



# apprentice

1. learning

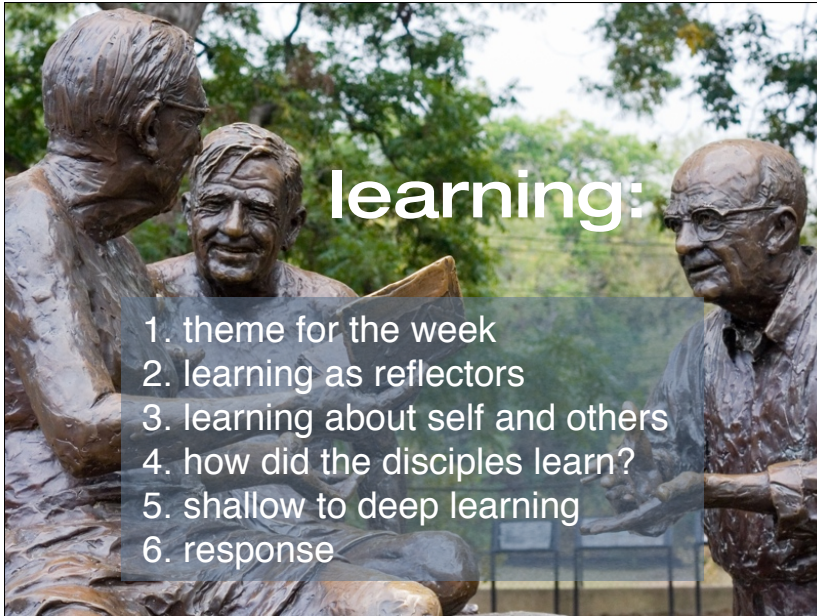


# joy<sub>nn</sub>



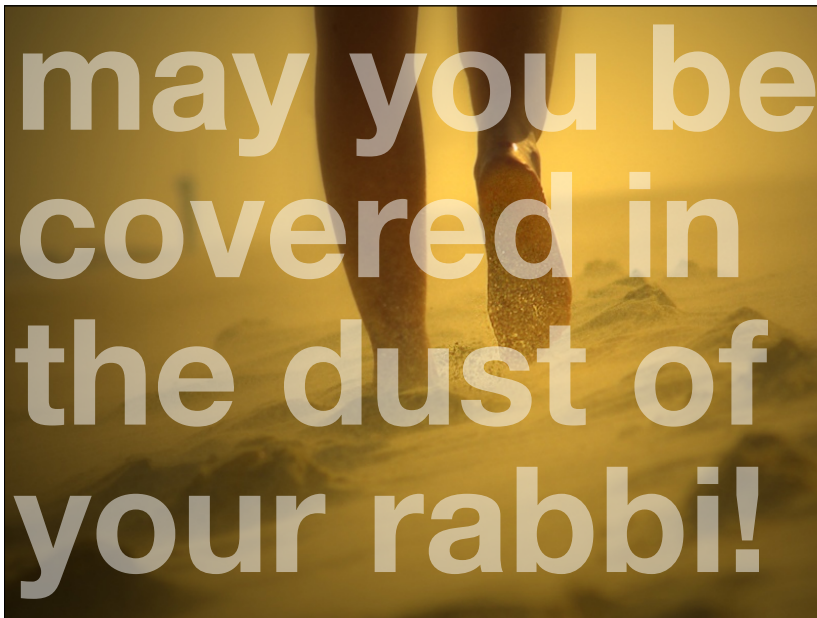
# reflector

zone

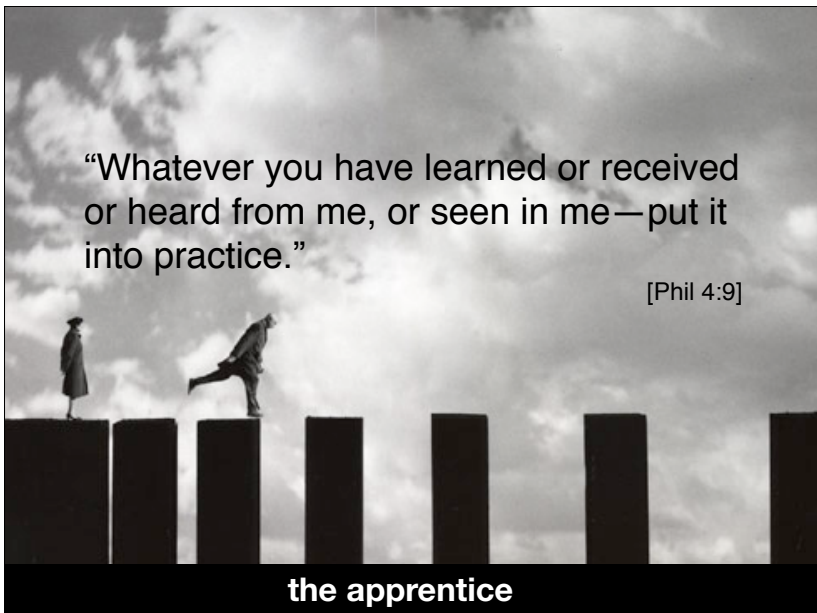


## learning:

1. theme for the week
2. learning as reflectors
3. learning about self and others
4. how did the disciples learn?
5. shallow to deep learning
6. response



may you be  
covered in  
the dust of  
your rabbi!



“Whatever you have learned or received  
or heard from me, or seen in me—put it  
into practice.”

[Phil 4:9]

the apprentice

Have you ever felt totally  
frustrated at the short sighted  
views of other people ?

Every Day!



Why?

Because we are all different and  
all learn differently



Reflectors like to consider ...

different angles  
wide range of data  
other people's views

Activists - haven't got time for this  
Theorists - have to work out their own view  
Pragmatists - just want to make sure it  
works



Most people are not  
intentionally frustrating!!!

Choose to be frustrated or choose  
to learn .... about yourself and  
about others



A learning attitude is a tool for life

understanding  
yourself and others



The Millennium Dome  
Experience

the theorist in among loads of  
activists



The volunteer experience ...



Learning about others takes  
away the frustration

Learning about yourself unlocks  
inner frustration



If you don't know where you are going,  
any road will get you there

If you don't know who you are,  
any thing will fit



Life is a process of learning  
about who I am and what fits



So how do you I get to know  
what fits?

I am many different roles but ...  
who is the transferable me?  
who am I all of the time??



## Questions to ponder

What do you do easily /without stress?

Who do others say you are?

What do others come to you for?

What do you find yourself thinking about when you are  
not thinking about anything

What do you leave behind you/what is your legacy



Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it.

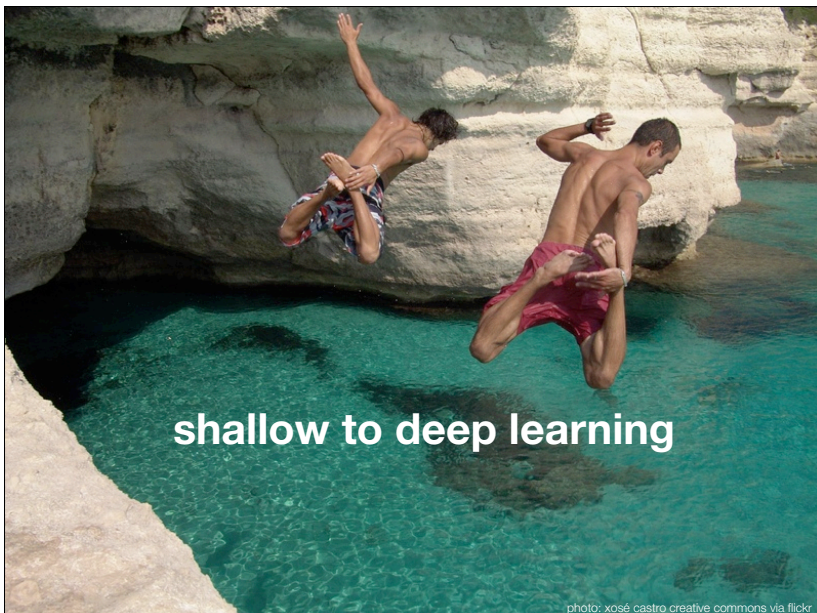
Learn the unforced rhythms of grace.

I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.

[Matthew 11:29]

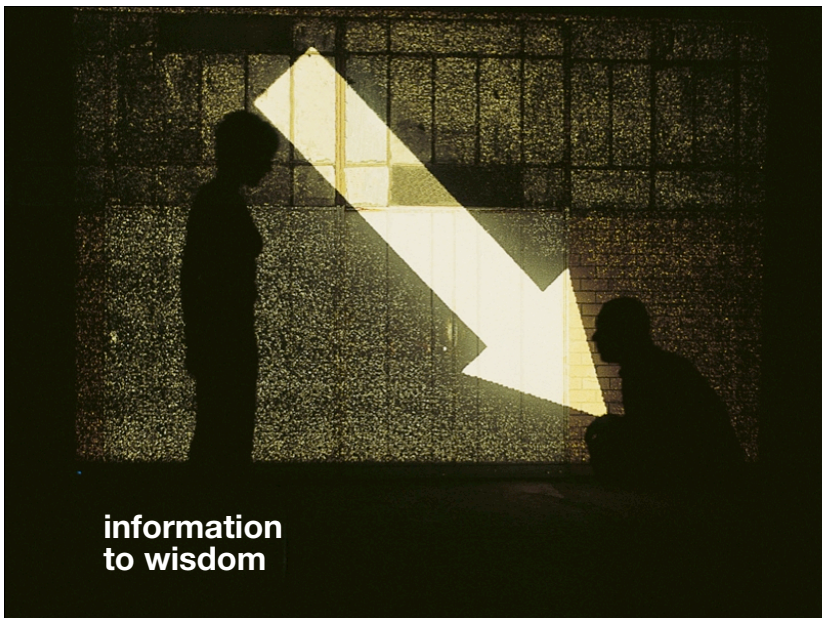
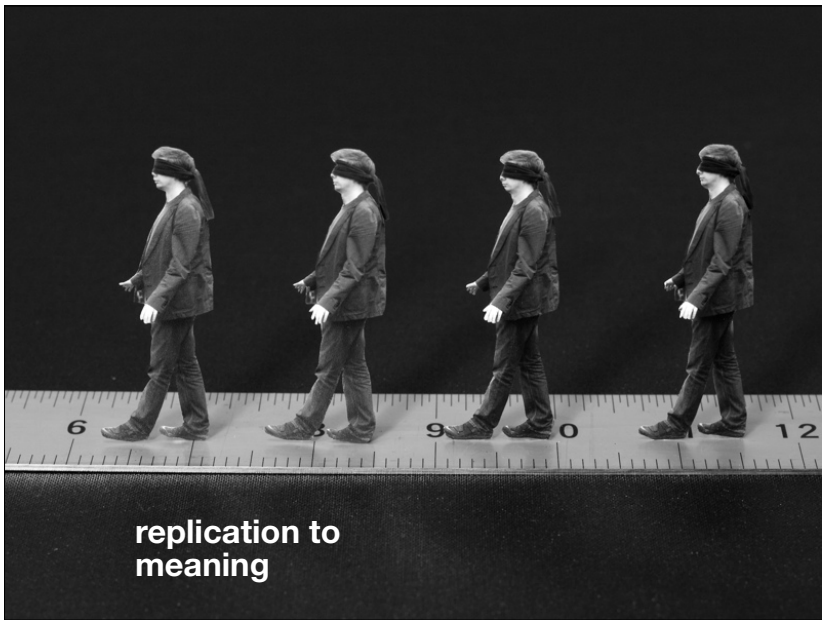
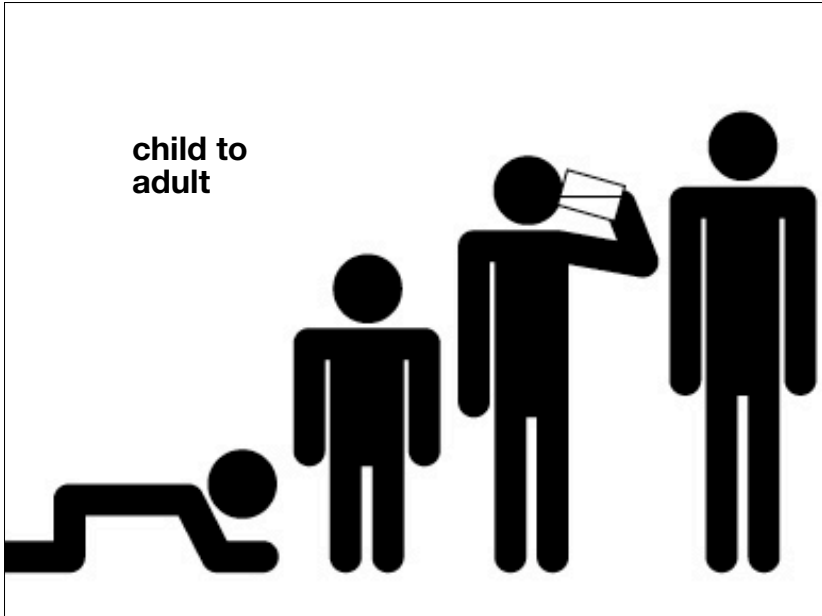


how did the different disciples learn?  
how did jesus create learning community?



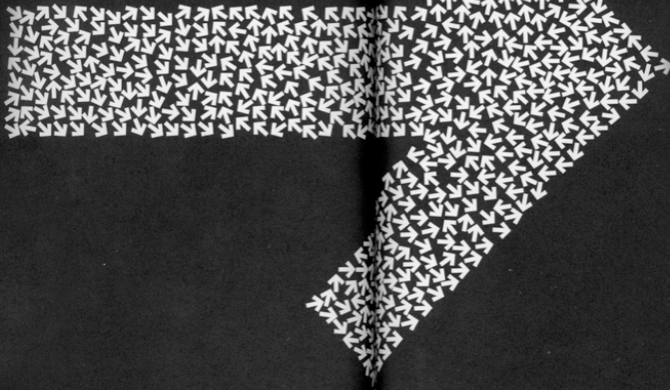
**shallow to deep learning**

photo: xosé castro creative commons via flickr





dependent to  
interdependent



false to real



## Questions to ponder

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# apprentice

2. living



now you have had time to reflect...?



you

# Living

Faith, Religion and Spirituality in  
2009



Face of Britain has changed  
Religion is back in the public  
square  
but it's a confusing place



Have (a) faith  
Practice religion  
Be spiritual

The same or different ??  
And can you do them in public?



## On the one hand, it's not all bad...

physical landscape looks very different to 30 years ago

faith partners at the local authority/area agreement table

religion and belief now part of legislation; Equality and Human Rights Commission

religion is recognised as a difference

spirituality is cool and has even become a consumer item



## On the other hand – while faith groups might be ok .....

Faith of faith groups is 'dodgy' – especially Christianity - and faith schools are not ok

The battle for secularism is being fought more vigorously – winterval, separation of church and state etc

Politicians and the media still 'don't do' God (very much)

Faith is seen as fundamentalist and divisive

We have not settled the 'crosses and head dresses' debate



So what's going on??



## **Ignorance**

People have literally lost the plot; the thread of the big story has been forgotten



## **Fear**

People are frightened of religion

Most of the 'world' wars are caused by religion

Faith has become the new taboo



## **Confusion**

People might know about religions but the faith debate is more difficult

And anyway - we are all Christians – aren't we??



In the midst of all this Christianity  
appears to have lost its nerve



We need to **learn** a different way of being Christian and  
doing Christianity

Identity and Inclusion

Distinctiveness and Diversity

Role Model is Jesus



**why are we sometimes obsessed  
with simplistic black and white  
solutions to complex questions?**

**do we christians sometimes  
think we have the monopoly  
on being right?**



sunday to everyday



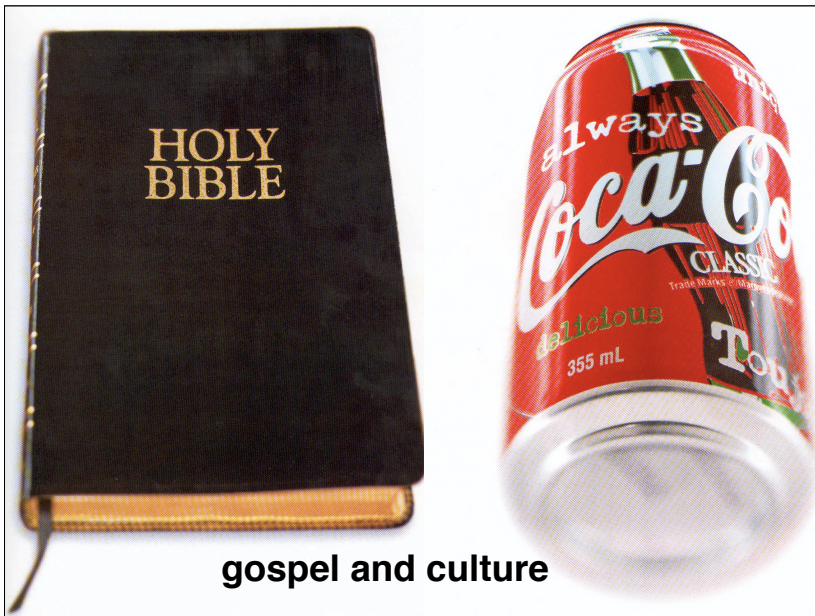
“This might well be a terrible failure of the whole church in Africa that it meets people only in their best clothes... Such Christianity becomes something to put on at certain times and in particular circumstances and has nothing to do with other areas of life.”



“people in my scene would have to culturally commute from who they are to who the traditional church is”



“do it from the inside”

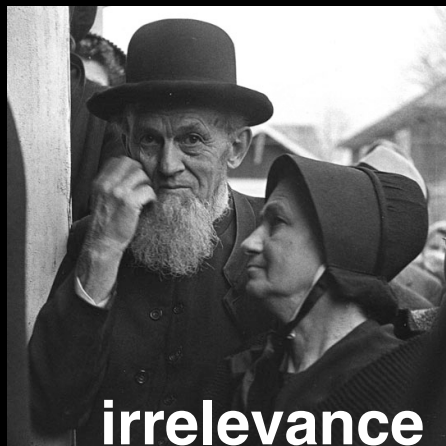


gospel and culture

good or bad?



capitulation



irrelevance





## being worldly

find passages that contain  
the word 'world' in them.  
what do you think is meant  
by the term?



## usage 1 - the good creation

Before the creation of the world (Jn 17:24)

The God who made the world (Acts 17:24)



## Usage 2 - inhabitants of the world

Look how the world has gone after him  
(Jn 12:19)

For God so loved the world... (Jn 3:16)



Usage 3 - negative sense  
'the system'

My Kingdom is not of this world (Jn 18:36)

Do not conform to the pattern of this world  
(Rom 12:1-2)

Religion is this... to keep oneself from  
being polluted by the world (James)



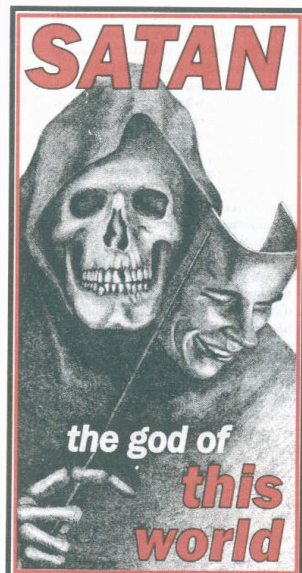
What happens if you get the usage wrong?

The prince of this  
world is coming....

I urge you as strangers and aliens in this world

Do not love the  
world or anything  
in the world. If  
anyone loves the  
world the love of  
the father is not in  
him.

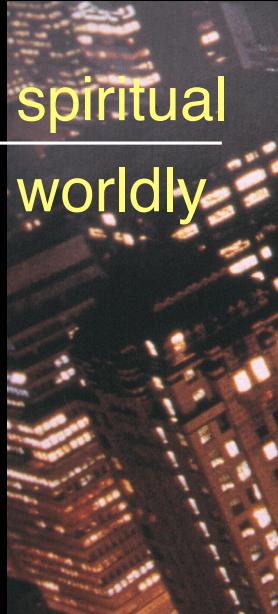
Don't you know  
that friendship with  
the world is hatred  
towards God?





church  
family  
politics  
business  
art  
education  
journalism  
thought  
emotions  
plants and animals  
inanimate matter

spiritual  
worldly



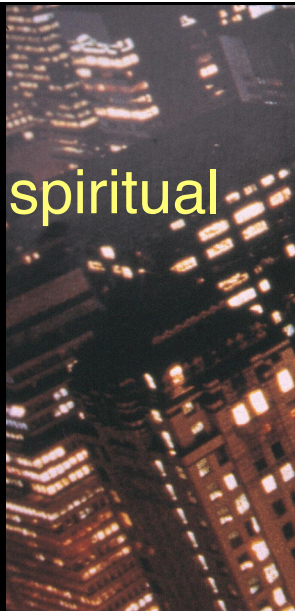
'we often give the impression that if a young christian is really keen for christ he will undoubtedly become a foreign missionary, that if he is not quite as keen he will stay at home and become a pastor, that if he lacks the dedication to be a pastor he will no doubt be a doctor or teacher while those who end up in social work, the media or worst of all in politics are not far removed from serious backsliding'  
(John Stott)



worldly

church  
family  
politics  
business  
art  
education  
journalism  
thought  
emotions  
plants and animals  
inanimate matter

spiritual





Christ has come as a rescuer.

What kind of rescue has he come to make?



off a ship that is sinking?



or.....

driving out the bad guys to liberate the land?





God's purposes are  
tied up with creation  
itself

re-newing

re-deeming

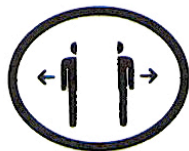
re-storing

re-forming



the kingdom of god is

**creation healed**

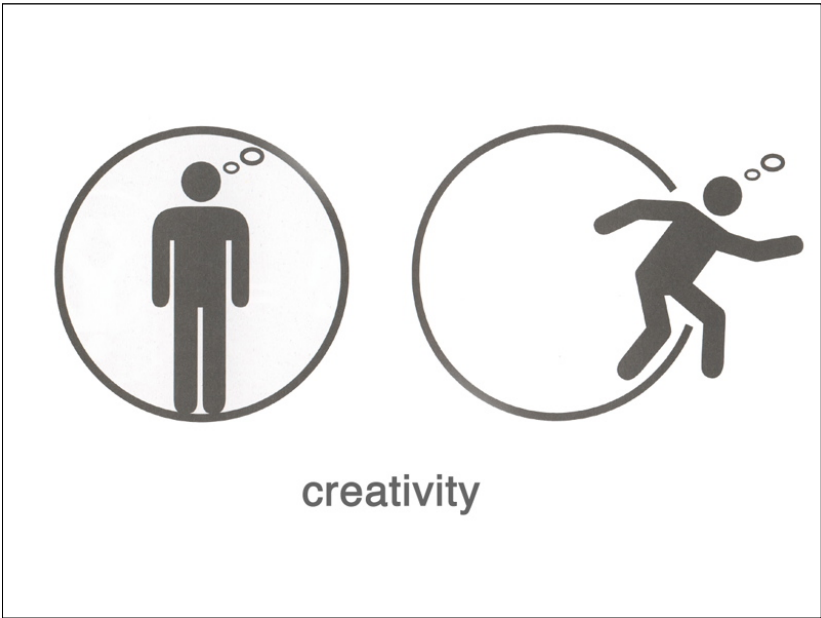


no

**splits**









participation



engage

## Growing

Spiritual growth is about making active choices and developing patterns of living which express continual commitment to Jesus



Being authentic  
Having integrity  
Connecting internal to external  
Being what it says on the tin  
The real deal



Authenticity and Trust  
Lack of Trust = Today's crisis  
Return to values



Are we what we say we are??  
How do we ensure this and  
maintain this?



We need  
check mechanisms,  
good patterns for living  
and  
God!



How we behave flows from  
what we believe...

.....about anything



What do I really believe?

And how does this influence my  
behaviour



Sometimes my behaviour says more about what I really believe than what I say I believe!!!



## Some core Christian beliefs

Each individual is made in God's image  
God is love  
God became one of us  
Death is not the end



First, what do these beliefs mean?

Each individual is made in God's image - God created all of us, making us all equal and all different

God is love - his love is unconditional and therefore we don't have to earn it

God became one of us – he sent Christ to help us relate to him and to others.

Death is not the end - God overcame death;



## How do they affect our behaviour

Because each individual is made in God's image we should treat people in the same way, with dignity, respecting their differences

God is love and therefore we are loved and accepted for who we are and we can be accepting

God became one of us. He is not distant or remote. He came to serve us as a role model for us to follow.

Death is not the end. Therefore it is possible to have hope. Our task is to be agents of hope and transformation in our work and relationships



## Beliefs and Behaviours

God created us all – we can relate to everyone equally

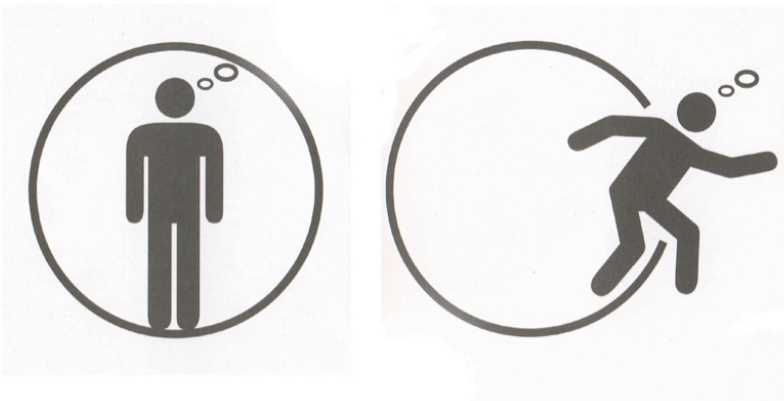
God is love – we are accepted and we can be inclusive of others

God became one of us – in the same way we can be committed to relationships

Death is not the end – we can have hope: even the darkest situation can be transformed



**apprentice** 4. working



**being undone**



**disciplines**



**community**



**seasons**



facing  
**darkness**



rhythm of tides  
**in and out**

Working together to transform  
the world



Intimacy and Involvement

Intimate with God and involved  
with the world



First two commandments

Love God and love others as you  
love yourself



Identity is at the heart of all of  
this

A proper selfishness  
Not self interest but recognition of  
the One who made you.



Jesus knew where he had  
come from, why he was here  
and where he was going  
.....then he could be with anyone



Loving yourself  
=  
Knowing yourself  
I can do something 10,000 others  
cannot

I know why I am here





Being who you are does not mean imposing who you are.

It means being/living out who you are.

Having faith/confidence  
living con fido



Our Default  
Conflict mentality  
Fight or flight  
Get aggressive or give in



## Our greatest fear

*Our greatest fear is not that we are inadequate, but that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, handsome, talented and fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We were born to make manifest the glory of God within us. It is not just in some; it is in everyone. And, as we let our own light shine, we consciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our fear, our presence automatically liberates others. "*

Nelson Mandela Presidential Inaugural Speech



# Psalm 139



**a kick up the missional backside**



**where do we put our energies?**



