

+Graham Cray

Planting disciple-making communities

The story so far

The great commission

“ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Matthew 28.16-20

How are disciples made?

- **going**
incarnational mission
- **baptising**
initiation into Christ and his
community
- **teaching**
training in all Christ has taught us

“teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you

Matthew 28.20

- the whole gospel becomes a manual for the making of disciples
- much more than compiling a list of ethical requirements
- it is an integrated ethical code fulfilling and going beyond the Law of Moses

“Go out and train everyone you meet,
far and near, in this way of life...
Then instruct them in the practice
of all I have commanded you.
Matthew 28.19-20 (The Message)

What is discipleship?

“ It is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher.

Matthew 10.25

- The heart of discipleship is being with Jesus, in order to be like him.

“ If I am to be Jesus’ disciple that means I am with him to learn from him how to be like him.

Dallas Willard

“ We obey Jesus teachings because we are captivated by his person.

- the heart of discipleship is obedience to Christ
- the motivation for discipleship is a vision of Christ and his Kingdom
- part of God's work is to make us like Christ



Discipleship is no after-thought

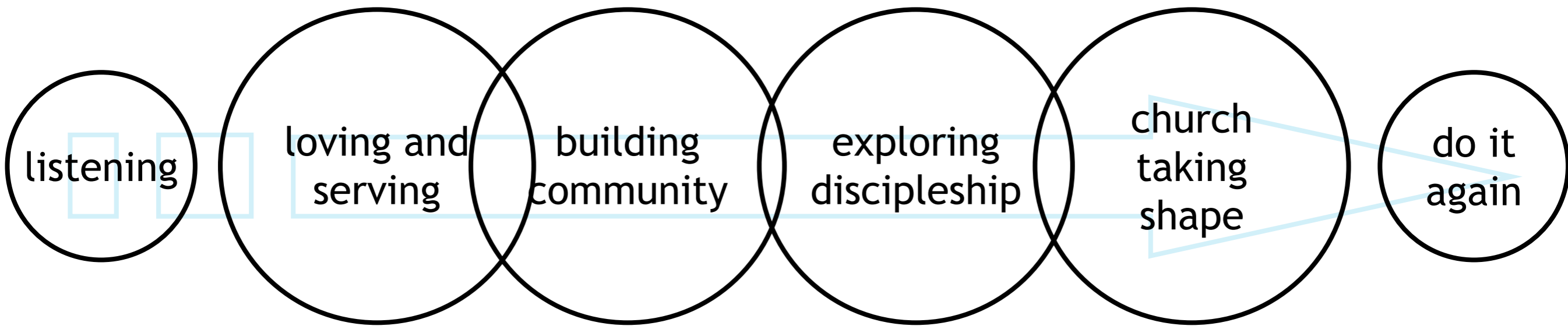


- “ make the fresh expression itself about discipleship from beginning to end.
- “ aim to provide an experience of Christian community for those with little contact.
- “ allow for the long journey people go on as they come from initial attention to openness to respond to the gospel.

Paul Moore

- although there is a dominant Western culture, the key to planting a fresh expression of church is the local context.
- what forces shape a locality, whether neighbourhood or network or a combination of the two?
- Disciple-making is a process of inculturation, involving the reading of a local culture.

a formative journey



underpinned by prayer, ongoing listening and relationship with the wider church

DNA of fresh expressions



Everything that will
grow is present at
the beginning

DNA of fresh expressions

- listening
- serving
- forming community
- evangelism and discipleship
- church taking shape

Start as you mean to go on



Only what is in the
seed can grow

Set an example

The price of mission

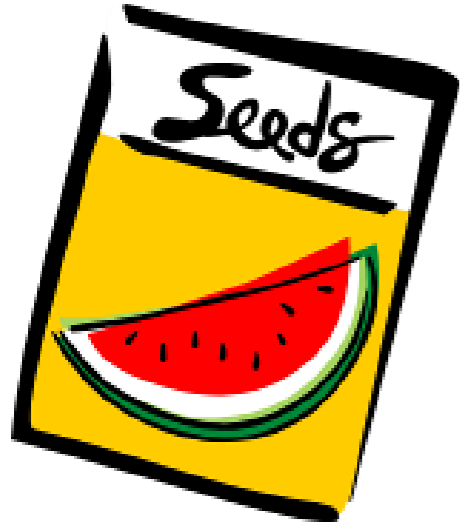
- The church must always be willing to die to its own cultural comfort in order to live where God intends it to be.
- “Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies it bears much fruit.

John 12.24

“The seed loses its previous identity, which was to be part of the sending church with its particular manifestation and culture. It will become something different to what it was before. Dying to live is inherent in the planting process.

Mission-shaped Church

Dying to live... something unforeseen can grow



Courtesy of Professor Michael Herbst

- build sacrifice and service into the culture of the fresh expression from the beginning
- don't create an environment so comfortable that it gives no hint of the cost of discipleship or the call to serve.

re-imagining worship



Catechumenate communities at the
start:

- belonging before believing
- knowing very little
- expecting to participate

- contact work >
- club night >
- praise service >
- peer-led
discipleship
groups



Moot - a relational approach to mission



Courtesy of Ian Mobsby

pattern and creativity

- pattern for secure context and appropriate repetition
- creativity for participation and engagement of the imagination.

prophetic counter images

Staging posts: marked in worship

- ministry of the word
- creating a learning culture
- multisensory learning
- participative
- no unchallengable experts



How is disciple-making practiced?

Dioceses of Liverpool and Canterbury

- one to one
- courses
- small groups
- serving teams

One to one

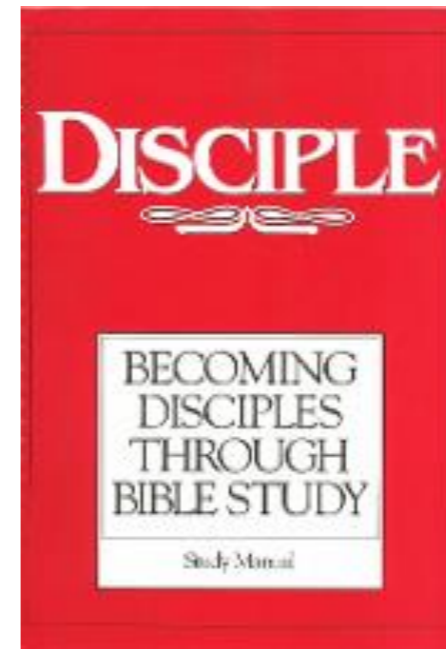
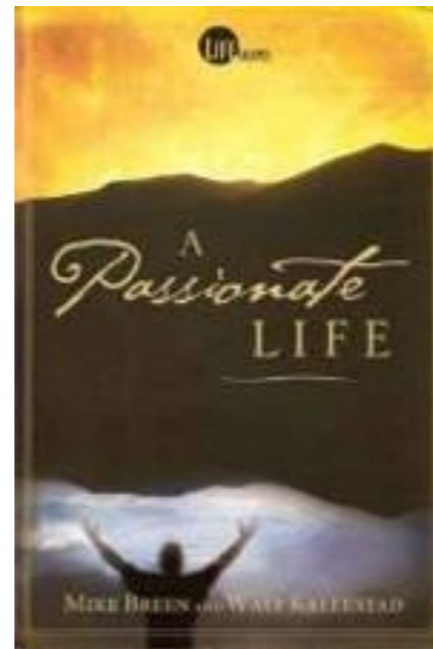
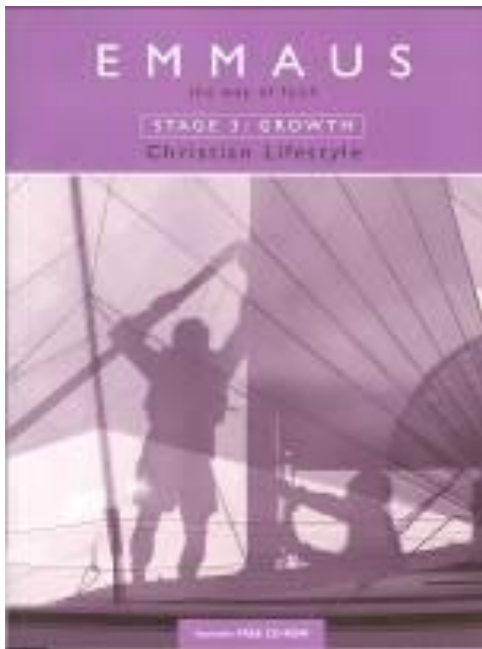
How are disciples made?

As Jesus made disciples.

“The founding of the whole Christian movement was initiated through the simple acts of Jesus investing his life and embedding his teachings in his followers and developing them into authentic disciples.

Alan Hirsch

Those in whom you invest, you teach
to invest in others



Foundations21
the new way to do discipleship

The right course for the context





“Christian community is not primarily about togetherness... togetherness happens but only as a by-product of the main project of trying to be faithful to Jesus.

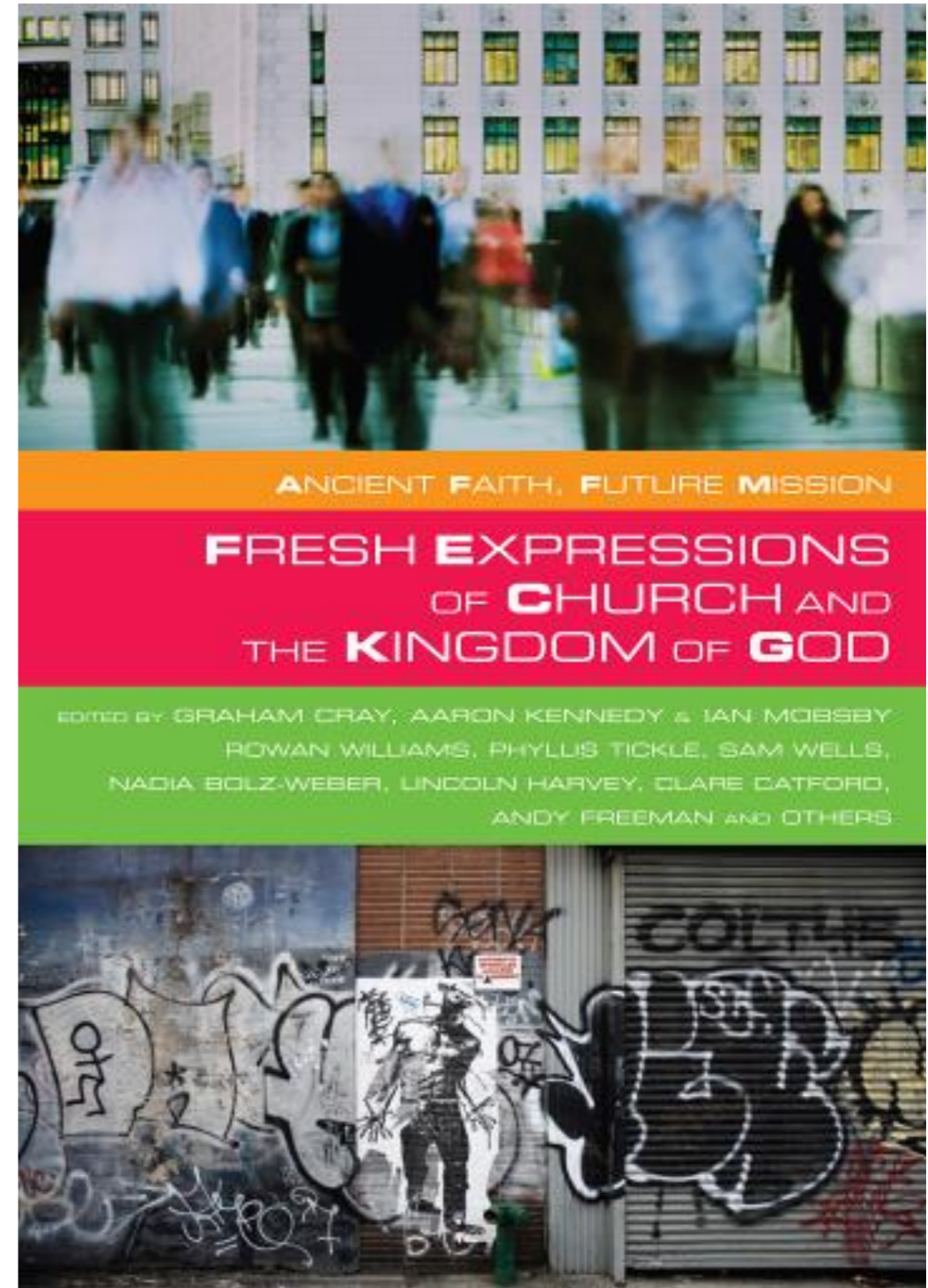
Hauerwas and Willimon

- ‘one anothering’
- never purely pastoral
- or just to study the Bible

- mutual support
- honesty
- mission-focused

Serving teams

Church for the Kingdom



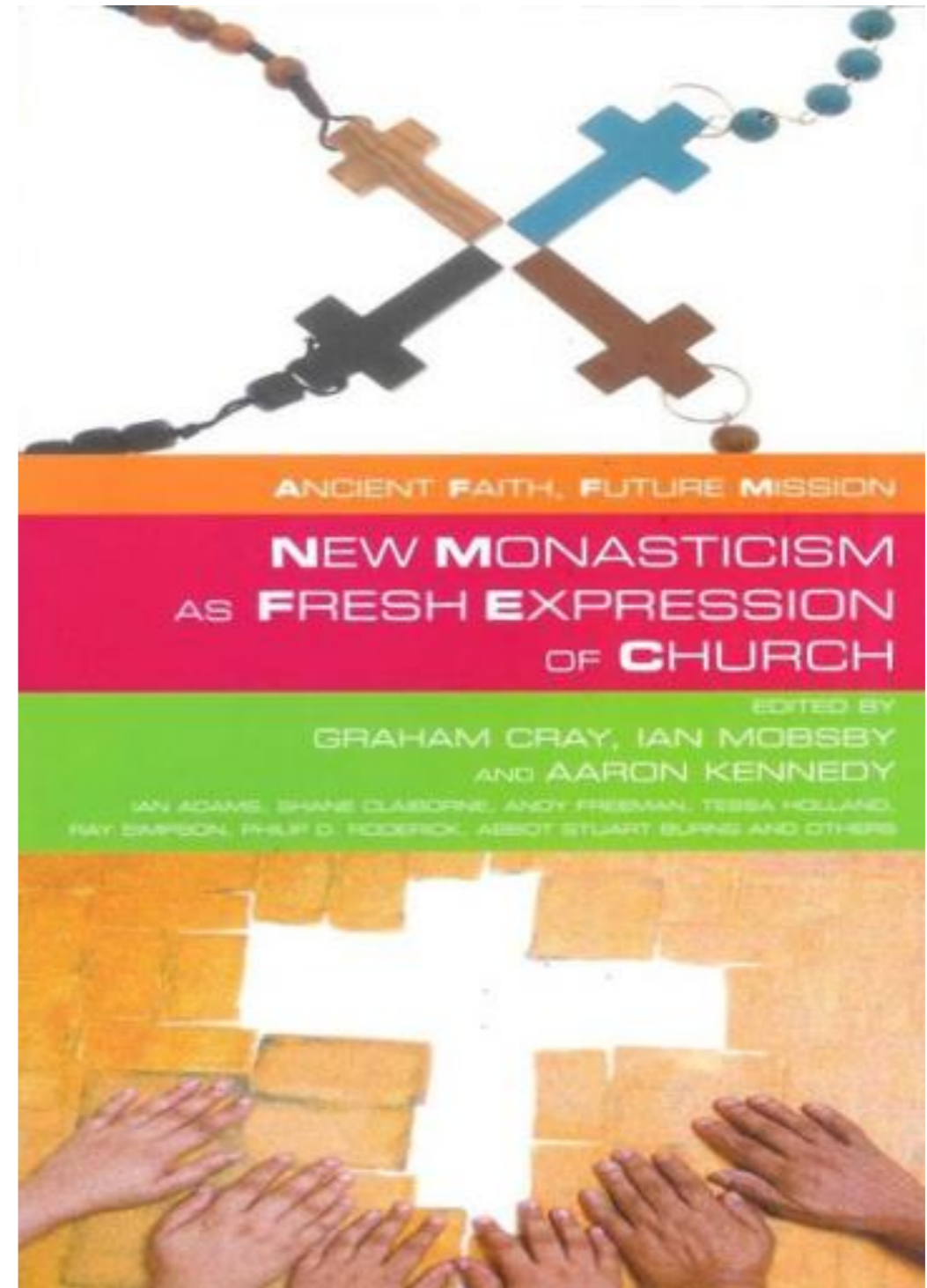
“Discipleship emerges out of prayer, study, dialogue, and worship by a community learning to ask the questions of obedience, as they are engaged directly in mission.

Alan Roxburgh

Rhythm of life

A rule or rhythm of life

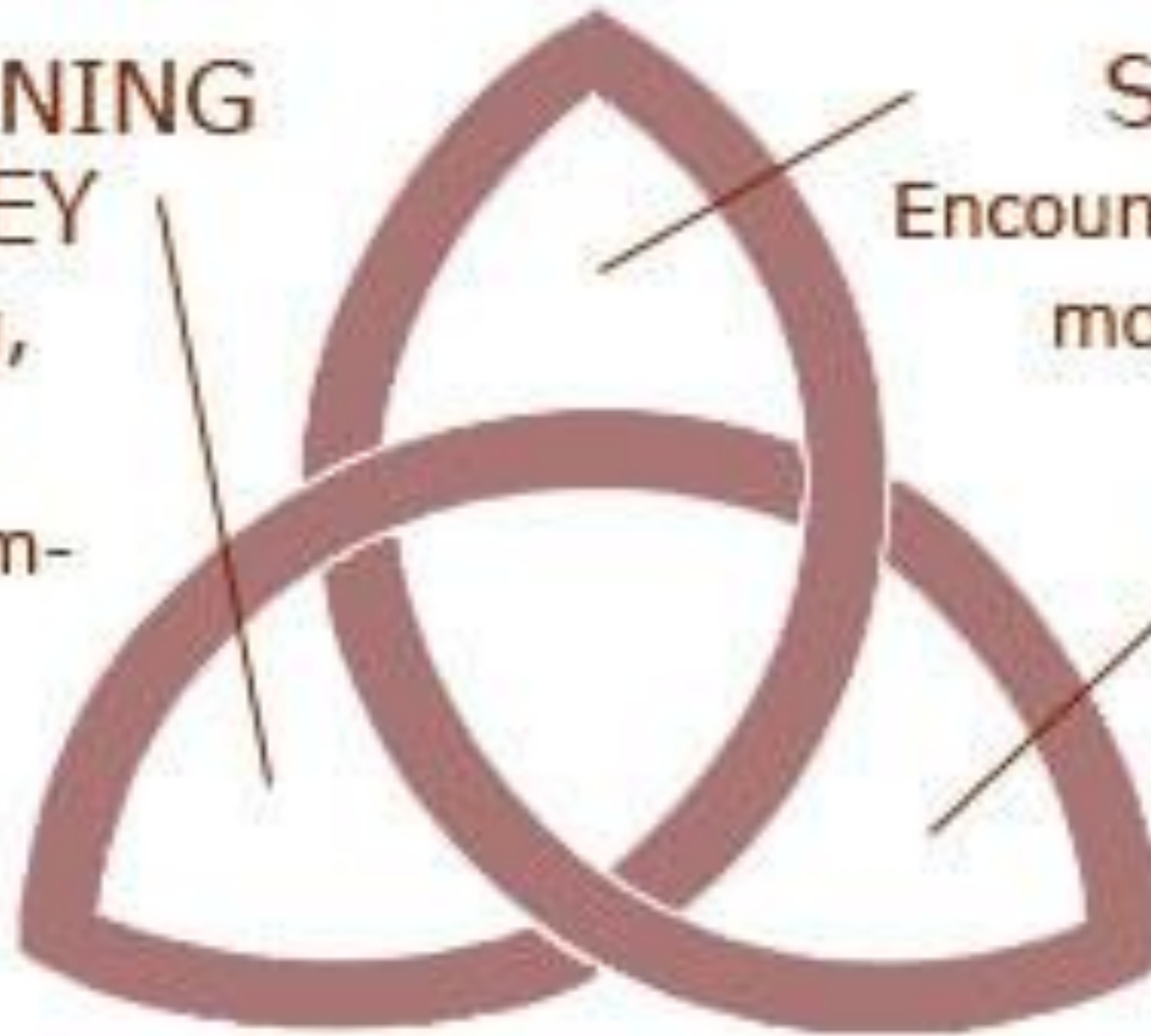
- disciplines of prayer and community
- a rhythm of life
- community to sustain discipleship



A shared rhythm of life

A LEARNING JOURNEY

Equipping,
exploring
and accom-
panying
others



STILL WATERS

Encountering the present
moment in quietness

ACROSS THE THRESHOLD

Engaging with
wisdom on the
boundaries

- the heart of discipleship is obedience to Christ
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