***Mapping our frontlines diagram***

