
IMMERSE 2017

PRACTISING DISCIPLESHIP

The people of the Uniting Church (Ringwood) are called into God's mission, contributing in the tradition of Jesus to known and unknown neighbours' lives, in the Spirit of God's compassion, justice and liberating reconciliation.



RUC understands mission as cultivating the imagination of the community to see God at work in the world and join in being the Good News. We look to be shaped by scripture, worship and action to grow spiritually, in theological understanding and the risky practises of being the body of Christ.

To this end we have five mission objective that focus our life together on

Practising Worship,

Practising Hospitality,

Practising Discipleship,

Practising Community Engagement and Practising Partnership in Mission.

IMMERSE EXPERIENCES

Prayer Filled

Take 5 to 10 minutes at the beginning of each day to meditate on a teaching of Jesus and look for opportunities to implement it. At the end of the day, give thanks for those opportunities. Reading through Matthew 5: the Sermon on the Mount, is a good starting point for your meditations. Try to write a journal to keep track of your experiences and what teaching you are seeking to implement.

Virtuous

Find a cause that aligns with your understandings of the actual teachings of Jesus. Set aside a substantial portion of time praying for that cause. Find a way to engage in that cause through some kind of action. After you engage with it, spend time in prayer asking God to reveal Gods wisdom in your experience. Try something like Amnesty International or the Uniting Justice website for a cause to be involved in. Keep a journal of your experience and the new insights being opened to you.

Spirit Empowered

Choose a book from the Mission Task Group Booklist. Pray for God to show more of the life and teachings of Jesus to you as you read. Matthew 28:19-20 says “Therefore go 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 I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Trust that as you read this wisdom of the Spirit will be at work in you.

Compassionate

Volunteer to help in your community. This act of babysitting, gardening, reading with Children or distributing food throughout the community is the compassion that Jesus calls us to participate in. Matthew 20:25-28 “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles ‘lord it over’ them, and their high officials ‘exercise authority over’ them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Take time at the end of each of your compassionate acts to pray and reflect on what it has taught you about yourself, your community and being a follower of Jesus.

Word Centred

Read a Gospel from beginning to end. Often we think we know the Gospel stories, but have we ever just read one. Another option is to read it out loud, with another person. Take some time over a couple of weeks to read out loud to each other and discuss each of the chapters. As you do, take note of the new things you hear and experience as you intentionally read about the life of Jesus.

Sacramental

For this phase of Immerse, make your recreation your sacrament to God. Be intentional about making what you are reading and watching spiritually fulfilling. There are resources available from the Mission Task Group to help you find something that will help. As you read or watch reflect on what you are learning. Create a journal of your experience for you to read through at the end of each month. Be sure to recommend your books or viewing choices to others.

REFLECT:

As you journey through your chosen activity, remember each Practise will be the focus of a 2 month cycle, so you may decide to try two or three activities, please consciously reflect on your experience. The importance of this program is not merely to finish the activity, but to immerse yourself in the experience. As such, it is not important as to your success in the chosen activity, rather your conscious choice to immerse yourself in your experience of God and your experience of discipleship.

SHARE:

Part of the Immerse experience is that you are not doing this alone. Your experience will impact on those around you, it will encourage, inspire, inform and give permission to people to try something new. So please write down, or express your reflection of your experience of Worshiping God in a way that is to be shared and gifted into this community. If you are a part of a small group, worship group, walking group, coffee and knitting group then please share your experience.

Also, please take a Practising Discipleship postcard and express your experience on the back of it. When you are ready, please post it on the wall under the Practicing Worship poster.