

Introduction

Scan the QR code below to watch teaching unpacking the Biblical underpinning for mission mapping...

Knowing your community is essential as you look to engage in mission there. No estates are the same so no one approach to mission will work everywhere.

As you think about how you can engage in what God's doing in your patch, it's essential we think about what makes it special. What sets it apart? Mapping your local area is a fantastic way to do this. As you step back and take a fresh look at the place God has called you to, you will find yourself spotting new, exciting opportunities.

So whether you're new to your estate or have been calling it home for years, it's time to get mapping!

'TO KNOW THE WILL OF GOD, WE NEED AN OPEN BIBLE AND AN OPEN MAP'

WILLIAM CAREY

Proximity is the brand-new urban mission resource hub equipping churches, leaders and those on the ground through online content and in-person community.



Where do I start?

The good news is that mission mapping is exciting and we're going to walk you through it. As you begin, it's important to remember you won't be able to learn everything all at once, getting to know your area is an ongoing process, and it'll be useful to review and update your map every so often.

Grab your friends

Mapping your mission is best done as a group! Think about who you could invite to get involved.

Before starting your map, it's helpful to walk around your community. As a group, make a note of important places you spot and the key people you meet. You could even ask someone in your community who's lived there for a long time to be your 'guide' as you explore.

As you walk around, why not pray together, asking God to speak to you and show you what he's already doing. You may find that people, places or Bible verses come to mind. Jot them down so that you can add them to your map later.

Dig deeper

Before you start your mission map, it's good to do some research. Grab yourself a notepad and pen and answer the questions below. If helpful, do some research online. Discuss this as a group and learn from one another's perspectives and experiences. By spending time reflecting about the place you call home you'll understand your community deeper than ever before.

HISTORY

- What can you find out about the area's history?
- Why was it given its name? What stories can you find about the area?

GEOGRAPHY

- How's the community laid out?
- Where do people gather?
- Where do people shop/go to have fun?

PEOPLE

- What jobs do people do and where do they work?
- How would you describe the age and diversity of your community?
- Who are the people of influence?

CULTURE

- How's authority viewed?
- How is art expressed?
- What are the accepted rhythms of life?
- How have politics influenced the neighbourhood?

FAITH

- What has God already been doing in the community?
- What other churches are involved in the area?
- Are there any other faith groups meeting in your community?

Time to get mapping

The whole of the reverse side of this resource is designed for you to create your community mission map on.

You will need...

- A group of people from your church/community
- 1 - 2 hours to spend together
- A map of your local area
- Coloured pens/pencils
- A brew and maybe even treat yourself to cake!

Step One – Draw your community

Looking at your estate map, roughly draw out the area you're focusing on. Where are the key boundary lines? Are there natural borders like roads that define your community? If so, mark them on.

Step Two – In and out

With **GREEN ARROWS** mark on the key entrance/exit points.

Step Three – Add the landmarks

Use your **PURPLE PEN** to draw and label key landmarks. Put on as many as you want, including places like shopping centres, schools, doctors, pubs and other well-known community places.

Step Seven – Stepping out

Using **YELLOW STARS**, mark on the different places in your community where there are mission opportunities already being developed or where there is the potential to do so.

Step Six – Key people

With **RED HEARTS**, identify who your key people are and where you'll find them. This can be the people of peace in your community, those you have made connections with, or others you'd like to connect with.

Step Five – Where's home?

Roughly mark out the homes of people in your church who live in the area using a **BLUE DOT**.

Step Four – Where are the churches?

Mark the place where your church meets with a **BROWN CROSS**. It's also helpful to identify other churches that are based in your community this way too.

What next?

Looking at what you've gathered from walking around your community, your question answers and your map, chat about what you've learnt and how this might inform your mission.

- What missional opportunities is God calling you to?
- How can you begin to develop these?
- Who is God drawing to himself and how can you invest in these relationships?

Spend time praying together, thanking God for what he's doing and that you get to be part of this. Pray about the opportunities you've identified and for God's wisdom for how they can be developed.

And finally...

Put your completed map up somewhere where you will be able to see it! You can add to it as both your community and mission develops and use it as a guide to help you pray for your estate. We'd love to see your finished map, so why not take a photo and share it with us on social media tagging in @proximityhub.

MISSION MAPPING

proximity

Your handy guide to help you get to know your community and plan how to impact it...

proximity

Every community is uniquely different. Different buildings. Different people. Different things going on.

To step out in the mission God has called us to and have a long-lasting impact we need to know our communities well and see clearly where God is at work. The mission mapping tool is here to help you do just that.

By urban missionaries. For urban missionaries.

proximityhub.org

