

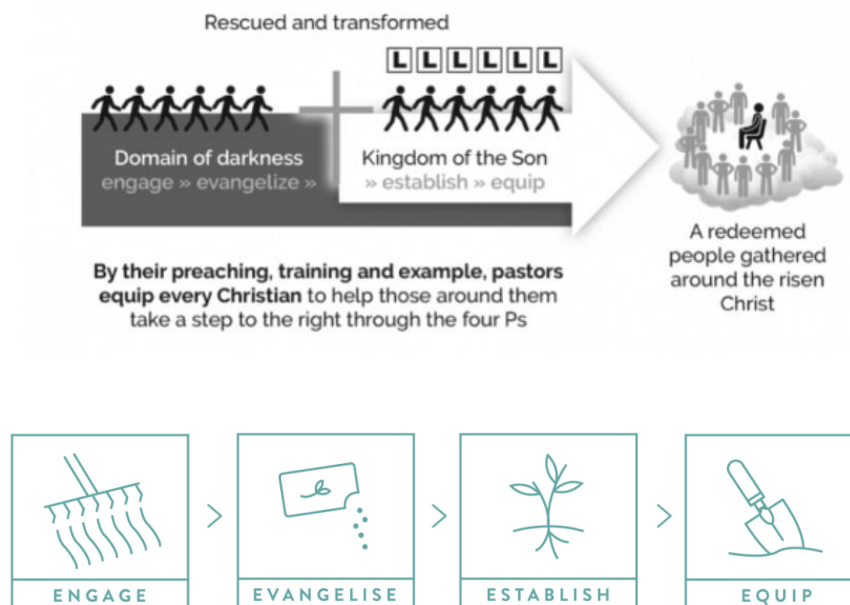


**The Vine Project**  
**Tony Payne & Col Marshall**

**Phase 4: Innovate and Implement**

**Summary:** to present a picture of a genuine 'transformative learning community'

*Making and growing "Christ-learners" is not just something that happens with new Christians, or in small groups, or in one-to-one counseling. It is the basic activity that should be at the center of everything we do as a church—that is, as a transformational learning community—including and especially our Sunday gatherings. One way of describing Sunday church is as a "theatre for disciple-making," in which we seek to help everyone present take a "step to the right" through the prayerful proclamation and speaking of the word of God.*



Phase 1: clarification of core values

Phase 2: application of convictions to personal culture

Phase 3: evaluation of current ministry culture

Phase 4: implementation of proposed changes

Four Reasons why this Stage is Difficult

1. Church is an organisation with change-resistant people who may begin to oppose the proposed changes
2. Church is a machine with lots of moving parts and when we begin to pull one strand it's connected to others

3. Church occurs in a specific context and the ability and capacity to be able to change anything will be limited by that
4. Church is something that happens in practice and not simply on paper

Focus Area 1: Make Sundays a Flagship

Focus Area 2: Design Pathways That Move to the Right

Focus Area 3: Plan for Growth

Focus Area 4: Create a New Language

### Focus Area 1: Make Sundays a Flagship

#### Two Reasons Why Sunday is Special

1. It's the key time in the week for the congregation to gather and to learn Christ together

'The occasions when the whole congregation gathers are the primary and essential times in which God's people are edified in their learning of Christ through the word and the Spirit of God' p 205

2. It sets the tone and direction for everything that we do as a church

'The whole way we do things on Sunday has to teach and express and reinforce and embody the convictions we have about making disciples of Christ' p206

Therefore:

'If we are going to make real progress, our Sunday gatherings must be places where 'transformative learning' takes place through the word of God and prayer, and where the whole culture we want to foster is modelled, expressed, championed and propagated' p 206

1. Engaging Unbelievers on a Sunday
2. Evangelizing on a Sunday
3. Establishing on a Sunday
4. Equipping on Sunday
5. Equipping for Sunday
6. Stories about Sunday

Areas to Address	Notes
Engaging Unbelievers on a Sunday	
Evangelizing on a Sunday	
Establishing on a Sunday	
Equipping on Sunday	
Equipping for Sunday	
Stories about Sunday	

## 1. Engaging Unbelievers on a Sunday

'Is the word of Christ prayerfully proclaimed in church on Sunday in a way that is accessible and understandable for both believers and unbelievers?' p209

### Six Ways to Make Outsiders Welcome

1. Acknowledge the presence of unbelievers in the meeting
2. Provide mini explanations of what's going on
3. Be aware that visitors listen carefully to notices and announcements
4. Preach as if outsiders are present
5. Avoid in-jokes and embarrassing activities
6. Provide the next step for outsiders

Discussion p212
What do you think is the attitude of your church members towards inviting a non-Christian friend or family member along to church?
Why is that?

	Bits in your Church Meeting
Confusing or incomprehensible for an outsider	
Embarrassing for an outsider	
Welcoming or friendly for an outsider	
Engaging or relevant for an outsider	

If you were to make three changes to your church meeting to make it more engaging for an outsider, what would they be?

Change 1	
Change 2	
Change 3	

If an unbeliever came to your church on a Sunday what would they conclude about what it means to be a 'Christ learner' from the things you do together?

Different Elements of Our Meeting	What would 'outsiders' conclude from these different elements of our meeting?
Welcome & Opening Prayer	
First Song	
Interview/Ministry Slot: Door Knocking Experience	
Confession & Restatement of the Gospel	
Congregational Prayers: Led from front by mature couple	
Second Song	
Reading & Sermon	
Notices	
Final Song	
Closing Comments & Prayer	

Apart from the content of the sermon, what would the different aspects of the gathering communicate to them about what you believe?

## 2. Evangelizing on a Sunday

### Three Consequences from a Lack of Evangelistic Mindset on a Sunday

1. We'll struggle to create an evangelistic culture among members if there's no evangelistic dimension to church on Sunday
2. We'll struggle to encourage members to invite unbelievers to church if there's no evangelistic dimension to church on Sunday
3. We'll struggle to see unbelievers retained and saved if there's no evangelistic dimension to church on Sunday

### Four Ways to Give Your Sunday an Evangelistic Edge

1. Preach with an evangelistic mindset
2. Tell stories that show the gospel at work in people's lives
3. Train church members to take evangelistic opportunities at church
4. Shape your meeting structure to communicate the gospel

1. Preaching with an evangelistic mindset

### Nine Ways to Preach Evangelistically

1. Show that what you say comes from the text
  2. Explain words and concepts in ordinary language
  3. Explain foundational doctrines as they come out of the passage
  4. Locate the message of the passage in the story of the gospel
  5. Show how the truth of the passage makes sense of the world
  6. Graciously challenge current alternative assumptions or worldviews
  7. Apply the gospel to real-life circumstances of people's lives
  8. Call for a response to the gospel of repentance and faith
  9. Clearly communicate the gospel centred truth that comes from the passage and address ways in which our hearts resist that message
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2. Telling stories that show the gospel at work in people's lives
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3. The personal witness of congregational members
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4. The shape of your meeting structure

### Discussion Questions pp 218-219

What aspects of your current Sunday meeting or culture have an evangelistic edge to them?	Which of these do you think have the potential to be built upon or improved?	How would you do that?

Brainstorm new ideas for making your Sunday gatherings more evangelistic in their tone.

### 3. Establishing on a Sunday

‘One way of describing what is happening when we meet all together on Sunday is that Jesus is building his church - that he is present with us to speak his nourishing, life-giving word, and to move our hearts to respond to him by his Spirit’ p220

Five Ways of Creating a Culture of Christ Learning on Sunday

1. Preach for transformative learning
  2. Encourage active prayerful listening
  3. Foster mutual teaching and encouragement
  4. Model responsive repentant prayer
  5. Sing in a way that teaches
- a. Preaching for transformative learning
    1. Think about each sermon as an exercise in helping people move to the right
    2. Use whatever pedagogical techniques you can lay your hands on
    3. Keep modelling your own determination to grow and press forward in Christ
    4. Think of the sermon as part of a learning process rather than a one off event
    5. Consider how to have a question time after the sermon
    6. Sparingly deploy historic creeds and confessions
  - b. Encourage active prayerful listening
    1. Advertise the passage beforehand
    2. Generate a culture of note taking
    3. Teach people how to listen

c. Foster mutual teaching and encouragement

1. Find ways in the meeting for testimony and encouragement
2. Encourage and equip church members to see Sunday as a time for mutual conversation and encouragement around the word of God

d. Model responsive repentant prayer

1. Sparingly employ liturgical prayers
2. Respond to the sermon in prayer
3. Encourage post-church prayerful interaction

e. Sing in a way that teaches

‘A person who gives this some thought and yet does not regard music as a marvellous creation of God, must be a clodhopper indeed and does not deserve to be called a human being; he should be permitted to hear nothing but the braying of asses and the grunting of hogs’

Martin Luther 1538, quoted p 226

Singing is a form of emotionally supercharged speech!

1. Singing is an encouragement to one another
2. Singing is a form of testimony
3. Singing is a way to respond to God

f. Sparingly deploy historic creeds and confessions

Discussion p228

	One thing we're doing well	One thing we need to improve	One new idea for making progress
Preaching for Transformative Learning			
Active prayerful listening			
Mutual teaching and encouragement			

Responsive repentant prayer			
Singing that teaches			
Declaring historic creeds and confessions			

#### 4. Equipping on Sunday

'The culture we're wanting to build is one in which all the saints see it as their privilege and joy to be involved in transformative learning together - so that all God's people, each in their own way, persevere in proclaiming the word, in prayerful dependence on the Spirit, to help others take a step to the right' p 229

Three Ways to Equip People for Ministry

1. Preach in a way that equips church members to teach the Bible
2. Encourage the expectation that the word doesn't end with us
3. Schedule short interview times during the meeting to profile congregational ministry

#### 5. Equipping for Sunday

1. Work through content and ideas and information together
2. Practice putting what you learnt into effect and then reporting back to each other
3. Pray together about your efforts
4. Encourage one another to keep going when you get weary

Discussion pp 232-233

What are some of the ways that your current Sunday meeting communicates the 'equipping' message - that all of us can be equipped to be involved in moving others to the right?  
What could you add or change?

Thinking about your current congregational members:

- a. Who among them best exemplifies this kind of mindset and practices what we've been discussing in this section?
- b. Who actively helps others to 'learn Christ' on Sunday in multiple ways?
- c. How might you encourage them to do that even more?



- d. How could they help you equip others to think and act in the same way?

## 6. Stories about Sunday

	Sunday Gathering The Transformative Learning Community			
	Engage	Evangelize	Establish	Equip
How well are you doing the following?				
How could you better do the following?				
What would you need to do to do the following better?				

Project: Planning to Make Sunday a Flagship p238
<p>Choose a few strategies or priorities that you want to focus on over the next 12 months. Don't try to do everything, start with 4 or 5 key things.</p> <p>For each of those strategies or priorities, set a simple measurable goal. The purpose of this is threefold</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It keeps clear in your mind the kind of outcome you're after</li> <li>2. It gives you a push of motive when you begin to feel your feet begin to drag</li> <li>3. It enables you to ask some questions at the end of the year about why you did, or didn't, reach your goal</li> </ol> <p>For each of the priorities write down the what, who, when and how much</p>

What you need to do	Who you need to make it happen	When it needs to be done by	What you need to get it done	Notes
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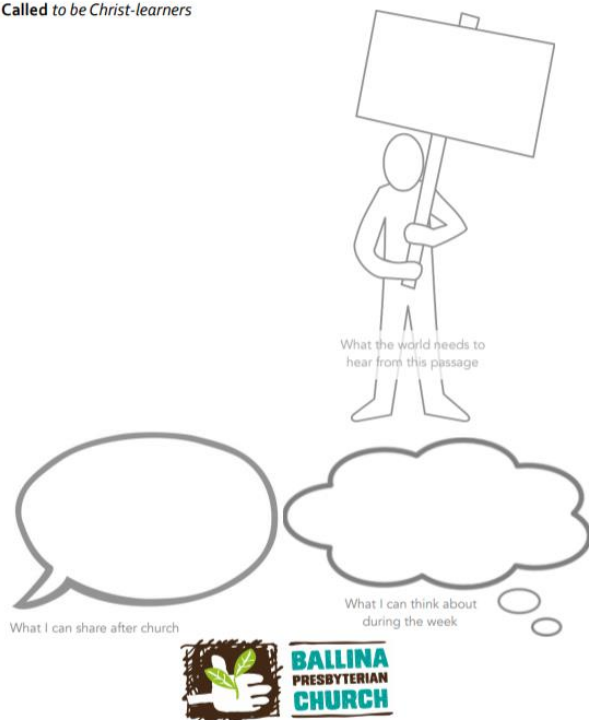
Train all service leaders in outsider friendly approach				

Notes

## A Service Sheet 'Suggestion'

Bible Talk	Bible Passage
Hamish	Colossians 1:1-14 (p.1831)

*Called to be Christ-learners*



# Ballina Presbyterian

Sunday 29 January 2017



## A Business Card Prayer Card

**MY  
PRAYERS**  
Three people I am  
committing to pray for  
regularly.

**ENGAGE**  
(to build a trusted relationship)

**EVANGELISE**  
(to hear the Gospel)

**ESTABLISH**  
(to grow as a disciple)