

# PARTICIPANT WORKSHEET

This week we start to think about our specific local context and ask what it might mean to roll up our sleeves and get involved. You'll begin to reflect on how your church might connect with the needs of your local area, you'll hear about a church in Northern Ireland which has been trying to make that same connection, and we'll think about the importance of listening.

## The Ballynahinch clip

Do you think the church has any responsibility to the local community? Why or why not?

## Compassion teaching

### a) Walking around the local neighbourhood

- Look at the people you see: who are they and what are they doing? What's their morale and self-esteem like?

- List the different places you see – the big houses, the estates, the old people's home – and think what it might be like to live in them.

- What are the streets like? Clean, dirty?

- What about the shops? Are there many? Are they expensive? What are the opening hours?  
Any other observations:

### Reflections after your walk

- What good things do you see God's purposes at work in?

- What negative things do you see damaging or limiting God's purposes?

### b) A discussion with a special guest

Name:

Occupation:

Where they live:

How long have they worked in the area and what does their job involve?

Their opinion on the best things about this local area:

The biggest problems in this area:

## Take-away action – 3 mins

Think of someone who knows your local community well but is not part of your church (such as a neighbour, a shopkeeper or lollipop patrol person). Make time to ask them the following questions:

Name of interviewee:

Occupation/role:

What is the best thing about this area:

If you could change one thing about this area what would it be?

What could the church be doing more of to make this community a better place?

*Come prepared to feed back next week.*