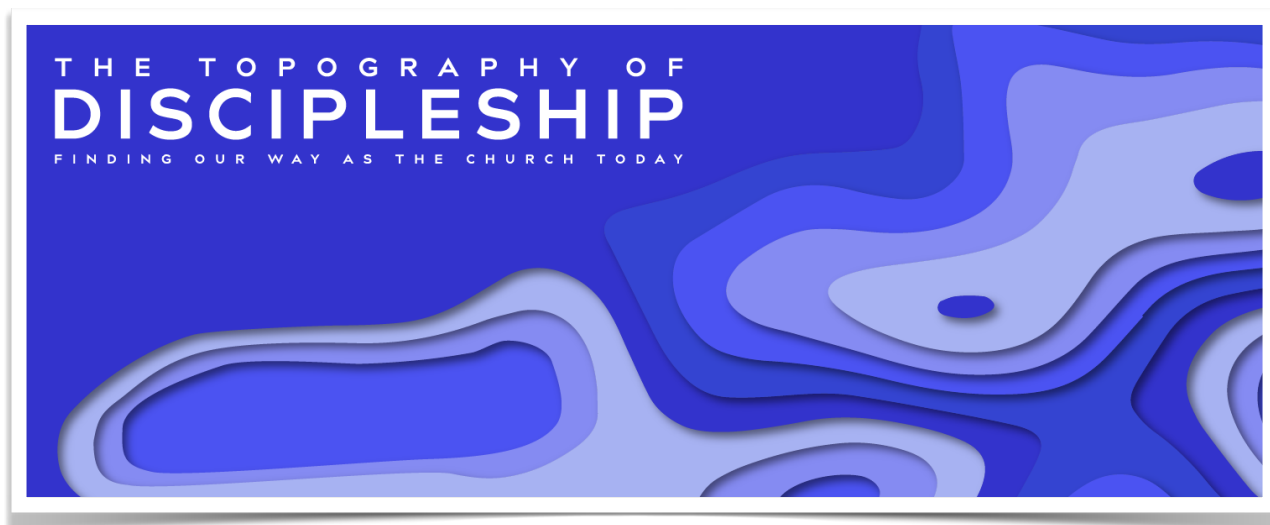


GBC Discipleship RESOURCE



THE TOPOGRAPHY OF DISCIPLESHIP

FINDING OUR WAY AS THE CHURCH TODAY

Week Five | The Personal Context Part 1

For a brief overview of why (and how) to engage in each of these practices, you can read the Guideline For Growing on our website.

<https://www.gymeabaptist.org.au/growing/pages/guideline-for-growing>

OVERVIEW

This week we continue in our nine-week sermon series entitled “The Topography of Discipleship: Finding Our Way As The Church Today” in which we will explore the five relational contexts that God uses to bring us to maturity as followers of Jesus. These contexts are taken from the book Discipleship That Fits by Bobby Harrington and Alex Absalom. The series will alternate between exploring what a specific relational context does for our discipleship and how we might encourage the context in our community of faith at GBC. The discipleship menus will seek to help explore the principles and apply them in our lives.

Each “menu” will follow the same pattern: some passages of Scripture to reflect on, a few questions to consider, a text to internalise, and a theme to pray about. We encourage you to listen to the sermon (either “live” or through the GBC Sermon Podcast) as a helpful foundation for the menu. We will also include the chapter you could read from *Discipleship That Fits* if you are keen to do so.

This week we examine the “why” of the Personal Context; 5-12 people who gather regularly to experience closeness, support, and challenge.

Discipleship That Fits – read chapter 8, “What You Know About Small Groups Could Be Wrong: Understanding the Personal Context”

1. PASSAGES TO MEDITATE ON

As you read these passages consider how they are formed about Jesus, focused on his teaching and activity, and lead to mission. (These were the three aspects of the personal context drawn out from Sunday’s sermon. You can listen to this on the GBC Sermon Podcast.)

These passages all focus on the importance of relationships for discipleship. For each, consider the impact of having companions on the journey.

- Mark 6:6b-13
- Mark 14:17-26
- Acts 14:21-28
- Philippians 4:1-3
- Hebrews 10:23-25, 32-39

2. JOURNALING QUESTIONS

When have you been part of a small group that has challenged you in your discipleship?

What role did closeness and support have in the impact of that group on you as a follower of Jesus?

What can a small group do for you as a follower of Jesus that is more difficult on your own or with only one or two others? In other words, what unique place can a small group play in your life?

3. LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

How does closeness and support strengthen your discipleship as a group?

How can it be detrimental?

How important is discipleship to your group? How is that reflected in what you do and how you do it?

4. PRAYER THEME

If you're in a Life Group, pray for your group that following Jesus might remain at the heart of your group life. If you're not in a Life Group, pray about if this is the right time to find one (you can have a look at GBC Links under the Life Groups page for more information including an expression of interest form!).

5. A TEXT TO INTERNALISE

Hebrews 10:24-25

**The five contexts are: The Divine (you and God), the Transparent (you and one or two others), the Personal (you and a Life Group), the Social (you as part of mission team), and the Public (you in a Sunday service).*