

Ephesians

Walking the Walk



Mitchelton Presbyterian Church
Growing Followers of Jesus

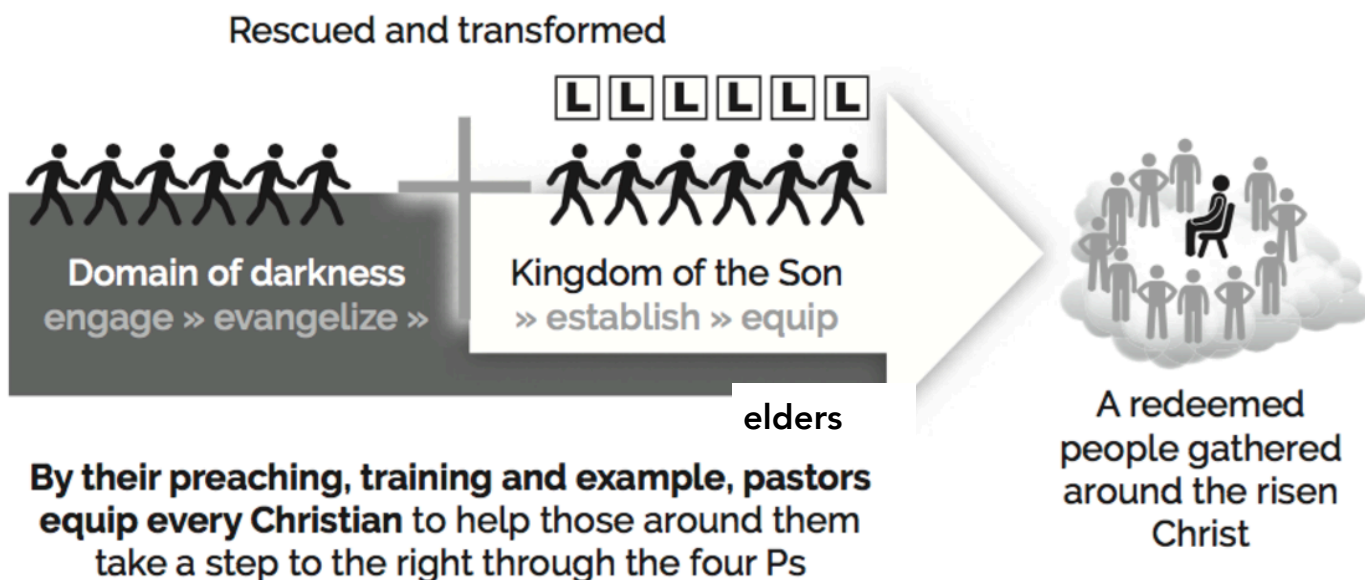
Our Growth Group Mission

Below is a pictorial representation of our church's mission plan as we seek to reach our patch through Growing Followers of Jesus.

In Colossians we read that as followers of Jesus we have been rescued out of the dominion of darkness and brought into the Kingdom of the Son (Col 1:13-14). As you can see in the diagram below Followers of Jesus, those little stick figures in the Kingdom of Light all have 'L' plates. This conveys the truth that we are Christ-learners. Followers of Jesus are Christ-learners.

Being a Christ-learner is the lifelong process of increasingly putting off the old life and putting on the new (Col 3). This means persistently and prayerfully having our lives shaped by the gospel truth. This truth is revealed in God's Word, made known to us through God's Holy Spirit as we live to glorify God's Son, the risen Lord Jesus. Our Growth Groups are a ministry designed to assist in moving the members of MPC family one step (or more) to the right.

As a part of a Growth Group you will be actively and regularly helping others take a step to the right and you in turn will be helped in moving in that same direction. Thanks again for being a part of this mission, I pray that God would use you mightily in the life of another to his glory and the praise and service of the risen Lord Jesus.



Introducing the Tools.

There are any number of Bible reading tools available. At this time we are utilising three; The Inductive Method, The Swedish Method, and the COMA method (which is more interesting than the name might suggest).

Let's take a quick look (they will be repeated throughout this booklet as required).

1. **Inductive** (Question and Answer): This involves asking more specific questions of the passage and answering those questions from the text of the passage.

2. **Swedish Method**: This involves reading the passage and jotting down notes from the following 3 categories:



Light Bulb: something that stands out to you from the passage as you read it such as repeated ideas, words or big ideas.



Question Mark: something that you don't understand.



Arrow: One thing that you will apply to your life from the passage.

3. **COMA**: This involves jotting down notes from the passage for each of the following categories:

a. **Context**: where does the passage fit in the chapter and book/letter?

b. **Observation**: what do you notice about the passage? Repeated words, main points, surprises etc.

c. **Meaning**: How does the passage connect with the rest of the book? How does the passage point to Jesus or teach you about God? What is the overall big idea of the passage?

d. **Application**: What has challenged you from the passage? Where do you need to change in the way you think, live or speak?

Your Growth Group gatherings will bear the most fruit if you make the study of the Bible passage central to your time together and by using the suggested methods (which are noted in each session) for your study. Once you become familiar with each method, you can then adopt the method that your Growth Group prefers for sessions 7 and 8.

Week 1

Walking in Praise

Meet:

Spend a portion of your time catching up, how's their week going; family, work, discipleship. Be mindful of how you can be praying for each other as Christ-learners. Note that this is a helpful prelude to reading through the passage together as you will be think about how God's Word might help to direct you.

Read:

At this point one of you might like to pray asking that God would indeed help you grow as you read his Word together.

Ephesians 1:1-23.

Learn:

This week you'll be using the inductive method of Bible study. There are three movements in the inductive method.

Inductive Bible Study

(i) Observation: What do you notice from this text.

For example: Who is the human author of this Scripture? Who are the audience? What is being said?

(ii) Interpretation: What truths are being expressed in the text to the original audience. For example: What are they learning about God/Jesus? What are they learning about themselves and others? What are they being called to believe, avoid, change, do or stop doing?

(iii) Application: What are the implications of this passage for us? How might the truths being expressed in this passage relate to our situation. A helpful process is to identify the impossible application - state the exact opposite of what this passage is teaching; the possible application - how might this text apply to someone today; the necessary application - what is the one thing from this passage that applies to all of us today.

Pray:

Spend some time praying for each other. In praying for each other include as many promises and truths from the passage as possible.