

Matt Temple
ABO/Learning Task Draft Submission

WHO:
Participants and
Course Leaders

Generally the people in the rhythm are leaders who want to develop a faith community in their context. Each has a dream for missional engagement and for the most part wants to be the church in a way that is not how we would traditionally understand it. The leaders are all part of the Foursquare denomination (though this is not a requirement).

WHY:
The Situation that
calls for this
course

Innovation must be rooted in tradition. We must understand the narrative and the story out of which what we want to build upon was developed and the rationale behind why it was developed in a certain way. The circumstance that makes this particular rhythm necessary is that the church is quickly losing ground in Western society, especially in urban areas. The values, focus, and actions of the church do not readily impact or speak to the thirst in the growing un-christian population. Despite all of these changes in our culture it seems that the church has gone through very little deep transformation. Most of the adjustments that we have made to date are structural and surface only. We added cool music, lights and a quality presentation but failed to ask if those things would impact and transform people. We have worked on the assumption that if we can get people into the church then they will eventually fall in love with Jesus and become disciples but this has not proved to be true. A deeper reflection is necessary if the church is going to re-translate itself and its message to be meaningful in our current cultural climate. We must examine the purpose of the faith community, what makes it impactful and then how that translates into our culture. We must honestly assess both our success and our failure over the years. We must hold in tension our ultimate purpose of existence and the challenges facing our cultural context. What idols do we identify in our world and what thirsts do those idols point to? What new thirsts do those idols create? What is the role of the faith community in addressing those thirsts and building God's kingdom. Missional ecclesiology begins with the end. We are motivated by the mission that culminates in God's eschatological kingdom being made a reality. It is this vision that gives meaning to and informs all that we do and all that we are. In particular we will focus on the tripartite purpose of the church to bear witness to the gospel through: the announcing of the kingdom, the proleptic display of koinonia and the demonstration of the kingdom through acts of compassion and spirit inspired healing.

WHEN:
Time Frame

The rhythm will take place over a 13 week time period in the fall of 2016, from September 12 - December 11. The goal is for residents to commit 5 hours each week to reading, interaction and learning tasks to help them understand and formulate their own vision for a faith community in their context. We will culminate the rhythm with a retreat in December. The main tweaks that need to be made to the rhythm from the last time out will be in reducing the content in order to make room for more reflection, practice and debrief. I will also make available four opportunities for face to face interaction in the group conferencing utility. Once every three weeks.

WHERE:
Site Details

The main portion of the rhythm will take place through an online learning environment. The course is broken up into 13 one week blocks and we will use

a Learning Management System (LMS) called Canvas. Canvas allows for face to face interaction so since we are unable to do a weekly face to face meeting in a particular location we will incorporate weekly interaction through the face to face tool. The interactions will consist of:

- Induction - a short conversational/lecture where relevant information is introduced to the residents. Maybe rather than having them read a bunch of books I can use some of these times to introduce a book, review the concepts so they have a brief overview of what the book is about and then if they want to dig in deeper they can.
- Dialogue around the reading and activities. This will also be time to unpack and reflect on what is stirring in the residents heart and vision
- Praxis/action - How do you think what you have learned will impact what you do in your faith community?

It also might be helpful to integrate some “weekly lecture material”

WHAT

Skills, Knowledge, Attitudes

1. Understand the 6 progressions of missionary living and disciple making
 - **Faithful Presence**
 - **Invitation**
 - **Shared life**
 - **Strategic Conversations/Felt needs**
 - **Intentional Discipleship**
 - **Missional Living**
2. **Identify the social mosics in your life in which you regularly encounter people who are far from God.**

WHAT FOR

By the end of this course, you will have...

1. Gained a working understanding that though discipleship is not coerced or linear there an expectation of progression that is helpful so that we have a plan as people move towards Jesus. Our relationships are not predicated on movement towards Jesus but we want to be aware of it when it happens.
2. Identified the social mosaics that fit into the natural rhythms of your lives where you have the opportunity to establish relationships with people. From your neighborhood to the gym, from work to your local coffee shop or barber shop we can identify places where we will intentionally look for opportunities to be the missionary people of God

HOW:

Learning Tasks
Task #1

The Topical Program or Agenda

Project: Understanding a biblical theology of missional engagement

So What?

The goal of this learning task is for participants to gain a practical understanding of what a discipleship progression looks like in the life of a missionary as well as a biblical foundation for missionary engagement.

Task #1: Understanding a Biblical Theology of Missional Engagement

1. Grab your bible and open to the story of Jesus and the woman at the well (John 4: 1 – 42).
2. Input: Each participant has been given an article titled: *Discipleship Pathways For Mosaics Learning Task*. Read through the article and then read through the story in John 4:1-42.
3. Inductive Work: In the discussion board describe the social mosaic where Jesus met with the people in the story. Discuss how this space would compare to some of the mosaics that exist in your own life.
4. Implimentation: Discuss where you can see the missionary progression that was described in the article at work in Jesus' interaction from the story. Walk us through how Jesus engaged missionally, specifically focusing on the six progressions discussed in the article.
5. Integration: Make a list of the possible mosaics in your own life where you could begin to put these same principles into practice. Bring the list with you next week.
6. Peer Feedback: Respond to one another's posts with feedback and ideas for missional engagement.