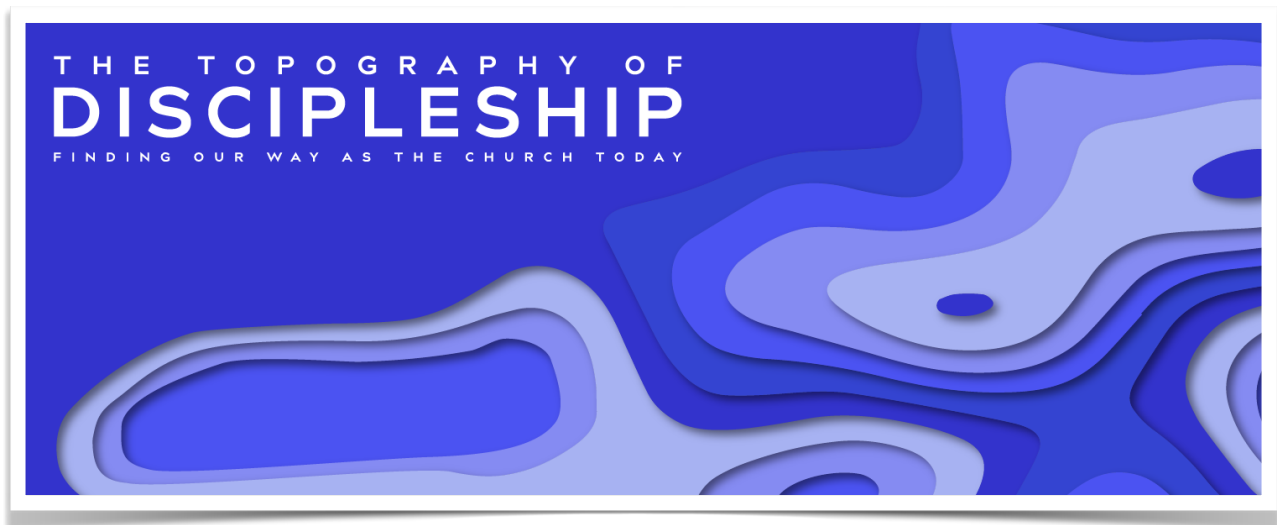


GBC Discipleship RESOURCE



THE TOPOGRAPHY OF DISCIPLESHIP

FINDING OUR WAY AS THE CHURCH TODAY

Week Four | The Transparent Context Part 2

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 “how to” of the Transparent Context; an intentional discipleship relationship with a few people.

Discipleship That Fits – read chapter 11, “Building the Closest Relationships: Discipleship in the Transparent Context”

NOTE: This chapter suggests a far more programmatic approach to the Transparent Context than we are suggesting initially.

SIMPLE WAYS TO ADD INTENTIONALITY TO A CURRENT FRIENDSHIP:

Many of us have friends who are following Jesus but, unless we are intentional, these relationships may have limited discipleship impact in our lives. The journey to a more intentional relationship doesn’t have to be particularly difficult or intimidating, but can be as simple as adding one or more of the following activities or questions (and many more!).

- Have a conversation about whether both/all of you would be comfortable experimenting with adding some more intentionality to your relationship.
- End your conversations by asking how you can pray for each other. Then follow up the next time you meet.
- Share a podcast, passage, book, etc. with each other and then follow it up with a conversation about what stood out to each of you.

- Share something – this means you go first! – about what you have been reading in the Bible or where you’ve seen God at work.
- Serve someone (e.g., volunteer together, help a mutual friend) together.
- Consider praying together or setting aside a regular time to read the Bible together.
- Start a spiritual discipline together (e.g., gratitude) and check in regularly to see how each of you are going. (The advantage of starting together is that no one is an “expert” but you are all learning together!).

1. PASSAGES TO MEDITATE ON

These passages all focus on the importance of relationships. As you reflect on them consider their implication for discipleship.

- Daniel 1:1-21
- Daniel 3:1-30
- Matthew 28:1-10
- Luke 24:13-35
- Acts 16:16-34

2. JOURNALING QUESTIONS

Trust and vulnerability are critical for any relationship, let alone one that is intentional about following Jesus. What have been the conditions for you to trust others and to begin to be vulnerable with them?

What current relationships do you have with other Christians that could become more intentional? What is your next faithful step in that?

What simple questions or activities have helped you be more intentional with others (or which could help)?

3. PRAYER THEME

Commit to petitioning Jesus to grant a friend with whom you can be more intentional about following Jesus. Ask for the eyes to see the relationship that may already exist, the courage to be intentional, and the grace that you (plural) may grow as followers of Jesus.

4. A TEXT TO INTERNALISE

Galatians 6:2

**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).*