

## Entering a new land #11

### Introduction

- Situation in Joshua's day:
  - **importance** - see chapters 13-21, with a brief (related) interlude in chapter 20
  - this is the bit the tribes were living with at the time the book of Joshua was written down
  - "allotment" gave protection against exploitation and provide resource enough for families
  - following God's command
  - following principles of fairness (casting lots)

### Work in partnership

- Perhaps the days of fighting other denominations are over
  - hopefully the days of bad-mouthing other groups are over too...
  - but have we really begun to build creative partnerships for the sake of the gospel?
  - LifeGate and Christmas Eve services...? Good... uncomfortable? Accidental!
- We are familiar enough with **geographical** divisions, in the CofS parish system
  - we are probably even familiar, if ambivalent, with "**allotments**" based round **church polity** (eg style or emphasis)
  - now what about "**allotments**" around missional focus - eg age specific, or demographic specific
- Hot Chocolate in dynamic partnership with the Steeple? Glasgow Harbour as more than just a geographical area, but self-consciously as an area with a specific demographic...

### Bless initiative

- Importance of keeping commitments
- Emerging Ministries Fund...
  - local initiatives - the answer is "go for it!"
  - (rather than a culture of control and fear and what might go wrong....)
- Example of a model: Multi-congregations
  - cf Whiteinch

### Questions

- Is it a good thing that there are only two Christian churches in Fintry?
- What are parish boundaries good for?
  - and what bad for?!
- How can we open the door to initiatives and partnerships locally?