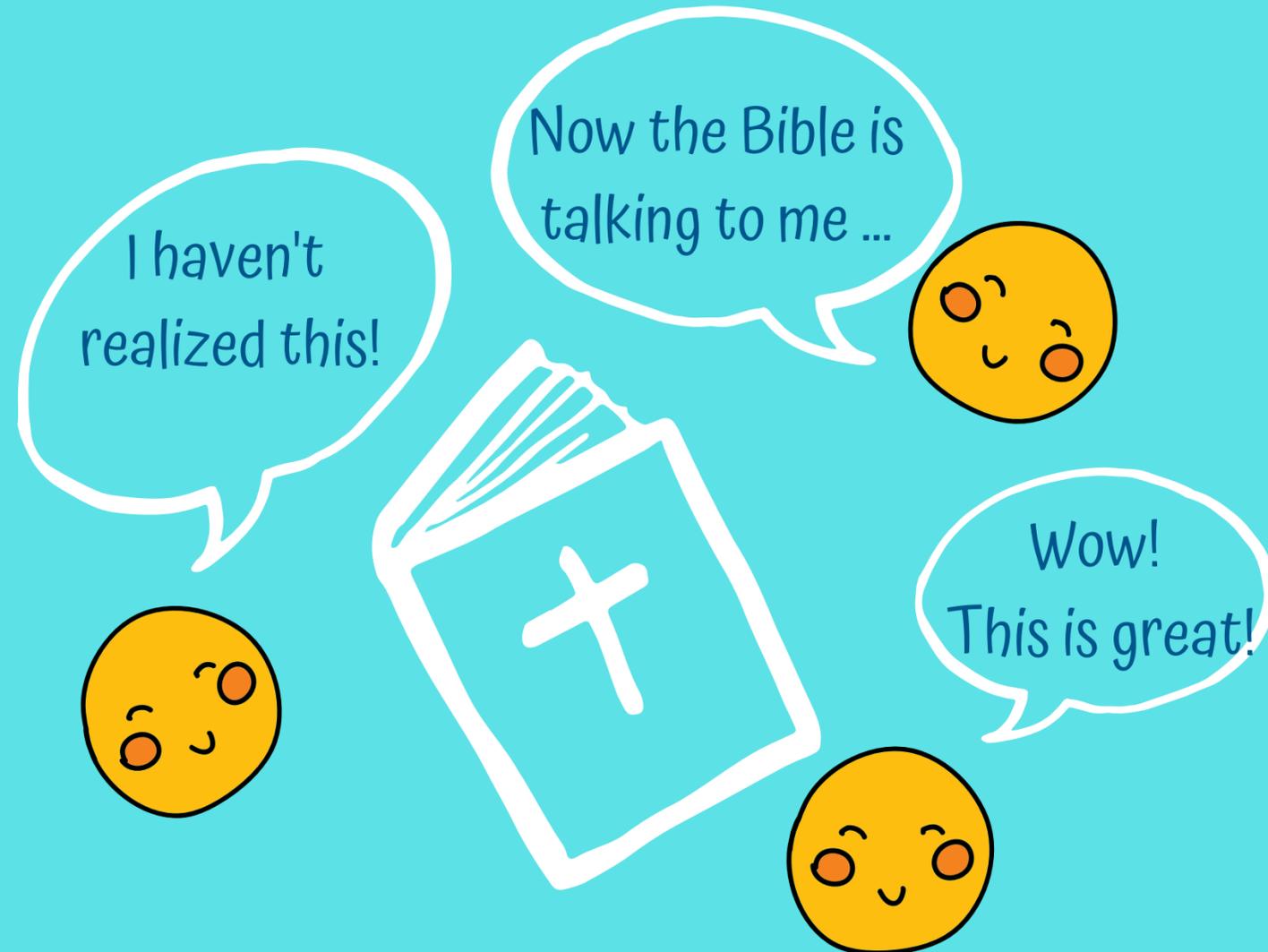




# Contextual Bible Reading (CBR)

for URCSA congregations



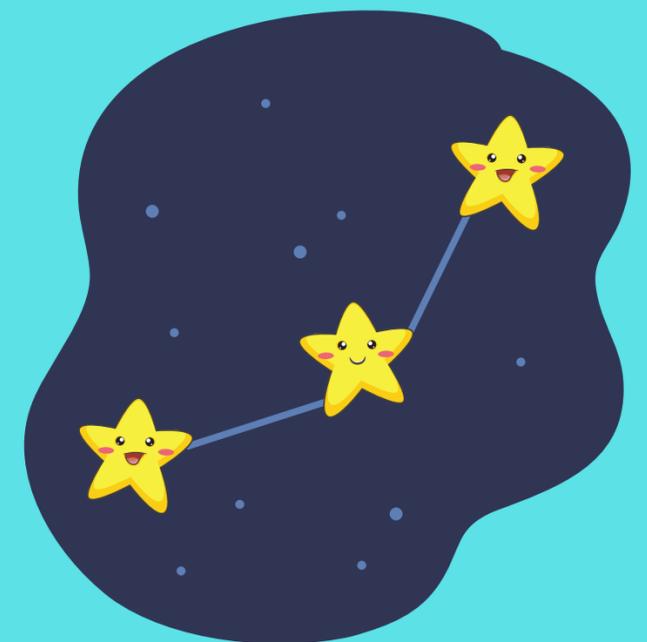


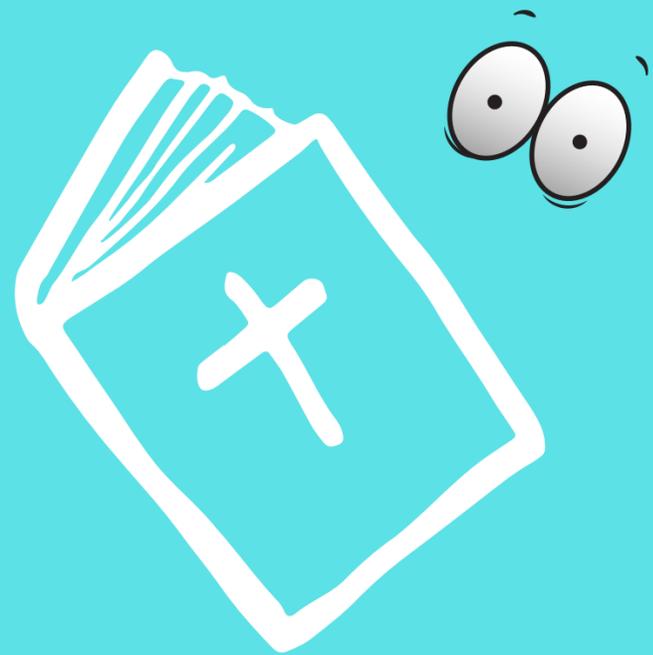
# What is CBR?



Contextual Bible Reading (CBR) is:

- a method of reading the Bible, starting with the context of the community
- the method works with the formula: see, judge and act
- the three parts are
  - interconnected and
  - works in a circular way



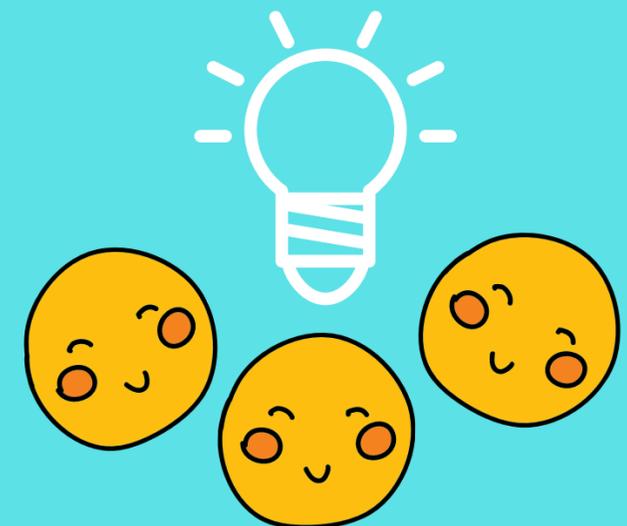


# The SEE part



The group of readers or participants of the CBR look at their context and identifies the challenges or problems facing them as a community.

They discuss the cultures, systems and ideologies enabling these challenges or problems to fester and become destructive forces - anti-development and anti-flourishing.



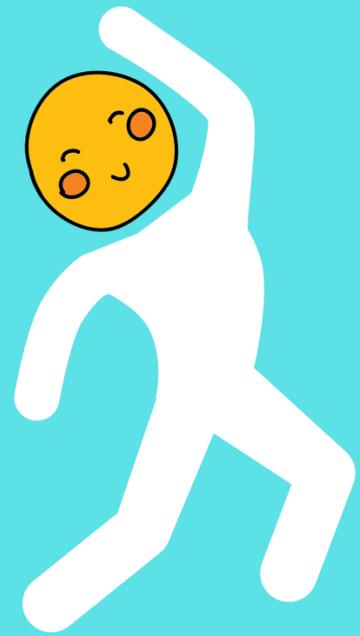
# The JUDGE part



The group *chooses one theme* from the discussion and decides together *which story from the Bible speaks to the chosen theme.*

They then read the story or portion of scripture together with a set of questions. Together they *answer these questions* working all along only with the biblical story or portion of scripture and write down all the answers on a flip chart.

The purpose of this part is to establish whether the conclusions and principles drawn from the biblical text speak to the chosen theme and/or challenge of the community and what *transformative and/or restorative actions* can be taken.



# The ACT part

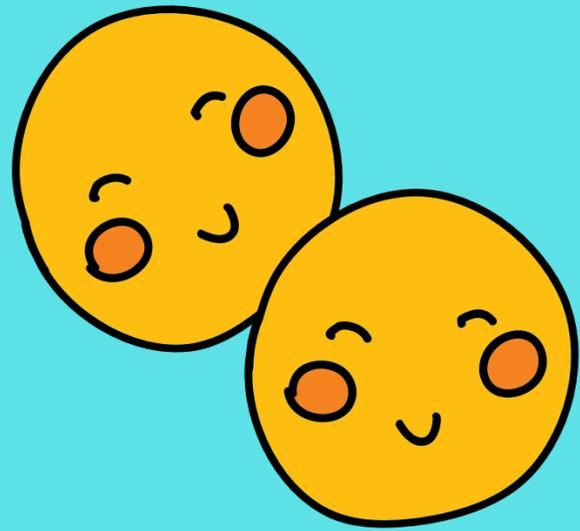


During the third and last phase the group formulates a few actions they can take, extrapolated from the judge part, to change, transform and restore the challenge into a juncture to learn and to grow.

A formal commitment is made to fulfill the actions.



# ADVANTAGES



CBR has various advantages that will impact the congregation positively and is a multi-functional ministry tool to work the challenges and weaknesses of the congregation and its members.

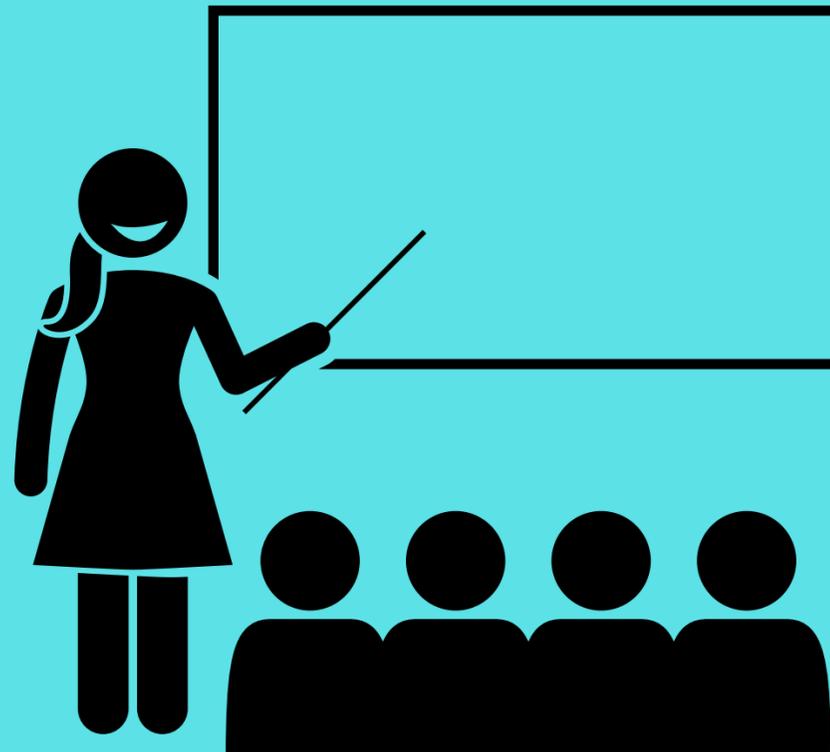
We are highlighting 9:



# 1. Teaching & Application



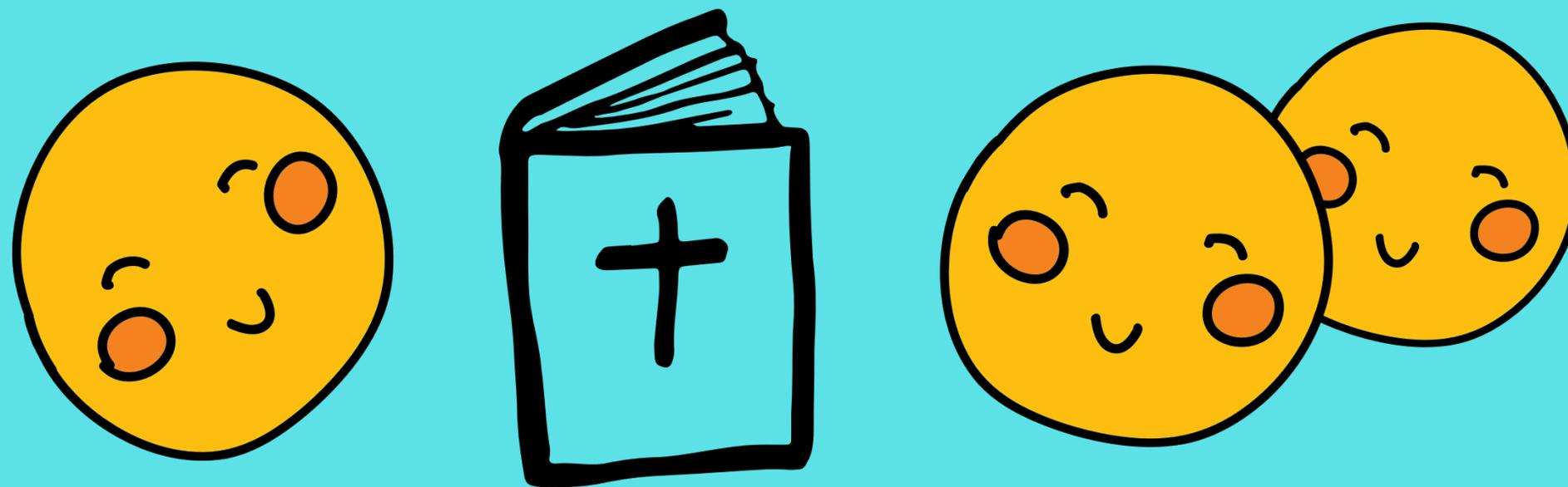
It will put the task of *teaching and application of kingdom principles and/or values* squarely and afresh at the feet of the congregation and all members.



# 2. Inclusive & Transformative Bible reading



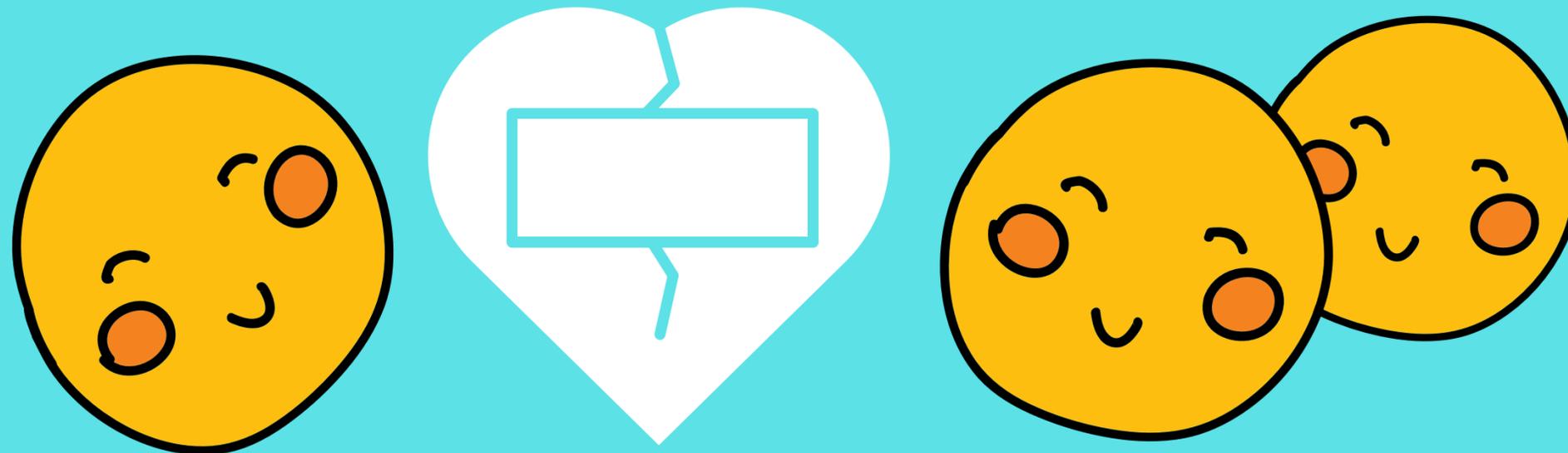
It will make Bible reading *participatory, inclusive and transformative.*



# 3. Enable discernment & restorative actions



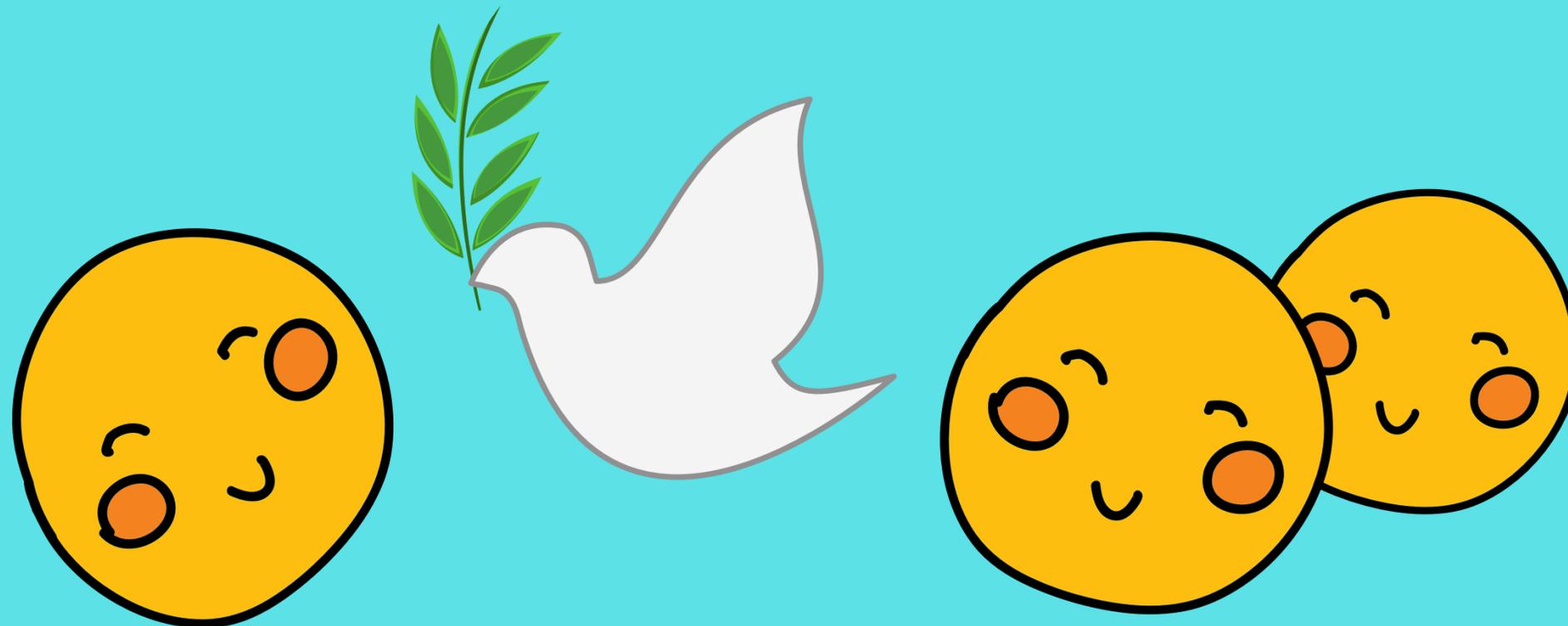
It will enable discernment among the congregants and empower members towards actions that heal and restore.



# 4. Spiritual growth will be enhanced



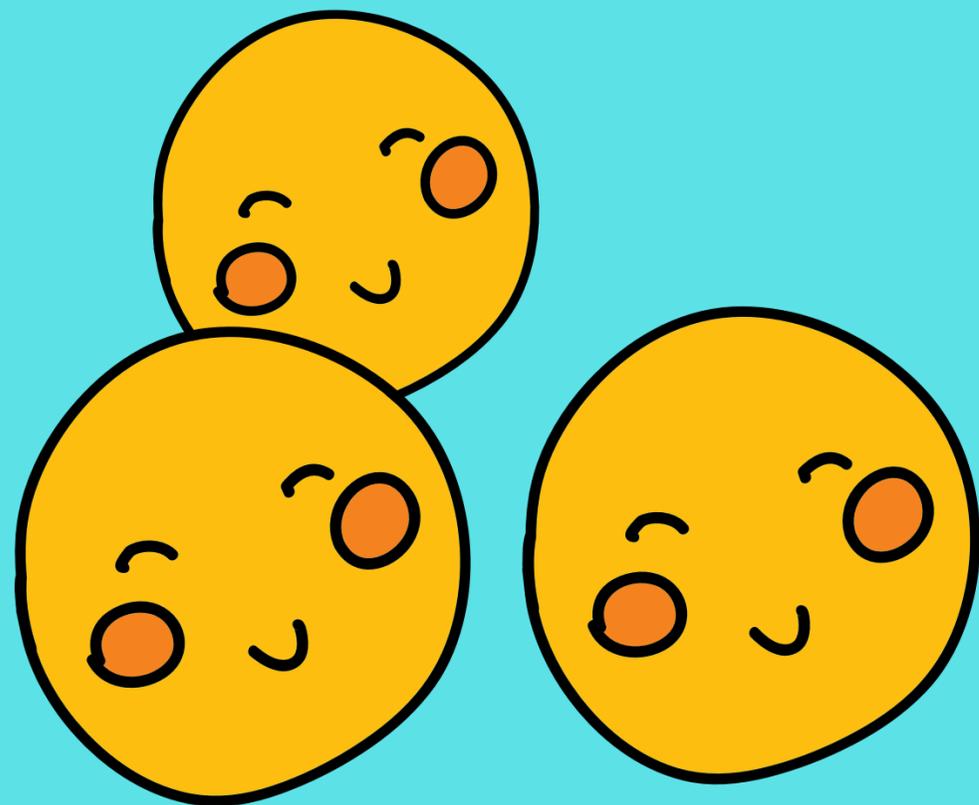
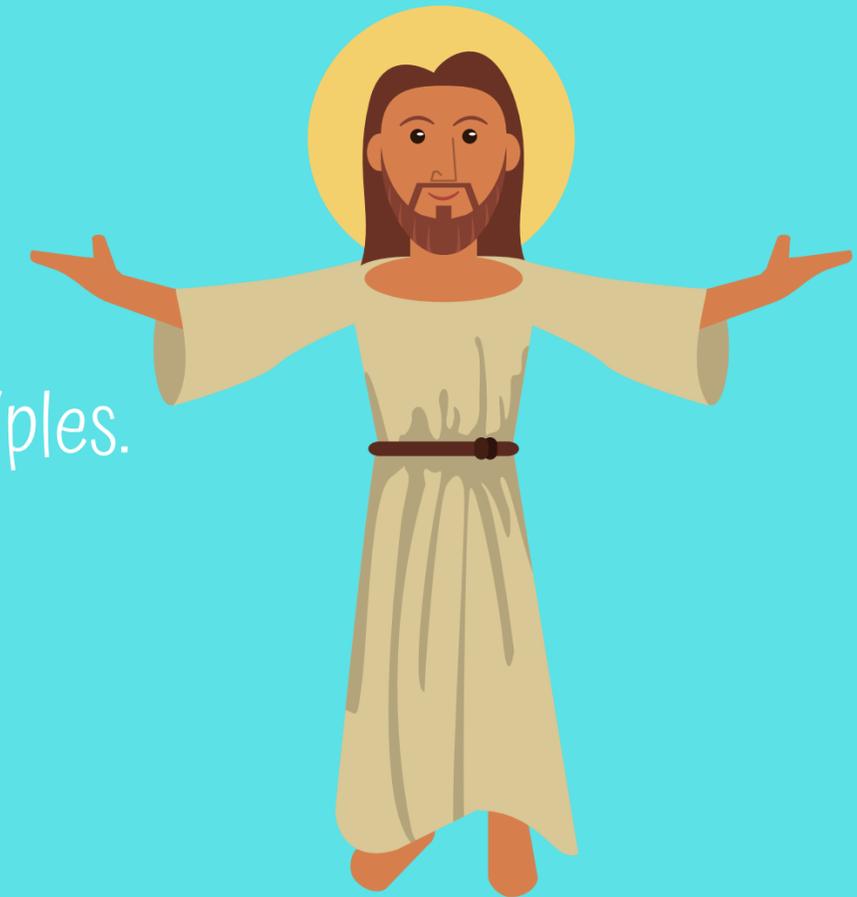
It will enhance and strengthen spiritual growth of members that is fed by the preaching and personal Bible study.



# 5. Disciple-making will be activated



It will activate disciple-making and help form *active* disciples.



# 6. Capacity building



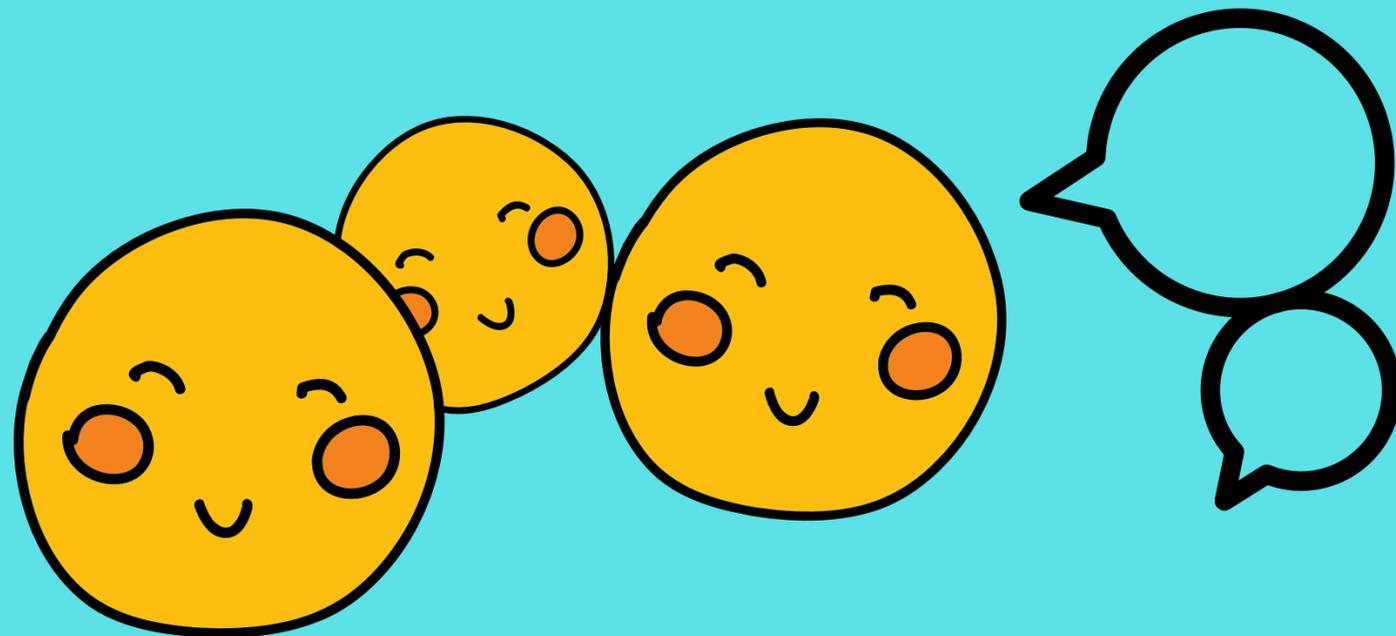
It will build capacity among members and of potential leaders and address the challenges facing by, especially, congregations without ministers.



# 7. Create & enable Courageous conversations



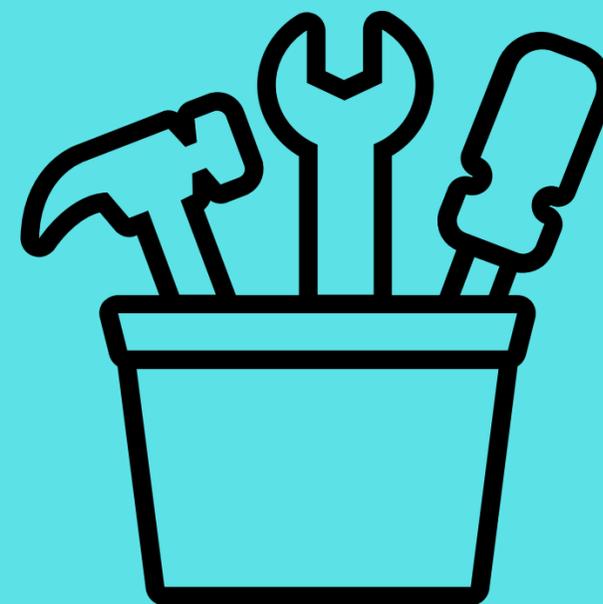
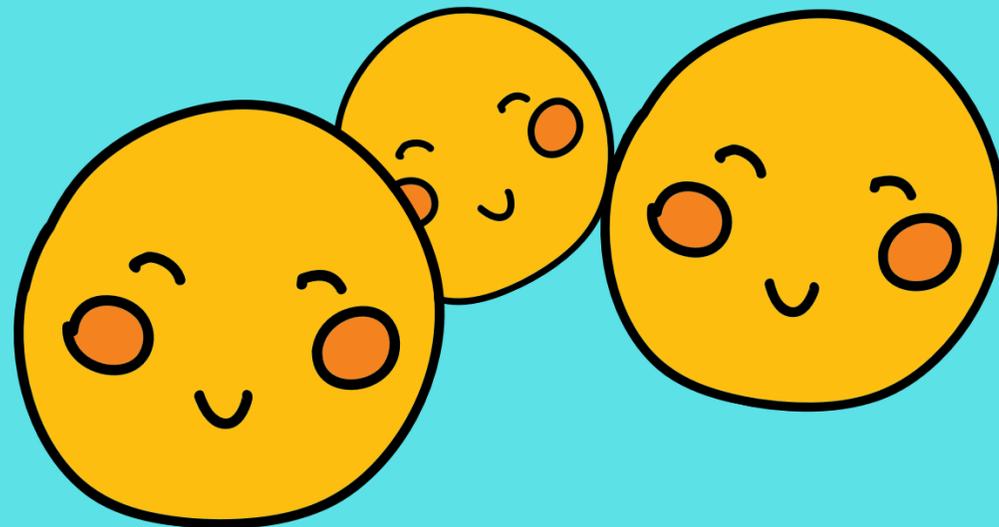
It will create spaces for and enable opportunities to have courageous conversations about unity, reconciliation and justice.



# 8. Strengthen and support faith formation



CBRs will strengthen and support the task of *faith formation* and the equipment of the saints. (Eph. 4: 12)



# 9. Pandemic-friendly



CBR will enable congregations to continue with the *ministry of empowerment* amidst the pandemic because it can take place with the 3 major regulations of the COVID-19 protocol:

- social distance
- wearing your mask
- sanitizing



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