|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Reflection/Action Audit Tool**  **The Vision: To make singleness or marriage a genuine choice for all Christian women and men, through a church which is gender-balanced and teaches about healthy Christian singleness, dating and marriage.** | C:\Users\Annabel\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Word\engage-mcmp-www.png |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | **Aim: To facilitate action amongst Christians that raises awareness of the church gender imbalance and addresses the resulting issues for men, women and children.** | | | |
|  | **Some ways forward** | **Action: What** | **Who** | **When** |
|  | Points from Annabel Clarke’s talk |  |  |  |
|  | Points from Adrian Chatfield’s talk |  |  |  |
|  | Points from Paul Coleridge’s talk |  |  |  |
| **a** | Look at [www.engage-mcmp.org.uk](http://www.engage-mcmp.org.uk) |  |  |  |
| **b** | Share the Key Information for Leaders (on website page For Christian Leaders) with your leadership team. |  |  |  |
| **c** | Watch the Engage Symposium talks online with your leadership team. |  |  |  |
| **d** | Write an action plan together to strategically address the issues (could use format on Engage website similar to this one). |  |  |  |
| **e** | Nominate a key person from your leadership team to lead your involvement in making Christian marriage possible. |  |  |  |
| **2** | **Aim: To connect men to Jesus and the church to men (see** [**www.cvm.org.uk**](http://www.cvm.org.uk/)**), creating a gender-balanced church.** | | | |
|  | **Some ways forward** | **Action: What** | **Who** | **When** |
|  | Points from Nathan Blackaby’s talk |  |  |  |
| **a** | Set up systems to regularly monitor who is participating in your church/organisation – by gender and age group, e.g. services/youth group/other groups. |  |  |  |
| **b** | Get the DVD ‘Men’ from Christian Vision for Men for more practical ideas to implement for effective evangelism and discipleship. Watch with your leadership team (and others?) and identify key actions for your context. |  |  |  |
| **c** | Read David Murrow’s book ‘Why Men Hate Going to Church’, and identify key actions for your context. |  |  |  |
| **d** | Get involved with Christian Vision for Men or another organisation that supports evangelism and discipleship amongst men and boys – e.g. join their regional networks/discuss with them how to develop your current men’s ministry/invite their speakers to an event. |  |  |  |
| **e** | Set up men’s mentoring/discipleship systems, including particularly around relationships. |  |  |  |
| **f** | Identify Christian members of the congregation who are married to non-Christians (usually Christian women married to non-Christian men). Meet with them (as a group or individually?) and ask about their experiences and needs – take forward as appropriate. |  |  |  |
| **g** | Other |  |  |  |
| **3** | **Aim: To promote teaching for the whole church about healthy Christian singleness, dating, relationships, marriage and parenting.** | | | |
|  | **Some ways forward** | **Action: What** | **Who** | **When** |
| **a** | **Young people**  Points from Jason Royce’s talk   * Provide regular teaching on identity in Christ and a biblical self-concept, e.g. see Freedom in Christ course for YP [www.ficm.org.uk](http://www.ficm.org.uk) * Provide specific teaching for girls (e.g. Cherished, Rachel Gardner) and teaching for boys (e.g. Manmade, CVM) – see [www.engage-mcmp.org.uk](http://www.engage-mcmp.org.uk) > Young People. * Provide teaching on a Christian approach to sex and relationships e.g. run nationally by [www.romanceacademy.org](http://www.romanceacademy.org) * Sign up for the Romance Academy newsletter – see their website. |  |  |  |
| **b** | **Whole church teaching/discipleship/activities**   * Ensure that each year there is ‘main stage’/sermon teaching for the whole congregation on each of: healthy Christian singleness, dating/relationships and marriage. * Ensure that there is regular group-specific teaching on each of: healthy Christian singleness, dating/relationships (e.g. for young people, unmarried adults) and marriage (e.g. engaged couples, marriage-prep, marriage courses). * Ensure that all sermons and talks include issues and illustrations which are relevant to people who are single or married. * Ensure that all speakers/leaders/others are not just introduced with reference to their marriage and family. * Audit how many of our activities cater for those who are single/   married/parents or are inclusive for all – need to redress the balance? |  |  |  |
|  | **Some ways forward** | **Action: What** | **Who** | **When** |
| **c** | **The data/singleness/marriage**  Points from David Pullinger’s talk   * Survey the congregation/members: does it match the 1 in 3 single adults in the wider population? If not, are we discouraging single people from being part of our church? What can we do? * Appoint a member of the church leadership team to be accountable for and support single Christians, particularly the over 30s. * Look at [www.singlechristians.co.uk](http://www.singlechristians.co.uk) (research and good practice for churches) and implement recommendations for churches. * Meet with the single men in your congregation as a group and ask them about their experiences and needs – take forward as appropriate. * Meet with the single women in your congregation as a group and ask them about their experiences and needs – take forward as appropriate. * Meet with those who are single again (widowed/divorced) and ask them about their experiences and needs – take forward as appropriate. * Ensure single and married people alike are valued and given equal opportunities to identify and use their gifts. * Regularly raise awareness of the resources available to support adult single Christians e.g. at [www.engage-mcmp.org.uk](http://www.engage-mcmp.org.uk) |  |  |  |
| **d** | **20s and 30s and the church**  Points from Chine McDonald’s talk |  |  |  |
|  | **Some ways forward** | **Action: What** | **Who** | **When** |
| **e** | **Dating/relationships**  Points from Will van der Hart’s talk and Jackie Elton’s talks   * Regularly raise awareness of the book ‘How to get a date worth keeping’ (Henry Cloud, Christian Psychologist), particularly amongst those who are not married who may wish to be. * Download and use ‘Amazing Love’ DVD series and short Q&A videos by Henry Cloud [www.cloudtownsend.com](http://www.cloudtownsend.com) to run teaching workshops of video and discussion (see [www.engage-mcmp.org.uk](http://www.engage-mcmp.org.uk) > Adult Dating/relationships). * Raise awareness of other resources available for those wanting to date/be in a relationship: see [www.engage-mcmp.org.uk](http://www.engage-mcmp.org.uk) for resources on Adult Dating/Relationships and also Marriage. |  |  |  |
| **e** | **Marriage**   * Regularly provide relevant courses and support (see [www.engage-mcmp.org.uk](http://www.engage-mcmp.org.uk) for examples).   Points from Nicky Lee’s talk |  |  |  |
| **f** | **Parenting**   * Regularly provide relevant courses and support (see [www.engage-mcmp.org.uk](http://www.engage-mcmp.org.uk) for examples). |  |  |  |