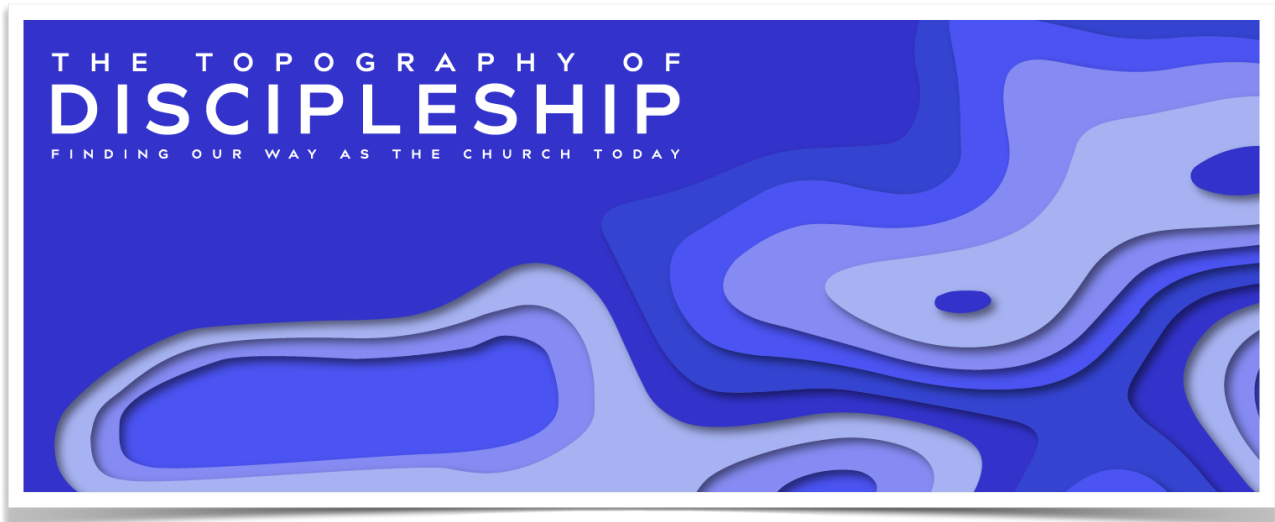


GBC Discipleship RESOURCE



THE TOPOGRAPHY OF DISCIPLESHIP

FINDING OUR WAY AS THE CHURCH TODAY

Week Seven | The Social 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 Social Context; a group of twenty or more who relate and connect with each other and where discipleship occurs in community, practice, and mission.

Discipleship That Fits – read chapter 6, “The Missing Link: Understanding the Social Context”

1. PASSAGES TO MEDITATE ON

As you read these greeting passages reflect on the interaction of community (relational warmth), practice (a place in God’s mission), and mission (the invitation to participate in God’s plans).

NOTE: 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.

- Romans 1:1-13; 16:3-16
- 1 Corinthians 1:1-10; 2 Corinthians 13:11-14
- Philippians 1:1-11
- Colossians 4:7-18
- 2 Timothy 1:1-5; 4:19-22
- Philemon 1:1-25

2. JOURNALING QUESTIONS

1. When have you experienced relational warmth (community) while on "mission" (united by a common goal)? [This can be in any context – church or otherwise.]
2. What are the potential weaknesses of only having two of the three ingredients of the Social Context (e.g., community and practice but without mission; community and mission without practice, practice and mission without community)?
3. On Sunday Marc suggested that one of our temptations is to make community the mission; effectively collapsing them together rather than keeping them distinct. What are your reflections on the truthfulness of this? Why do you think this is? How can we keep the mission of God front and centre as the driver of community?

3. PRAYER THEME

The mission of God. Pray about God's plans in the world and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you his invitation to participate.

4. A TEXT TO INTERNALISE

Ephesians 4:3-6

**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).*