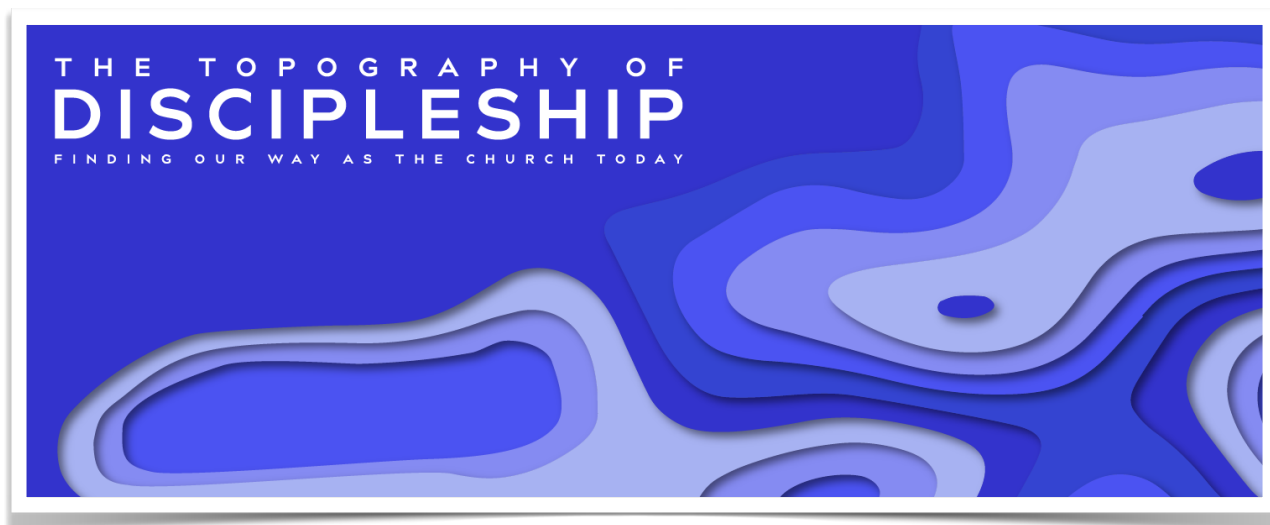


GBC Discipleship RESOURCE



THE TOPOGRAPHY OF DISCIPLESHIP

FINDING OUR WAY AS THE CHURCH TODAY

Week Nine | The Public Context

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 Public Context; more than 100 people who gather to be inspired and equipped to join in God’s mission during the week.

Discipleship That Fits – read chapters 4-5, “The Hoopla Can Actually Work: Understanding the Public Context” and “What the Big Does Well: Discipleship in the Public Context”

1. PASSAGES TO MEDITATE ON

As you read these passages consider the ways in which the participants might be inspired, see themselves in God’s story, and what they would have learned.

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.

- Acts 2:42-47
- Exodus 19:1-8, 16-19
- 1 Kings 8:62-66
- 2 Chronicles 20:1-19
- Revelation 7:9-17

2. JOURNALING QUESTIONS

1. Think about a time when your discipleship has grown from a “public context” gathering – through preaching, inspiration, and seeing yourself in God’s story. What difference did that experience make to your discipleship? How is this different from the other contexts of discipleship?

2. Which of the five relational contexts has been the most significant for you over the last twelve months? Which of them do you feel may be the most significant for your discipleship in the next twelve?
3. "We never stop being the church." What do you think about that statement?

3. PRAYER THEME

Pray about your next faithful step as a follower of Jesus. What is the next area of growth that the Spirit is inviting you into?

4. A TEXT TO INTERNALISE

Acts 2:42

**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).*