

mission and the Blob

It is said that 'a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step' (Lao-tzu, Chinese philosopher, 604-531 BC), and that's as true of mission as it is of anything else. So whether you're a seasoned missionary, prayer supporter, missions mobiliser, advocate or enthusiast, your journey on the exciting adventure that is world mission will have started somewhere.

Maybe it was through Christian parents or friends, meeting a missionary, listening to a sermon, reading the Bible, the impact of a book, magazine or leaflet, or being aware of a still small voice prompting you towards playing a part in reaching East Asia's billions. But whatever your involvement in missions, it's important to realise that not everyone in our churches or house groups is necessarily as involved as we are.

Perhaps some don't see the importance of mission or its relevance to their own lives, or are just too busy. Or perhaps they feel a pull towards mission, but are afraid of the consequences, in terms of time, energy, money, involvement or commitment, if they follow that path. Discovering what a person thinks and feels, hopes or dreads about mission could be an important first step on the journey towards future involvement. And that's where the Blobs opposite come in.

This helpful visual, specially produced for OMF, is a great way to get people in your church, house group, CU or prayer group to open up about mission by discussing which of the Blob figures best illustrates what they feel about it. So why not photocopy the Blobs opposite as a small-group handout (or download and print the image at www.omf.org.uk/resources). You could also incorporate it into a PowerPoint, for use in churches and youth groups.

Remember, there are no right or wrong answers. It's all about getting people to open up and discuss what mission means to them (or not!); seeing if there are any further steps they could take on the journey to be involved in God's great plan for reaching the nations.



MISSION & THE BLOB

Objective: a communication tool or ice-breaker to get groups of people to explore and share thoughts and feelings about mission.

Numbers: in twos, threes or fours, small groups or large groups (the latter is fine, but takes longer). Instructions: give a photocopy or printout of the illustration opposite to everyone in the group. (You can also use PowerPoint or even an OHP!) Explain that it shows various Blobs in various stages of involvement in mission. Ask people to choose the Blob that best represents where they're at. Then get them to discuss which Blob they've chosen.

Questions: (feel free to add your own, or fine-tune according to the group's needs)

- Which Blob do you feel like when it comes to involvement in mission?
- Why?
- Which Blob would you like to be?
- Why?
- Which Blob do you feel God wants you to be?
- Why?
- Which Blob do you think represents the most positive contribution to mission?
- Why?
- Which Blob do you think represents the most negative contribution?
- Why?

You can either stop the exercise now, or use the above as a means of discussing mission further.

Larger groups: Using an OHP, PowerPoint or a large-size print out, point to each Blob in turn and get people to raise their hands when you indicate the Blob that most resembles their involvement in mission. As you do so, jot down the number of people who chose each Blob. Use the final tallies to get people to discuss why they think some Blobs are well represented and others less so, and what that means to the church and mission.

Talk shop: Alternatively, get people to raise their hands when you indicate the Blob that most resembles their involvement in mission, then get them to form a group with those that chose the same Blobs. You can then get people in the new groups to discuss what they might have in common that makes their response similar. (They can also discuss if there's anything more they can do to make mission happen in their area, what it would mean to the church and mission if everyone was like them, and what to do next.)

For more Blob resources, visit www.blobtree.com

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www.omf.org.uk/resources

BLOB MISSIONS

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