



THE MAP.

The map is a tool, a guide line, a way to navigate your walking with Jesus and his church. It aims to provide a response to the, 'Where do I begin?' or 'What am I supposed to do or do next?' questions.

It will hopefully help us to change our hearts, to redirect them so we can change the hearts of others.

So that we can become Lovers of God and people.

We breathe in the Spirit of God, inspiration, and breathe out in flesh Jesus to the world, incarnation.

- To do life together.
- To love one another.
- To build a new culture within the shell of the old.
- To bind the wounds of the other just like Jesus bound ours.
- To live the message of the cross.
- To live a resurrected life.
- To live a life blown around by the Spirit.
- To join God in the adventure of restoring.
- To live the WAY in the middle of this world.

The map contains 6 places, stops, seasons or spaces, we put them in a sequence that is cyclical and overlapping indicating that these 6 spaces happen sometimes in order, sometimes at the same time and sometimes not at all.

These 6 movements, we have found in many Christian traditions over the ages, they are gifts from the universal church that have helped many hundred thousands of people grow into a fuller, more faceted and intricate relationship with God and his church.

In this guide you will find a description of each movement in the cycle, we placed them in a certain order, but again, you can begin from anywhere. The trick is too look at the movements and become aware of where you are, and where you need to go.

welcome 3rdplace, to The Map.

GET OUT

The GET OUT movement means exactly that, to get out. Get out from wherever you are, from wherever you have realised your life has grown stale. For some this means to discover Christ for the first time, to become a follower of Jesus, to take the first step on the road to a new creation. For others it means to break free of dead tradition, for others it means discovering that there is even more than you thought and that there is a new adventure that is waiting, that there is something that you have to do.

GET OUT means to take responsibility, to get out and stand up, to commit to walking after Jesus, to take responsibility for your own formation and growth. It means that you will need to work hard. That you will have to count the cost and take up your cross.

LIMINAL SPACE

The space in between, where you have gotten out, but you haven't arrived yet. The place where you know things will never again be as they were, but you do not know yet how things will be on the other side. In many cultures this time is cherished, because it is during this time that you have the potential to make choices that will create the most profound positive change in your life. Ever.

Liminal space can be chose, chose to follow Jesus for example or liminal space can happen to you. When you have just been retrenched, or your partner left you for, it seems, no reason. During all these times there is great opportunity for growth and change, if they are treated with wisdom.

DRAW CIRCLES

The Christian life is not a life lived in solitude, it is not a lonely path. It is a life lived in community, in communion with others that are walking behind Jesus. It is a shared life.

All these circles below are of course encircled by your relationship with the triune God, the big circle we are invited in to. When you got out the first time, this is the circle you entered into, you were born into. The dance of the Trinity.

In this shared life, there are many overlapping circles of relationships that you need when you follow Jesus. The purpose of this movement is to help you to become aware of those circles, since we all have them or at least most of them. And to where they lack or are broken, to put in a effort to establish or repair them.

The guide circle.

Who taught you? And who are you teaching? Who mentors you and who are you mentoring? This is one of the circles that you need to draw. Identify these people in your life, those who you can learn how to live from, guides. And those that desperately need to learn how to live from you. It is a great truth in life that there is always someone that knows more than you, and always someone that knows less.

The others circle.

We love people, heal them and show them how to live. Just like Jesus did and in that order. We first love then heal, which is difficult and irritating, because a sick person is hard to love. But that is what Jesus did for us, he loved us while we were still sinners, he loved us first, so that is what we will do for others. This circle contains sometimes those outside the Christian family, can you draw this circle in your life?

Four circles.

We live in community on different levels, described beautifully in his book 'The search to belong' by Joseph Meyers, a public level, social level, personal level and intimate level. Each of these circles contain people that we feel connected to and we feel we belong to.

1. Public circle.

When we feel a sense of belonging in a large crowd, even though we might not know the names of the other people at the event, whether it be a sports game or the Church gathering on a Sunday, we feel we belong. This happens because all of us there are connected through a outside party, the sports team we all supports, the organisation we belong to, the speaker and so on. Where is this circle in your life with God? Do you have a public space, a large circle where you feel you belong?

2. Social circle.

This is when you start to know a little more about the people around you, you know their names, maybe what they do for a living and where they are from. This might be a smaller regular gathering of the Church, a particular interest group for example. Many of these circles exist in our lives, your colleague at work for example is one such circle. Can you draw these circles?

3. Personal circle

These will be your close friends, people that you will invite over for dinner or go away with for a weekend. Your best friends. Those that know almost everything about you. Those people that you would call at 3 am to help you in a time of great crisis. Can you identify those people, especially those that also follow Jesus?

4. Intimate circle.

This is the one to one circle, where there are no secrets. This can be your best friend, or your spouse. The one person that know everything about you and still stays. Draw that circle.

Keep drawing circles.

The trick with all these circles is that once you have to identified them you have to be intentional about regularly building into them and keeping them healthy. These are the people that travel with you, that laugh with you and cry with you. So take time to look at these, and complete them where they are broken and maybe draw some of them for the first time. Once you have drawn them and have committed to keep drawing them you can continue to the next movements.

LEARN

Christianity has always been and always will be a learning religion. Learning and un-learning is a massive part of the process of becoming and staying a follower of Jesus.

Learning also happens in community, within your circles. You learn from one another, you learn together. It is important to read, study, listen and keep on discovering. Read, reflect on and discuss the scriptures, wrestle with them. Read other books, explore different fields, Keep on learning.

What is just as, if not more, important is to un-learn. Those who we have learned from in church and in the world, did not always know everything, surprisingly. What we have learned from our culture and from the media can be poisonous. We need the discernment and wisdom of our circles to help us to unlearn negative behaviour and ill-formed ideas.

TRAIN-NAKED

Paul uses the term in 1 Timothy , *gymnasto*, a term to describe training in a gymnasium where the ancient Greeks trained naked and competed naked. He uses this term to describe how we should be when we train, to train naked before God. When we do the practices, we go to God with no pretense, no masks, just as we are. Naked.

We engage in Spiritual disciplines, practices or training exercises. Which have to do with our love for Jesus (prayer, devotion, worship) our love for one another (community, generosity, fellowship) and our love for others (mission, social justice, evangelism). Practically our train naked way plays out like this, it is...

Ordinary. We encourage a 'melk en brood' spirituality. It is something that's familiar, which happens every single day, like going to buy milk and bread. It's physical, human and connected.

Rhythmic. Over the years we have come to discover the benefits of engaging in a rhythmic and cyclical spirituality. We follow the liturgical year, traveling each year through the life of Jesus' birth, death and resurrection. And so in this rhythm we see the daily need for our own death and resurrection.

Relational. Training happens within your circles, customised to where you are and what God is up to in your life.

REFLECT

At certain times in your life, we need to stop and take stock of where we are and how far we have come. Most importantly we need to honestly look and see whether or not we have become lukewarm and stale. We need to reflect and see if we need to make a new jump. If we need to get out once again, and be thrust into liminal space.