



Glow



Discipleship Course

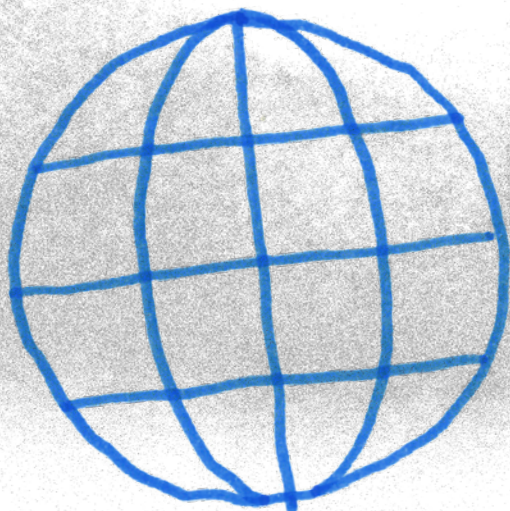
Term Three



Welcome to the Discipleship Course!

Every study has a short video, study notes and discussion points. Our prayer is that as we study together, we are transformed by His Word and His Spirit, strengthening our relationship with God and one another.

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|---------------|---|
| WEEK 1 | Introduction + Father
The Father Heart of God |
| WEEK 2 | Son
The work of Jesus on the Cross |
| WEEK 3 | Holy Spirit
The person and power of the Holy Spirit |
| WEEK 4 | Community Accountability
Following Jesus together |
| WEEK 5 | Reflective Reading and Persistent Prayer
'Why' and 'how' we read the Bible and pray |
| WEEK 6 | Total Stewardship and Sabbath
Everything we have from God/ Rhythms of rest |
| WEEK 7 | Praying for the sick + dealing with the demonic
Continuing Jesus' ministry |
| WEEK 8 | Expanding the Kingdom of God
Making disciples, serving the poor |



Week 4: Community Accountability



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Course**

Community Accountability

137EN

"I want you to know how much I have agonized for you and for the church at Laodicea, and for many other believers who have never met me personally. 2 I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God's mysterious plan, which is Christ himself."

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COLOSSIANS 2: 1-2

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Community isn't just about good company, community is about good accountability. Community accountability is about redeeming the need for human connection. We all have a deep need for company. There is a realistic side to loneliness. We have a tendency to substitute real and authentic community for other things when faced with loneliness and disconnection.

The danger of our time is that we are now pursuing community connection through inanimate objects like our phones. We have gone from community to audience. From friendships to followers. From tables to tablets. From deep and meaningful conversations in our lounge rooms, to Instagram DM chats. We've replaced real, deep relationships with surface level acquaintances. This is not real and authentic community and deep down inside we know it.

We all need meaningful connections that are found only in real authentic community. Community happens through gathering together and engaging in meaningful conversations and connections. In Colossians, Paul sees the danger of living separate from community. The greatest way our relationship with Jesus is going to grow is not only through personal time with God but time within community. In Christ-centred community, we encourage each other towards growing in Christ.

Paul writes to the church in Colosae and he says, 'I agonize for you'... he really wants them to get it. He is imploring them to see what church is really about. It's not just about personal knowledge of God, it's about joining with others to discover more about Jesus.

The best example of how community works is in rock climbing. Each climber is tied to someone else in front and someone behind. There is a mountain, rope and a goal: to climb the mountain. Our faith journey is like climbing a mountain. We are meant to ascend or go higher in our relationship with God but it's not meant to be done alone. We all need climbing buddies, or someone we are roped to, someone who is ahead of us on our faith journey. We need to be roped to them so they can help and encourage us to go higher in our faith.

We also need to have someone roped to us. This is one of the greatest things we can do for our faith. Someone we can help climb the mountain and encourage on their journey of faith. Someone we can share our experience with and help them up the mountain. Someone we can encourage along the way. Through community, we rope ourselves together and climb higher in our faith. We all need climbing buddies.

We should be roped to someone ahead of us, and roped to someone behind us.

IN THE CONTEXT OF COLOSSIANS 2:2:

1. The rope represents love - we are knit or tied together by the strong ties of love. This tie is so strong it won't be separated.
2. The mountain - is the upward journey of transformation
3. The goal - understanding and becoming more like Jesus.

This is how we should be attached in a relational way - roped together spurring one another on.

A FEW CLIMBING TRUTHS TO REMEMBER:

1. We all start at the bottom.
2. We won't be an expert straight away.

Everyone starts like a newborn, and grows in their faith - just keep climbing, we all need to learn to climb.

We train and condition ourselves to learn how to follow God.

The greatest way to learn is to be roped to someone. Remember We all need climbing buddies, someone you are roped to ahead of you, someone you're roped to behind you.

3. The goal is onwards and upwards.

We are not meant to stay where we are, we don't stay at base camp.

WHAT DOES COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY LOOK LIKE?

AMEN

1. We Commit to One Another

"8 so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well."

1 THESSALONIANS 2: 8

Community is not convenient.
Community is a commitment.
Community is a priority.

Be committed to each other. Christ-centred community is not just about sharing the Gospel, it's about sharing our lives. When things aren't a priority we make an excuse, but when things are a priority we make the time. Being committed does not make it a perfect community but the imperfections in community are there to bring Christ out in you and cause you to grow. Don't cut the rope on others, but journey through our imperfections together.

So hard

2. We Support One Another

"2 Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ."

GALATIANS 6: 2

It's in confessing our burdens and weaknesses that freedom is found. When we share we understand we are not the only one. Burdens are not meant to be carried alone.

Christ-centred community is when we share one another's burdens. What burdens you, burdens me. When we share one another's burdens, it alleviates the weight. Jesus gives us a supernatural ability to do this. The strong ties of love say we are in this together. If we lose our footing we are tied to someone who can keep us going.

3. We Inspire One Another Towards Living Like Jesus.

“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another.”

HEBREWS 10: 24-25

It is so important that we get around people that will motivate and spur us on to becoming more like Jesus. Like coals in a fire, the closer they are together the more fire remains, but remove a coal from the fire, it loses heat and fire quickly. We need each other to keep fire for Jesus blazing in our hearts and lives.

4. We Lead One Another Closer to Jesus

“But you, dear friends, must build each other up in your most holy faith.”

JUDE 1: 20

Community isn't just about good company, it's about good accountability.

LET'S TALK

Inspiring and leading are two different things. Inspiring is leading by example, whereas to lead is a deeper sense of friendship, relationship and intentional connection. It's where we come alongside each other and encourage one another to go a bit deeper. To go deeper in our relationship with Jesus. We must make the time to come alongside one another.

- Q. What are some ways we can become connected to our community?
- Q. Are the people you are around encouraging you to be more like you or more like Jesus?
- Q. Who are you roped to that is ahead of you in your faith?
- Q. Is there someone that you are ahead of in the faith journey that could be roped to you?
- Q. Why is it so important we remain in community?

