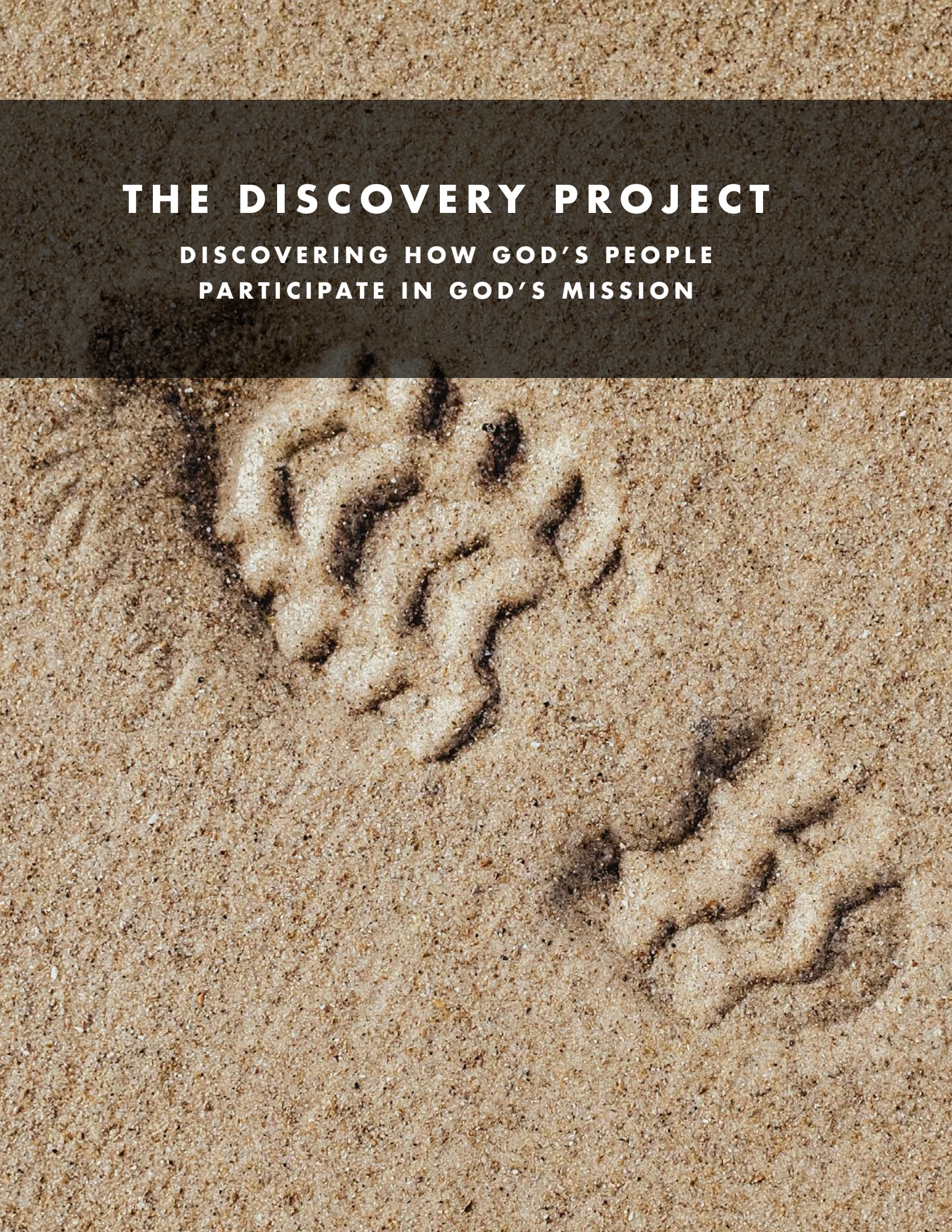


# THE DISCOVERY PROJECT

DISCOVERING HOW GOD'S PEOPLE  
PARTICIPATE IN GOD'S MISSION



**Overview .....**

**4**

Purpose .....

4

Seminar Description .....

4

Desired Outcomes .....

4

**Introduction.....**

**5**

Introductory questions .....

5

Beginning in the Text – Luke 10:1-12 .....

5

**Session One: “Missionary God – Missionary People” .....**

**6**

The Times are a Changin’ .....

6

Cultural Dislocation .....

6

Cultural Captivity .....

7

Response from the Church .....

7

The Missional Church: Foundations.....

7

The Missional Church: Framework.....

9

**Session Two – “Loving God with all of our Heart” .....**

**10**

Theology .....

10

Ecclesiology.....

10

**Session Three – “Loving God with all of our Mind” .....**

**12**

Theology .....

12

Ecclesiology.....

12

**Session Four – “Loving God with All of our Strength” .....**

**14**

Theology .....

14

Ecclesiology: Time.....

14

Ecclesiology: Treasure .....

16

Ecclesiology: Talent.....

16

Ecclesiology: Terra .....

16

Ecclesiology: Temple .....

16

**Session Five – “Loving God – Loving our Neighbour” .....**

**17**

Theology .....

17

Ecclesiology.....

17

**Session Six – “Loving God – Loving One Another” .....**

**19**

Theology .....

19

Ecclesiology.....

19

# OVERVIEW

## PURPOSE

To help people understand that what we believe about God shapes how we live. If God is on a Mission, then we must live as Missionaries! We live as missionaries by learning to love God with all of our hearts, mind and strength and through loving our neighbours. All of these activities witness to the God in whom we believe.

## SEMINAR DESCRIPTION

Is it possible that we as God's people have drifted? Has the church been shaped more by culture than by the actions and nature of God? Have we been asking, "what works?" instead of "what is right?"

*The Discovery Project* will address issues facing the church today. As we move from a time of continuous to discontinuous change, it is crucial for the church to understand the missional nature of God (theology - who He is), His actions in a particular place (missiology – what is He doing), and then how we are invited to bear witness to His nature and action in everything that we do (ecclesiology – how we participate). We must ask God centred questions before we ask church questions.

Over the course of the next 6 weeks, we will look at God's nature and His actions, and then discover how we as His people are to participate in mission by bearing witness to Him in all we do. The Jews, and Jesus, often framed their life and teaching around the shema; God is one, and people are to love Him with all of their heart, mind and strength, and to love their neighbours as they love themselves.

## DESIRED OUTCOMES

This seminar is designed to help leaders/people gain a deeper understanding of the mission of God. It then attempts to help people act on their understanding and practice of who we are as the people of God.

1. An introductory level of understanding in the missional nature of God
2. A missional framework for the identity and practices of God's missionary people
3. An ability to help others to love God with all of their heart as mission
4. An ability to help others to love God with all of their mind as mission
5. An ability to help others to love God with all of their strength as mission
6. An ability to help others to love God by loving their neighbour as mission
7. An ability to help others to love God by loving one another as mission
8. A thought out rule of life in order to engage spiritual growth

# INTRODUCTION

## INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between a disciple and a missionary? What percentage of your people might consider themselves to be missionaries?
2. How many people have made a decision to follow Jesus and go and be witnesses in your church family over the past three years?
3. How have you measured success? Is this the correct word?
4. If your church were plucked from the neighbourhood, would anyone notice?
5. How do you define missional church?
6. What is the gospel?

## BEGINNING IN THE TEXT – LUKE 10:1-12

*1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. 2 He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. 3 Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. 4 Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.*

*5 “When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ 6 If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. 7 Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.*

*8 “When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. 9 Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ 10 But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, 11 ‘Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.’ 12 I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.*

1. Listen to the text twice. Make note of where God stops you, and has something to say to you. It may be a word, a phrase, a verse. Do not exegete (try and explain) the text, but rather ask the Lord to speak to you in the text. Where does your attention rest?
2. Ask the Lord why He stopped you in the place that He did.
3. Get with someone you did not come with or who is not from your church. Have the other person introduce themselves by telling you when they met and followed Jesus, how long they have been serving in ministry, where their attention rested in the text and why they believe God stopped them there. Listen to them—and do not comment on their exegesis.
4. Switch roles.

# SESSION ONE: "MISSIONARY GOD – MISSIONARY PEOPLE"

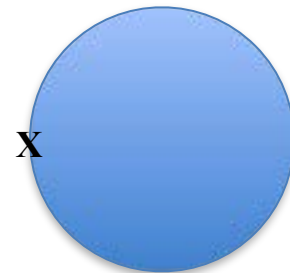
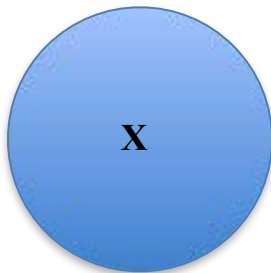
## THE TIMES ARE A CHANGIN'

1. How has the culture changed over the past couple of generations?

2. How has the church changed over the past couple of generations?

## CULTURAL DISLOCATION

1. How has the culture reacted to the church?



2. 3 Posts

## CULTURAL CAPTIVITY

1. Have we bought into the formulas of the world for our understanding of the church?

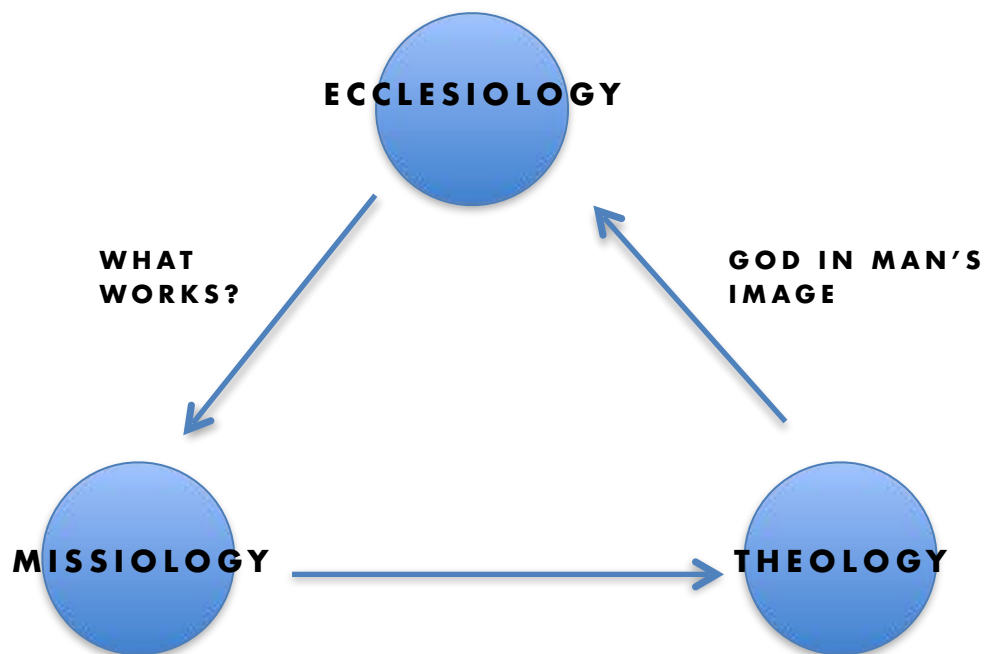
## RESPONSE FROM THE CHURCH

1. Return — Back to the good “old days,” fundamentalist approach
2. Revival — we need the Holy Spirit!
3. Re-Evangelism — work harder, start contemporary programs, Alpha
4. Remodel — Culturally Sensitive, Seeker Targeted, Emerging
5. Renewed Theological Vision — least attractive

## THE MISSIONAL CHURCH: FOUNDATIONS

### The Drift

We have started in the wrong place: with church questions instead of God questions.

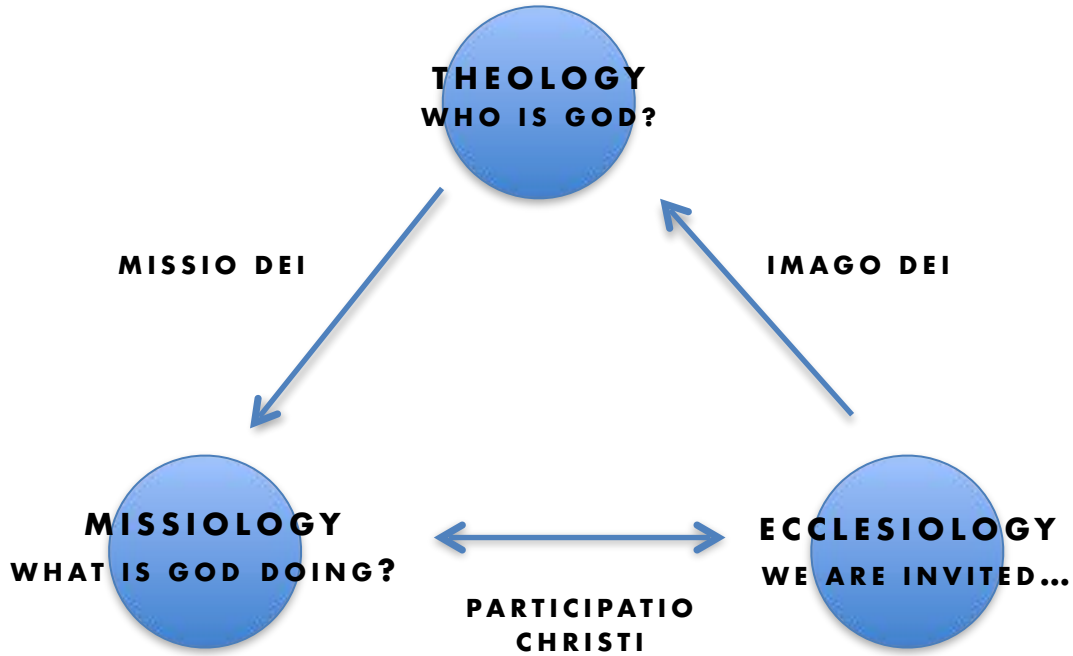


We have allowed the world to shape us into a way that seeks success in building the church. Our task was to be faithful and to be witnesses to the reality of Jesus.

**The Definition of Missional Church**

*It is not* a model, strategy, return to early church, revival mentality, re-modeling of the church.

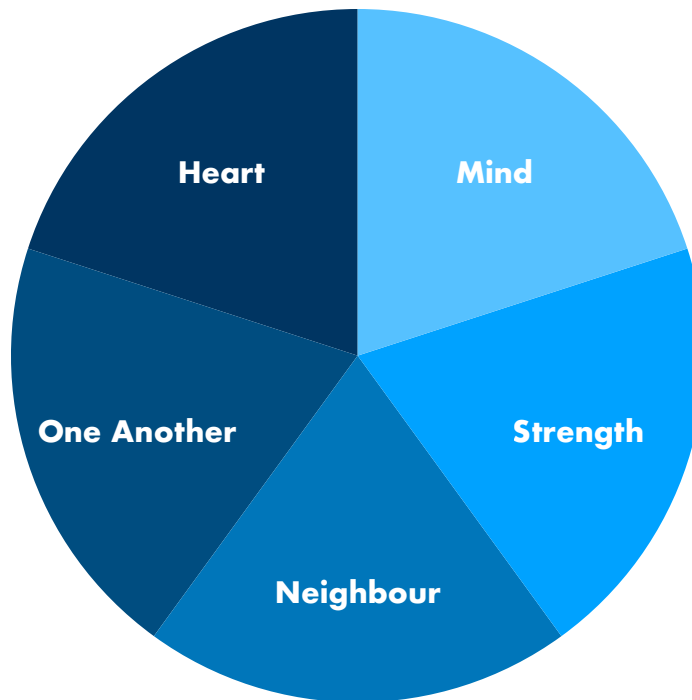
*It is* a “Renewed Theological Vision of the Church on mission... serving as a sign, servant and foretaste of the Kingdom of God.”





# THE MISSIONAL CHURCH: FRAMEWORK

For the Jews, and for Jesus, the *Shema* was a vital part of being God's people. They bore witness to God in all that they did and therefore sought to love him with all of their heart, mind and strength, and love their neighbours as they loved themselves.



***Being missional means that we are formed in the image of Christ and sent!***

## Scriptures

Deuteronomy 6:

*4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.*

Leviticus 19:

*15 "Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly. 16 Do not go about spreading slander among your people. Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor's life. I am the LORD. 17 Do not hate a fellow Israelite in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in their guilt. 18 Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD."*

# SESSION TWO – “LOVING GOD WITH ALL OF OUR HEART”

## THEOLOGY

God is the source and the initiator of all love. He is by nature love and therefore cannot act but with love. Everything that He does is loving. He is loving to all He made and gives us the opportunity to respond. Without His love, we would not even be able to respond.

1. The Text – 1 John 4:7-12
2. The Exercise
  - a. What do we learn about God?
  - b. What do we learn about what God is doing?
  - c. What we are invited to do as a result?

## ECCLESIOLOGY

We bear witness to who God is by the way we love Him with all of our heart. Is He the greatest affection of our lives? Do our neighbours see that we love God above everything else?

God acts in love to us all the time.

## Personal Response to Christ

How do we respond to the love of God? Undivided devotion is required, for divided devotion bears false witness to who God is and how He acts.

(1 Corinthians 7:35, Psalm 86:10).

1. The Text – Proverbs 4:23 – The Heart of a Christ Follower
2. Unpacking the Text
  - a. Above All - The Significance of the Heart

- b. Guard Your Heart - Sickness of the Heart
- c. Guard Your Heart - Surgery of the Heart
- d. It is the Wellspring – Spirituality

### **Corporate Response to Christ**

- 1. The Text – Leviticus 1
- 2. Unpacking the Text
  - a. The Setting
  - b. 8 Lessons
- 3. The Big Question - What are we inadvertently doing that is producing consumers and not missionaries?

# SESSION THREE – “LOVING GOD WITH ALL OF OUR MIND”

## THEOLOGY

God created us to be in relationship with Him. This triune God loved us so much that He intended right from the beginning to invite us into relationship. He knows all things, and everything about us, yet He still loves us. He knew that in order for us to be able to respond in loving Him, He would need to make Himself known to us. He would then even have to make it so that we are able to respond to Him through discovering His revelation. He created us with a desire to know Him.

1. The Texts – Psalm 8, 139, Romans 1:18-20, Romans 12:1-2
2. The Exercise
  - a. What do these passages tell us about God?
  - b. What do they tell us about ourselves?

## ECCLESIOLOGY

We are to bear witness to who God is through pursuing God with all of our minds. This does not mean that we are to merely be clever, but rather it means that we do all we can to draw near to God in relationship, and to be transformed into His image. We become transformed by the renewing of our mind. This means that we ...

1. We respond by knowing God and knowing ourselves.
2. We become imitators of Christ (1 Thessalonians 1:6-9, Philippians 3:17, 2 Thessalonians 3:9, Titus 2:7-8, 1 Corinthians 11:1).
3. We bear witness to God through a deeper understanding of who He is.
4. We bear witness to God through a deeper understanding of others and their faith (world religions).
5. We bear witness to God through a transformed will and character (Romans 12).
6. We bear witness to God through helping others to be shaped into the character of Jesus (Matthew 28).

## Personal Response to Christ

## **SOUTHSIDE'S COVENANT**

We believe God has called us to be one church, establishing multiplying, missional, Christian communities through the power of His Spirit in our neighbourhoods, cities, nation and on other continents.

We covenant to love God ...

- with all of our hearts, seeking to make Him our greatest affection,
- with all of our minds, growing in wisdom through knowing God and aligning our lives with His will.
- with all of our strength, as we steward our time, treasure, talents, terra and temple.
- by loving our neighbours through introducing them to the King and His Kingdom way of life, and by seeking the peace and prosperity of our neighbourhoods,
- and by loving one another as we live in community in proximity.

We choose to follow Jesus with all that we are and have, bearing witness to Him in all that we do.

## **SOUTHSIDE'S 5 SHARED PRACTICES**

**Heart** – Discerning God's presence in our lives through morning and evening prayer.

**Mind** – Listening for God's voice through reading scripture and our study guides.

**Strength** – Learning to trust God in all areas of our lives through receiving the gift of Sabbath.

**Neighbour** – Loving our neighbours and neighbourhoods through weekly hospitality.

**One Another** – Demonstrating God's oneness, through gathering in cells, congregation and celebration.

## **Corporate Response to Christ**

1. How have we sought to disciple people in the past?
  
2. Is there a renewed paradigm?
  - a. Mission Groups
  - b. Congregations
  - c. Church

# SESSION FOUR – “LOVING GOD WITH ALL OF OUR STRENGTH”

## THEOLOGY

God created all things. He does not need us, but has chosen us to participate in His mission. The very first instruction that God gives to us is that He entrusts us with what He has created.

God is not bound by time, and yet entered into history and allots the specific time that we each have. He entrusts us to use that time for His purposes. He owns the cattle on a thousand hills, and is generous beyond imagination. He has entrusted to us the use of His resources. He is omnipotent and can do all things and gives us the strength through His Spirit. He does not need us but gifts us to participate. He created everything and has entrusted us with the privilege of stewarding creation.

He invites us to love Him with all of our strength as a witness to who He is.

1. The Texts – Genesis 1, Psalm 8, Ephesians 5:15-17, 1 Corinthians 12, 2 Corinthians 9:6-15
2. The Exercise – what do we learn about God and His invitation to us in these passages?

## ECCLESIOLOGY: TIME

When people look at the pace of our lives, are they drawn to our faith, or do they run away as fast as they can? What do people think about God based upon the pace and rhythm of our lives?

1. The Text – Ephesians 5:15-17  
*Be very careful then how you live, not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.*
2. Unpacking the Text
  - a. Redeeming Time
  - b. Make the Most of Opportunities

- c. Days are Evil
- d. Renewing our Mind – Ephesians 5:17

### 3. Other Scriptures and Issues

- a. John 10:10 – Life to the Fullest
- b. 2 Timothy 4:6-8 – Poured out
- c. Telling Time
  - i. The clock – represents our commitments, appointments, schedules, goals and activities. This is about what we do with and how we manage our time.
  - ii. Calendar – bit more of a seasonal thing.
  - iii. The compass – represents our vision, values, principles, mission, conscience, direction – what we feel is important and how we lead our lives.
- d. Types of Time - 3 words in Greek
  - i. *Chronos* – second by second, efficiency... how much time do you put in
  - ii. *Kairos* – quality time...how much value do you time
  - iii. *Aeion* – Lifetime, legacy, passion... who we are and what we are about
- e. Pace: Hurry or Slow – the most important spiritual thing you can do is to “ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life.”
- f. Implications  
All time is God’s and can be and should be used for the Kingdom of God – be careful that we do not interpret this as work for God all of the time.

## Corporate Response to Christ

## **ECCLESIOLOGY: TREASURE**

When people look at the way we use money, what do they learn about God?

1. The Text – Matthew 23:23, 2 Corinthians 9:6-15
2. Unpacking the Text
  - a. Giving or Tithing?
  - b. Debt
  - c. Stewardship

### **Corporate Response to Christ**

How do we use the money entrusted to us as a church? Internally or externally?

## **ECCLESIOLOGY: TALENT**

1. The Text – 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 2:8-10
2. Unpacking the Text
  - a. We are all gifted. No one is more valuable to the body.
  - b. We are all God's masterpieces.

### **Corporate Response to Christ**

Do we platform, or recognize all gifts (people)?

## **ECCLESIOLOGY: TERRA**

1. The Text – Genesis 1:26-30
2. Unpacking the Text – He has entrusted to us the care of creation

### **Corporate Response to Christ**

Does your church lead in creation care in your neighbourhood?

## **ECCLESIOLOGY: TEMPLE**



# SESSION FIVE – “LOVING GOD – LOVING OUR NEIGHBOUR”

## THEOLOGY

God loves all He created – even when we have gone our own way. His mercy makes a way in Christ to be restored into relationship with Father, Son and Spirit, and His grace empowers us to walk towards Him. He receives all who will humble themselves and return “home.”

God’s love for the world is beyond our comprehension. It has always been that way. It is His nature. From the beginning of time His desire was for relationship with us, and so He created a people who would be a blessing to all the world. The Jews began this journey, but it was not until Jesus that there was a fuller reality of what this meant. Now Jesus is King, and has ushered in His Kingdom, which makes a way for all to be rescued from ourselves and restored into relationship.

1. The Text – Genesis 12:1-3, Jeremiah 29:4-7, Luke 10:1-12, Luke 15, John 3:16, Colossians 4:2-6, 1 Timothy 2:4.
2. The Exercise – What do we learn about God in these verses?
3. David Bosch Quote

*Mission [is] understood as being derived from the very nature of God. It [is] thus put in the context of the Trinity, not of ecclesiology or soteriology. The classical doctrine of the missio dei as God the Father sending the Son, and God the Father and the Son sending the Spirit [is] expanded to include yet another “movement”: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit sending the church into the world.*

## ECCLESIOLOGY

God has sent us to be witnesses to the reality of the presence of the king and kingdom in our neighbourhoods. It is through His people that He is blessing the world. We are missionaries who have been sent to continue the good news of Jesus and His way. The Practice of hospitality and the transformation of neighbourhoods are a crucial part to being a missional church.

*We need a movement of God’s people into neighbourhoods, to live out and be the new future of Christ. It must be a movement that demonstrates how the people of God have a vision and the power to transform our world. This is not the same as current attempts to grow bigger and bigger churches that act like vacuum cleaners, sucking people out of their neighbourhoods into a sort of Christian supermarket. Our culture needs local communities empowered by the gospel vision of a transforming Christ who addresses the needs of the context and changes the polis into a place of hope and wholeness. And until we build transformed communities there is no hope for a broken earth.*

*It requires considerable commitment to the local setting. It arises out of an incarnational theology of place in which people are more than isolated individuals with no essential relationship to their setting. Becoming immersed in a place with a people does not occur instantly but over a number of years. Perseverance and commitment are essential.*

*From “Reaching a New Generation,” Alan J. Roxburgh*

*Paul is clear that a territory has been assigned him to work, and that is his first priority. It is the same with us. We have a responsibility to shine for God among the people in the areas where we live. That is our first call.*

*So these committed Singaporean Christians believe that in a sense they already share in the reign of Christ over their particular area, and that Christ has given them all the resources they need to reach and win the people there. They make a territorial commitment to their community. This is of the utmost importance, and constitutes a complete paradigm shift. The walls between church and community come down, and the community, not church activities, becomes their focus. Their aim is no longer simply to fill their church but to win their community for its rightful King. These are the convictions, coupled with a deep compassion for lost people, which energize 'Love Singapore'. And these convictions lead into very decisive action, which they maintain is eminently achievable.*

*From "Asian Tigers for Christ" Michael Green*

### **Personal Response to Christ – Loving our Neighbours**

1. The Heart of the Father
  - a. The Mission – Matthew 4
  - b. Sent to the Lost – Luke 19
  - c. The Father's Heart – Luke 15
2. Prayer – Colossians 4:2-6
3. Being Sent – Luke 10:1-12, 25-28
  - a. Being Sent – 1-4
  - b. Two Strategies – 5-12
    - i. Entering Homes
    - ii. Entering Towns/Neighbourhoods
  - c. Am I a Neighbour – 25-38
4. Practical – what if for one year, we sought to practice hospitality?

### **Corporate Response to Christ – Loving our Neighbourhoods**

1. The Love of God for all places – Jeremiah 29:4-7
2. Structure of Life in the Neighbourhood
  - a. Mission Groups
  - b. Congregation
  - c. Church

# SESSION SIX – “LOVING GOD – LOVING ONE ANOTHER”

## THEOLOGY

The most unique thing about the Christian faith is that we believe in “one God.” God has always existed in community, a perfect unity of Father, Son and Spirit. The relationship between the persons of the trinity is characterized by love and is what leads to His creation. This has been a crucial part of what it means that God is missional from the very beginning of history.

1. The Text – From Genesis to Revelation (see especially John 17)
2. The Exercise – Point to scriptures where we see this unity and community of the trinity?

## ECCLESIOLOGY

One of the greatest opportunities we have in this post-Christian age is to bear witness to who God is by loving one another. The world is increasingly lonely and we can demonstrate what it means to live in community. We live in a time when the world is aware that so many people use others for their own personal gratification. We as the people of God have an opportunity to demonstrate what real love is all about. It is not easy, but Jesus instructed us to live in community in the kingdom of God so that the Father would be glorified and people would know we are His disciples.

## Personal Response to Christ

1. The Text – 1 Peter 2:9
  - a. Identity
    - i. God
    - ii. Us

b. Character

i. God

ii. Us

c. Vocation

i. God

ii. Us

## **Corporate Response to Christ**

1. Texts

2. Practical