

6 WEEK BIBLE STUDY

Oikos

BECOMING THE BODY OF CHRIST AT
ALBERT STREET UNITING CHURCH



Albert Street
Uniting Church



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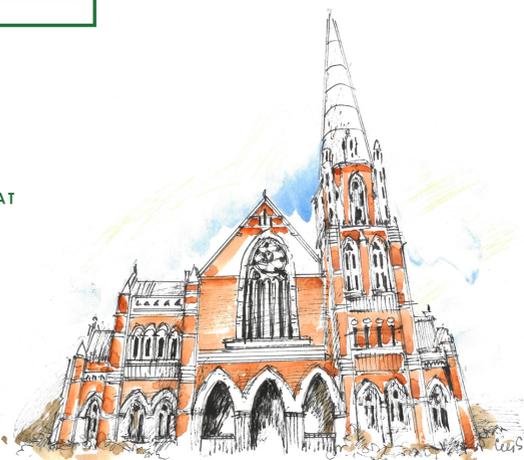
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WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION

Oikos

BECOMING THE BODY OF CHRIST AT
ALBERT STREET UNITING CHURCH

Albert Street
Uniting Church



1. SET THE SCENE
2. ICEBREAKER
3. INITIAL RESPONSE
4. OIKOS MEANS HOME
5. DIGGING DEEPER
6. BRINGING IT HOME
7. CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

1. SET THE SCENE

Light a candle:

We light a candle today to remind us that Jesus is the light of the world and in him there is no darkness. Help us O God not to hide your light from the world, but to let it shine forth bringing light and warmth to our homes and our communities.

Begin with prayer:

Holy One, help us to find our home in you.

A place of nurture and care.

A place of comfort and healing.

A place of growth and challenge.

A place of joy and delight.

A place of love and grace.

A place of adventure and wonder.

A place of peace and hope.

Amen.

Prayer of thanksgiving for the traditional custodians of the land:

Let us pray. We give you thanks Creator God for the land on which we meet. From time beyond our reckoning, the traditional custodians of this land (*please mention the name/s of the traditional custodians of the land on which you are meeting*) have lived in harmony with their environment and nurtured this land and its waterways, and its fauna and flora, with a deep and abiding care. We give thanks for their stewardship, and pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. Help us O God to live together in fellowship, to share our stories of hope and justice and peace, and to further the work of reconciliation in this land. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

2. ICEBREAKER

*Where is home
for you?*

Share your story
with the group!

3. INITIAL RESPONSE

Watch the video together as a group.

Think of the following as you watch and listen, then discuss your notes with the group.



Is there a 'lightbulb' moment for you? An 'aha' moment when the light goes on and you see things in a new way?



Do you have any questions arising from the video?



Is there something here that has hit the target? Something to take with you and apply to your life?



What did you really love about the video?



What did you find difficult or challenging about the video?

4. OIKOS MEANS HOME

How long have you been worshipping at Albert Street Uniting Church?

Why did you first start attending? Why have you stayed?

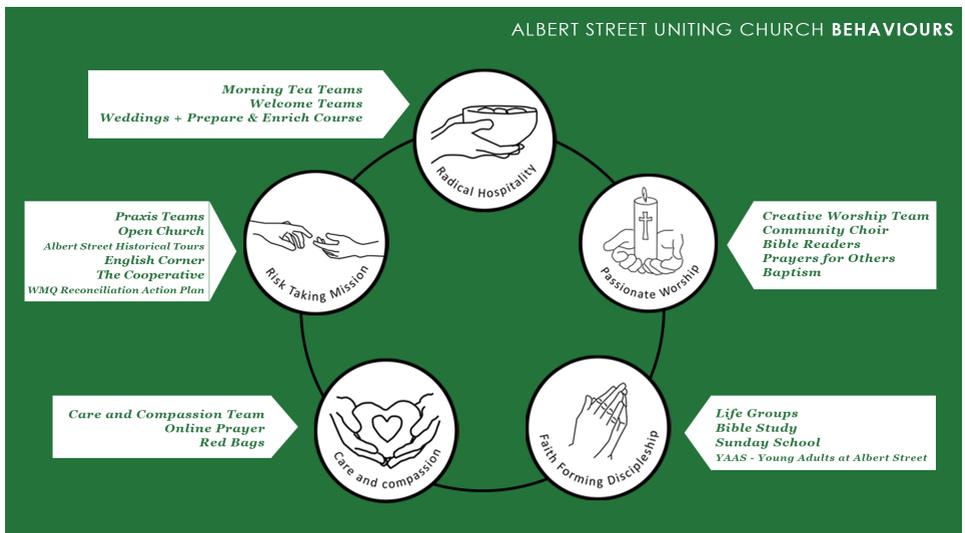
Tell your story.

Congregational Behaviours:

Our five congregational behaviours are:

- Radical Hospitality
- Passionate Worship
- Faith Forming Discipleship
- Care and Compassion
- Risk Taking Mission

These behaviours have helped to shape our ministry and missional focus areas:



Which of these Congregational Behaviours is most prominent in the expression of your faith? Why is that the case?

Which of these Congregational Behaviours do you find most challenging?

Are you already serving in one of these ministry teams?
Share your experience with the group.

Would you like to serve in one of these ministry teams?
Share your thoughts with the group.

5. DIGGING DEEPER

Read Colossians 3:1-17

Paul gives instructions to the emerging faith community in Colossae about what it means for the church to be a home for everyone. What are some of the features that stand out to you? What do you think Albert Street Uniting Church does well? What are some of the areas we need to work on?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-13:13

Paul writes to the young church in Corinth about the importance of everyone in the community as members of the one body – the Body of Christ. Everyone has a role to play, a gift to offer, a responsibility towards others. Paul writes that the greatest way to contribute to the Body of Christ is by the way we love one another.

This list of spiritual gifts we read about in 1 Corinthians 12 is not exhaustive. Some people have musical gifts, or serving gifts, or reading gifts, or cooking gifts, or mechanical gifts, and the list goes on.

What gifts do you have to offer the church?

Can you think of a way that you would like to use your gifts to contribute to the Albert Street Uniting Church community?

6. BRINGING IT HOME

Closing Prayer

Each person in the group is invited to pray for different aspects of Albert Street Uniting Church. Some ideas are listed below:

Pray for the congregation's mission to witness to the way of Christ.

Pray for congregation members who are doing it tough right now.

Pray for Albert Street Uniting Church worship services.

Pray for the Ministry Team.

Pray for the work of '*the cooperative*'.

Pray for the City Hub: Art From the Margins, Emergency Relief, Community Meal, English Corner.

Pray for the work of Wesley Mission Queensland (WMQ).

Pray for the Pastoral and Spiritual Care Team.

Pray for the WMQ Executive Leadership Team and the Senior Leadership Team.

Pray for Residential Aged Care workers and residents and families.

Pray for community services and those working in areas of disability care, crisis care and mental health.

Pray for the WMQ Council and Elders.

Pray for members of your Life Group.

Pray for the Queensland Synod and the Moreton Rivers Presbytery.

7. CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Over the next week, pray and reflect on the Five Congregational Behaviours of Albert Street Uniting Church.

Day 1. Pray for the Ministry Team, WMQ Council, Elders Committee, Congregational Leadership. Give thanks for their leadership and servanthood. Pray for opportunities to encourage and support them in the work that they do. Prayerfully consider whether God may be calling you into a leadership role in the church.

Day 2. Pray for the Radical Hospitality of our community. Pray for the Welcome Teams and the Morning Tea Teams; give thanks to God for their warmth and faithfulness. How can you help to welcome people into Albert Street Uniting Church?

Day 3. Prayerfully reflect on the Passionate Worship of Albert Street Uniting Church. How does the worship life of our church encourage and nurture your faith? Are there ways that you could contribute to the worshipping life of our congregation, whether online or in-person?

Day 4. Pray for Faith Forming Discipleship at Albert Street Uniting Church. Give thanks for the Life Group Leaders and the Bible Study Leaders who help to shape and form us in faith. Pray for YAAS (Young Adults at Albert Street). Who can you invite to a Life Group? How can you support these important ministries?

Day 5. Pray for the Care and Compassion we give to others as disciples of Christ. Pray for those in our community who are in need of extra help and support and healing and hope. Pray for the Care and Compassion Team as they help to provide pastoral care for our congregation and community. How can you support this important ministry?

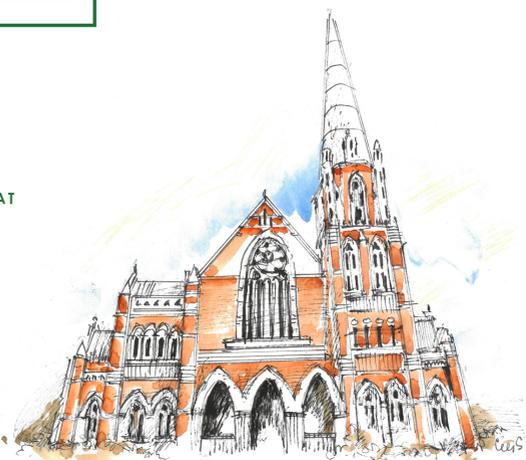
Day 6. Pray for the Risk Taking Mission of Albert Street Uniting Church. Pray for our missional work in the city hub: Emergency Relief, Community Meal, Art From the Margins, English Corner. Pray for our Praxis Teams as they walk alongside those in most need. Pray for the work of '*the cooperative*' as it provides space for otherwise impossible conversations. How can you support these important ministries?

WEEK 2: RADICAL HOSPITALITY

Oikos

BECOMING THE BODY OF CHRIST AT
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Uniting Church



1. SET THE SCENE
2. ICEBREAKER
3. FEEDBACK FROM LAST WEEK
4. INITIAL RESPONSE
5. RADICAL HOSPITALITY
6. DIGGING DEEPER
7. BRINGING IT HOME
8. CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

1. SET THE SCENE

Light a candle:

We light the Christ candle to remind us that just as a moth is drawn to the flame, so too are we drawn to the light and warmth of God's amazing love. May the Radical Hospitality of God's love make a home for all people.

Begin with prayer:

God of welcome: beckon us to draw close to you, invite us into your embrace, encourage us to build your Kingdom. Help us to make room for strangers that they may become our friends. Help us to love our neighbours that we might become the church. Help us to love our enemies that we might transform the world.

Amen.

Prayer of thanksgiving for the traditional custodians of the land:

Let us pray. We give you thanks Creator God for the land on which we meet. From time beyond our reckoning, the traditional custodians of this land (*please mention the name/s of the traditional custodians of the land on which you are meeting*) have lived in harmony with their environment and nurtured this land and its waterways, and its fauna and flora, with a deep and abiding care. We give thanks for their stewardship, and pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. Help us O God to live together in fellowship, to share our stories of hope and justice and peace, and to further the work of reconciliation in this land. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

2. ICEBREAKER

***What is your
favourite / least
favourite food
and why?***

Go around the group
and share your answers!

3. FEEDBACK FROM LAST WEEK

Share your reflections and responses from the weekly challenge.

4. INITIAL RESPONSE

Watch the video together as a group.

Think of the following as you watch and listen, then discuss your notes with the group.



Is there a 'lightbulb' moment for you? An 'aha' moment when the light goes on and you see things in a new way?



Do you have any questions arising from the video?



Is there something here that has hit the target? Something to take with you and apply to your life?



What did you really love about the video?



What did you find difficult or challenging about the video?

5. RADICAL HOSPITALITY

What makes you feel welcome?

Think of a time when you joined a new community (a new school, new job, new neighbourhood, new church etc.). What were some of the ways that others made you feel welcome? Share your story.

Albert Street Uniting Church has made the following commitments in relation to Radical Hospitality:

- We want to ensure that newcomers and visitors to our worship services are given a warm welcome to our community.
- We want to ensure that all interaction between our church and the wider community is thoughtful, meaningful and inclusive.
- We want to ensure that stewardship, catering and COVID compliance are opportunities for community building.
- We want to ensure there are adequate ways for newcomers to connect beyond Sunday services.

What do you think we are doing well?

How do you think we can improve?

Is there anything you would like to add to the above commitments?

How do you think you might be able to contribute?

6. DIGGING DEEPER

Read Luke 14

This is a long chapter, but it has some important things to say about hospitality. As you read the chapter together, write down some of the insights it gives. Share these thoughts with the group.

It can be easy to critique the customs and expectations of other cultures. Some of the customs we read in the Bible may be difficult for us to understand, but of course some of our customs would seem quite unusual to people in ancient times as well. What are some of the cultural expectations that we have at Albert Street Uniting Church? Do any of these practices create obstacles for hospitality?

Do you think all people feel welcome at Albert Street Uniting Church?

Do you think we treat some people better than others?

How can we make sure that the following people are made to feel welcome:

Homeless / Different Cultures / First Nations / LGBTQIA+ /
Young Families / Youth / Aged / Mobility Challenges / Disabled

Are there any other groups of people we can add to this list?

Making sure everyone is welcome can come at a cost. Perhaps the way we do worship on a Sunday morning may need to change?

How do we make worship inclusive and meaningful for everyone?

What are some of the challenges we need to consider? What are some new ideas we might be able to introduce?

Jesus warns us not to lose our saltiness – not to lose our flavor...

What do you think we can learn from this in relation to Radical Hospitality?

7. BRINGING IT HOME

Closing prayer:

God of Radical Hospitality, help us to welcome others as you have welcomed us.

Help us to be kind and hospitable.

Help us to be warm and welcoming.

Help us to be respectful to those who are different.

Help us to seek understanding of different cultures.

Help us to be patient and inclusive and offer compassion and care.

Help us to be open to learn and grow in the way we love our neighbours.

Amen.

8. CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Prayerfully consider how you may be able to offer Radical Hospitality at Albert Street Uniting Church (either online or in-person). Here are some of the ways you may be able to serve:

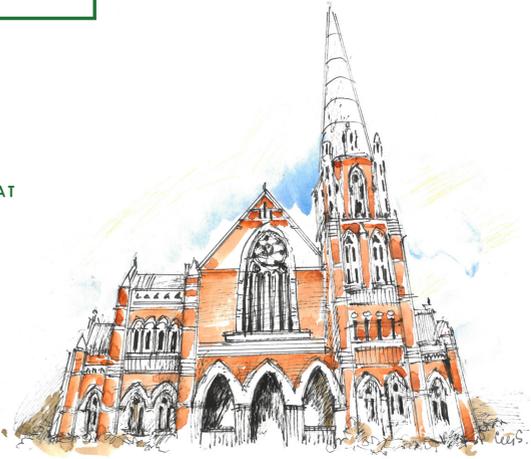
- Join the Welcome Team: helping to open the church on Sunday and prepare the space for worship. Greeting people at the door, serving as stewards during the service, recording church attendance (to assist with pastoral care), farewelling people at the conclusion of the service, cleaning the church, closing the church.
- Join the Morning Tea Team: helping to set up the Burnett Room before church, preparing food and drink services, helping to serve during morning tea, cleaning up afterwards.
- Are you able to cook or bake for morning tea or special functions or services of the church?
- Are you able to welcome people who participate online and help moderate an online worship service?
- Are you able to host a Life Group in your home?
- Are you able to invite people to your home for a meal and fellowship?

WEEK 3: PASSIONATE WORSHIP

Oikos

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1. SET THE SCENE
2. ICEBREAKER
3. FEEDBACK FROM LAST WEEK
4. INITIAL RESPONSE
5. PASSIONATE WORSHIP
6. DIGGING DEEPER
7. BRINGING IT HOME
8. CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

1. SET THE SCENE

Light a candle:

We light a candle today as an act of Passionate Worship. May the light of your love empower us to worship you in Spirit and in Truth. May our hearts be warmed by the assurance of your presence.

Begin with prayer:

God, we want to worship you with our whole selves: our hearts, our minds, our strength. We also acknowledge that our whole selves include our doubts and our fears and our failures.

We offer ourselves as a living sacrifice. Our broken selves in need of healing, our frightened selves in need of hope. We bring to you our prayers and our songs and our service.

Teach us your ways. That our acts of worship may build faith, grow disciples and celebrate the coming of your Kingdom. That our acts of worship may bring good news to the poor, and feed the hungry, and bring freedom to the oppressed.

Let justice flow like a river. And let love abound in our gathering.

Amen.

Prayer of thanksgiving for the traditional custodians of the land:

Let us pray. We give you thanks Creator God for the land on which we meet. From time beyond our reckoning, the traditional custodians of this land (*please mention the name/s of the traditional custodians of the land on which you are meeting*) have lived in harmony with their environment and nurtured this land and its waterways, and its fauna and flora, with a deep and abiding care. We give thanks for their stewardship, and pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. Help us O God to live together in fellowship, to share our stories of hope and justice and peace, and to further the work of reconciliation in this land. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

2. ICEBREAKER



***What is your
favourite hymn
or worship song?***

Why is it your favourite?
Share with the group!

3. FEEDBACK FROM LAST WEEK

Share your reflections and responses from the weekly challenge.

4. INITIAL RESPONSE

Watch the video together as a group.

Think of the following as you watch and listen, then discuss your notes with the group.



Is there a 'lightbulb' moment for you? An 'aha' moment when the light goes on and you see things in a new way?



Do you have any questions arising from the video?



Is there something here that has hit the target? Something to take with you and apply to your life?



What did you really love about the video?



What did you find difficult or challenging about the video?

5. PASSIONATE WORSHIP

Worship Styles

There are so many different liturgical approaches to worship within the Uniting Church. Some are more formal/traditional, others are more informal/contemporary, and many are somewhere in between. What experiences have you had with worship in different churches? Is your experience of worship at Albert Street Uniting Church one of the reasons you attend our congregation?

Albert Street Uniting Church has made the following commitments in relation to Passionate Worship:

We want to be people who live lives filled with Passionate Worship.

- We want worship that is inclusive and invites participation.
- We want worship that is challenging, thoughtful and theologically informed.
- We want worship that is led by a team of lay and ordained people (preparation and presentation).
- We want worship that enriches our discipleship and engages the community.
- We want worship that is multi-sensory, multi-media and engages with the arts.
- We want worship that engages a variety of different traditions and spiritual practices.

What do you think we are doing well?

How do you think we can improve?

Is there anything you would like to add to the above commitments?

How do you think you might be able to contribute?

6. DIGGING DEEPER

Read Isaiah 58

This passage from Isaiah is a challenging reminder to the church that the worship God requires of us involves much more than praying and singing. True worship will fight against injustice and oppression and usher in the Kingdom of God. Read the passage again, replacing the word 'fast' (and its derivatives) with the word 'worship'. How does this change the way you think about worship?

Read Romans 12: 1-8

Translating from one language to another can be quite challenging with respect to style, content and readability. Here is a translation of Romans 12:1 that we believe gives appropriate attention to Paul's understanding of worship.

“You must, therefore, sisters and brothers, because of God’s compassions, offer your whole selves as a sacrifice that comes alive, and is set apart for service to God, and is acceptable to God – this is what worship actually means.” (Romans 12:1).

According to Paul, worship is so much more than singing and praying – it is primarily about the way we offer our lives to God. Worship is how we enliven our faith to do God's bidding. How does our worship at Albert Street Uniting Church enliven your faith?

7. BRINGING IT HOME

Closing Prayer

God help us to sing a song of love for you in our daily living.
May our every breath become a prayer.
May the voice of your Spirit speak to the rhythm of our heart.
May we dance in celebration of your gift of life.
May we shout for joy as your love abounds.

May we also learn to slow down to give thanks.
May we learn to pause in order to be present to ourselves and others.
May we grieve with the hurting and hold hands with the lonely.
May we find healing and peace and wholeness and hope.

May we find ourselves in your story.
May we tell your story in the way we live.
May our daily living become a song of praise.
May we worship you in Spirit and in Truth.

8. CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Prayerfully consider whether you may be able to help with the worship services at Albert Street Uniting Church (online or in person). Here are some of the ways that people are able to serve during worship:

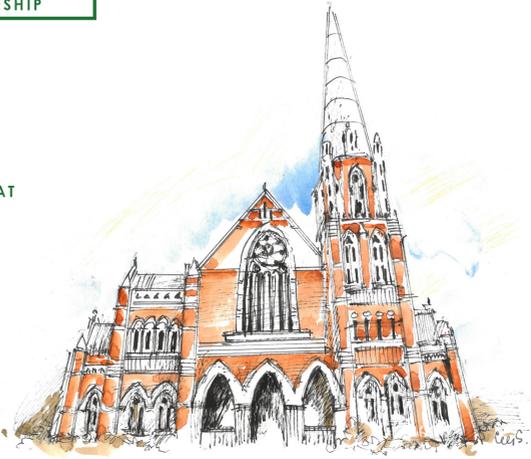
- Would you like to join the choir?
- Can you play an instrument?
- Would you like to lead the Acknowledgment of Traditional Custodians?
- Would you like to light the Christ Candle?
- Would you like to do a Bible reading?
- Would you like to lead the Prayers for Others?
- Would you like to prepare the elements for Holy Communion?
- Would you like to help with Sunday School?
- Would you like to help with flowers or banners or making Albert Bears (a beautiful Baptism gift for children)?
- Would you like to help with the powerpoint /livestreaming?
- Would you like to help with sound operation?
- Would you like to share your ideas as part of a Creative Worship Team that helps to plan some of our important services?
- Would you like to help coordinate and moderate the online experience for participants?
- Would you like to help with photography, filming, visual arts or video editing?
- Would you like to join a weekly online prayer group?
- Are there any other ways that you would like to contribute to the worshipping life of our congregation?

WEEK 4: FAITH FORMING DISCIPLESHIP

Oikos

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1. SET THE SCENE
2. ICEBREAKER
3. FEEDBACK FROM LAST WEEK
4. INITIAL RESPONSE
5. FAITH FORMING DISCIPLESHIP
6. DIGGING DEEPER
7. FOLLOWING ON
8. CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

1. SET THE SCENE

Light a candle:

We light a candle today to remind us that you are the light of the world and in you there is no darkness. May our lives be shaped by your light. May our lives become a light for others.

Begin with prayer:

God we give thanks for the many ways we are shaped by your love at work in our lives.

We give thanks for the gift of scripture and the way it guides us, challenges us and teaches us to be faithful. Help us to read it well.

We give thanks for the gift of prayer and the way it teaches us to be still, to listen and for the nourishment it gives to our inner journey. Help us to pray without ceasing.

We give thanks for our companions on the road. Our sisters and brothers of faith who mentor us, love us, and share life with us. Help us to be loyal and faithful to one another.

God, by your grace, give us the opportunity to mentor others; to always offer friendship and care to those who journey with us. Help us to be humble and giving. Amen.

Prayer of thanksgiving for the traditional custodians of the land:

Let us pray. We give you thanks Creator God for the land on which we meet. From time beyond our reckoning, the traditional custodians of this land (*please mention the name/s of the traditional custodians of the land on which you are meeting*) have lived in harmony with their environment and nurtured this land and its waterways, and its fauna and flora, with a deep and abiding care. We give thanks for their stewardship, and pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. Help us O God to live together in fellowship, to share our stories of hope and justice and peace, and to further the work of reconciliation in this land. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

2. ICEBREAKER

*Who is the
person who has
most impacted
your faith and
why?*

3. FEEDBACK FROM LAST WEEK

Share your reflections and responses from the weekly challenge.

4. INITIAL RESPONSE

Watch the video together as a group.

Think of the following as you watch and listen, then discuss your notes with the group.



Is there a 'lightbulb' moment for you? An 'aha' moment when the light goes on and you see things in a new way?



Do you have any questions arising from the video?



Is there something here that has hit the target? Something to take with you and apply to your life?



What did you really love about the video?



What did you find difficult or challenging about the video?

5. FAITH FORMING DISCIPLESHIP

Albert Street Uniting Church has made the following commitments in relation to Faith Forming Discipleship:

We want to be a community of Faith Forming Discipleship.

- We want to resource young and old to grow in their faith.
- We want to encourage a broad theological engagement with the Congregation: creating safe places for faith sharing.
- We want to encourage people to join Life Groups.
- We want to encourage and equip people to use their spiritual gifts for the edification of the church (eg. leadership, servanthood, worship etc.).
- We want to encourage participation in the wider Uniting Church.
- We want intentional mentoring partnerships with and between those seeking to grow in their faith.

What do you think we are doing well?

How do you think we can improve?

Is there anything you would like to add to the above commitments?

How do you think you might be able to contribute?

The video also talks about six key commitments associated with Faith Forming Discipleship:

1. A commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.
2. A commitment to the Church as the Body of Christ.
3. A commitment to Bible Study as a witness to God's love for the world.
4. A commitment to Prayer as the heart-beat of our faith.
5. A commitment to Serve as the hands and feet of God's presence.
6. A commitment to Give as an outworking of God's own providence and grace.

Which of these commitments do you find most fulfilling and why?

Which of these commitments do you find most challenging and why?

Are there any other commitments that you would add to this list?

6. DIGGING DEEPER

Read Matthew 5:1-12

This passage is often referred to as the Beatitudes.

It presents a very different way of understanding the world. Some people refer to it as the blueprint for the upside down kingdom – the Kingdom of God.

Which of these Beatitudes do you find the most challenging/nonsensical and why?

Imagine the Beatitudes describe a paint-by-number portrait of the Kingdom of God. When all the colours are present, we see a clearer picture of what the Kingdom of God looks like. What colours of the Kingdom are most present in your life? Which colour is God working on right now?

Do you feel that your discipleship at Albert Street Uniting Church is helping to shape your faith in the way described by the Beatitudes? Explain your answer.

7. FOLLOWING ON

Closing Prayer

Break up into pairs.

Share with one another about your discipleship journey.

What are the joys?

What are the struggles?

How would you like to grow as a disciple of Jesus?

Which of the six key commitments of discipleship would you like prayer for?

Pray for one another.

8. CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Prayerfully consider how you may be able to participate in the Faith Forming Discipleship that happens at Albert Street Uniting Church (online or in person).

Here are some of the ways that you might be able to contribute:

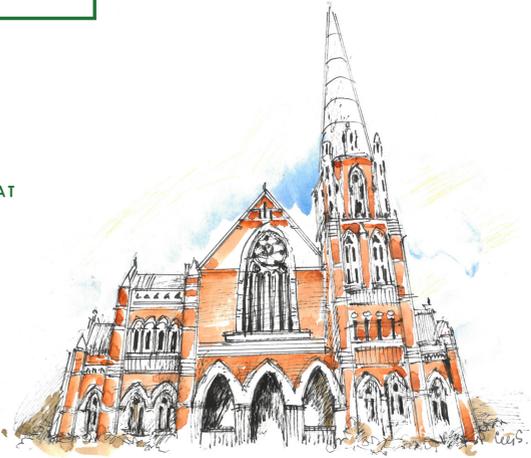
- Would you like to be mentored in your faith?
- Would you like to learn to mentor others?
- Would you like to join one of 'the cooperative' classes on Public Theology?
- Would you like to join one of our online prayer groups?
- Would you like to join a Praxis Team?
- Would you like to join one of the other ministry Teams at Albert Street Uniting Church?

WEEK 5: CARE AND COMPASSION

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2. ICEBREAKER
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5. CARE AND COMPASSION
6. DIGGING DEEPER
7. BRINGING IT HOME
8. CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

1. SET THE SCENE

Light a candle:

We light the Christ Candle today in the hope that the light of your love may help us better see the ones who are hurting, lonely and lost. Help us to offer care and compassion where it is most needed.

Begin with prayer:

God of Care and Compassion, help us to be more like you.
 Help us to weep with those whose lives are burdened by suffering.
 Help us to rage with those who are angry at injustice.
 Help us to hunger with those who have no food.

Help us to dance with others as a celebration of life.
 Help us to journey with others as your path is made clearer.
 Help us to work with others to build your Kingdom.

Help us to love our neighbours.
 Help us to love those who are strangers to us.
 Help us to forgive those who have injured us.
 Help us to love our enemies.

God of Care and Compassion, help us to offer Care and Compassion to a world in need. Amen.

Prayer of thanksgiving for the traditional custodians of the land:

Let us pray. We give you thanks Creator God for the land on which we meet. From time beyond our reckoning, the traditional custodians of this land (*please mention the name/s of the traditional custodians of the land on which you are meeting*) have lived in harmony with their environment and nurtured this land and its waterways, and its fauna and flora, with a deep and abiding care. We give thanks for their stewardship, and pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. Help us O God to live together in fellowship, to share our stories of hope and justice and peace, and to further the work of reconciliation in this land. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

2. ICEBREAKER



*Share a story of
an act of kindness
that was offered
to you, or that
you offered to
someone else.*

3. FEEDBACK FROM LAST WEEK

Share your reflections and responses from the weekly challenge.

4. INITIAL RESPONSE

Watch the video together as a group.

Think of the following as you watch and listen, then discuss your notes with the group.



Is there a 'lightbulb' moment for you? An 'aha' moment when the light goes on and you see things in a new way?



Do you have any questions arising from the video?



Is there something here that has hit the target? Something to take with you and apply to your life?



What did you really love about the video?



What did you find difficult or challenging about the video?

5. CARE AND COMPASSION

Albert Street Uniting Church has made the following commitments in relation to Care and Compassion:

We want to show our love for others through Care and Compassion.

- We want to be a community that prays for one another and pastorally cares for one another (and supports/trains people in these ministries).
- We want to be a community that follows up newcomers in a timely manner.
- We want to be a community that has a commitment to weekly prayer ministry.
- We want to be a community that has a commitment to prayer ministry integrated into worship services.
- We want to be a community that has a commitment to pastoral care and visiting.

What do you think we are doing well?

How do you think we can improve?

Is there anything you would like to add to the above commitments?

How do you think you might be able to contribute?

In the video we also talked about different ways that we can show care and compassion to others at Albert Street Uniting Church:

- Welcoming new people.
- Listening to one another.
- Praying for one another.
- Connect with one another outside of church time.
- Joining a Life Group.
- Joining the Care and Compassion Team.

Share with the group about how you show Care and Compassion using one of these examples.

Can you think of other ways to show Care and Compassion that aren't listed here?

6. DIGGING DEEPER

Read Ephesians 4:1-6 and Colossians 3:12-17

What do you think are the most important qualities we need to show Care and Compassion to one another?

Share with one another about people you know who display these qualities.

Which of these qualities would you most like to see more of in your life?

Read Galatian2 5:22-25.

Trees we find in a garden require good soil, water and light in order to bear fruit. What kind of nurture do you think Christians require in order to produce the kind of fruit that Paul identifies in this passage?

Do you think Albert Street Uniting Church provides the right environment for the fruit of the Spirit to mature and ripen?

Explain you answer.

7. BRINGING IT HOME

Closing Prayer

Break up into pairs.

Share with one another about your week – the highs and lows.

Listen well to one another...

Be present to one another...

Pray for one another.

8. CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Pray for an opportunity to show Care and Compassion for someone this week.

Be prepared for interruption...

Be prepared to suffer with another...

Be prepared to try to understand the suffering of another...

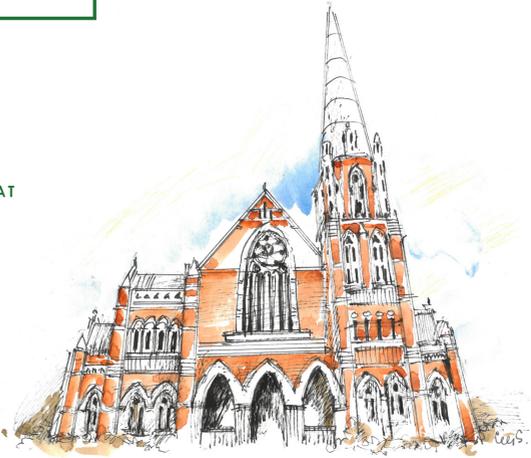
Take some time to write a response: a short reflection, a prayer, a poem, a drawing etc.

Bring something to the group next week to share.

Oikos

BECOMING THE BODY OF CHRIST AT
ALBERT STREET UNITING CHURCH

Albert Street
Uniting Church



1. SET THE SCENE
2. ICEBREAKER
3. FEEDBACK FROM LAST WEEK
4. INITIAL RESPONSE
5. RISK TAKING MISSION
6. DIGGING DEEPER
7. BRINGING IT HOME
8. CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

1. SET THE SCENE

Light a candle:

We light a candle today to remind us that your word is a lamp unto our feet and light unto our path. May the light of your love continue to shape our lives. May we follow where you lead us with faithfulness and courage.

Begin with prayer:

O Christ who calls.

Call us to follow you – wherever you lead.

Call us to places we would usually avoid.

Call us to people we would usually ignore.

Call us to do things that take us out of our comfort zone.

Teach us new things.

Show us new ways.

Re-create us as new people, shaped by love.

Help us to set aside our dreams so that we might find yours.

Help us to set aside our fears so that we might find courage.

Help us to set aside our doubt so that we might find faith.

Help us to step outside ourselves so that we might find you.

Amen.

Prayer of thanksgiving for the traditional custodians of the land:

Let us pray. We give you thanks Creator God for the land on which we meet. From time beyond our reckoning, the traditional custodians of this land (*please mention the name/s of the traditional custodians of the land on which you are meeting*) have lived in harmony with their environment and nurtured this land and its waterways, and its fauna and flora, with a deep and abiding care. We give thanks for their stewardship, and pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. Help us O God to live together in fellowship, to share our stories of hope and justice and peace, and to further the work of reconciliation in this land. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

2. ICEBREAKER



*What is the
riskiest thing you
have ever done?
Share your story.*

3. FEEDBACK FROM LAST WEEK

Share your reflections and responses from the weekly challenge.

4. INITIAL RESPONSE

Watch the video together as a group.

Think of the following as you watch and listen, then discuss your notes with the group.



Is there a 'lightbulb' moment for you? An 'aha' moment when the light goes on and you see things in a new way?



Do you have any questions arising from the video?



Is there something here that has hit the target? Something to take with you and apply to your life?



What did you really love about the video?



What did you find difficult or challenging about the video?

5. RISK TAKING MISSION

Albert Street Uniting Church has made the following commitments in relation to Risk Taking Mission:

We want to be a community that engages in Risk Taking Mission.

- We want to engage the CBD through the City Hub.
- We want to encourage participation and engagement with 'the cooperative'.
- We want to create opportunities for experiencing WMQ services through action and reflection.
- We want to encourage participation and engagement with the WMQ Reconciliation Action Plan.
- We want to encourage, recognise, name and celebrate the stories of Risk Taking Mission that congregation members engage with throughout the year.

What do you think we are doing well?

How do you think we can improve?

Is there anything you would like to add to the above commitments?

How do you think you might be able to contribute?

In the video we also heard that one of the important ways to engage in mission is to ask the question: 'What is God doing in our neighbourhood?'

How do you answer that question for Albert Street Uniting Church?

The video also looked at the shape of our worship services as representing our call to mission in the world. Does this change the way you understand worship?

Explain your answer.

In the video we heard about some of the different mission opportunities we have at Albert Street Uniting Church. Do you think God might be calling you to serve in one of these areas?

- Open Church
- English Corner
- Art From the Margins
- 'the cooperative'
- Community Meal
- Emergency Relief
- Praxis Teams

Is there anything preventing you from serving?

Is there any additional information you require?

Please talk to someone from the Ministry Team if you would like to volunteer in one of these ministries.

6. DIGGING DEEPER

Read Luke 10

This chapter has a number of different stories about mission. Sometimes people rejoice at what God is doing in their neighbourhood, but sometimes the work of the Kingdom is rejected. The call of Christ upon all of us is to be faithful. Share with the group your thoughts on what mission looks like in our context.

What does the Good News look like in the Brisbane CBD?

What are the risks that God is calling us to take?

Do you think Albert Street Uniting Church is risking the way of Jesus?

What do we do well and what could we do better?

7. BRINGING IT HOME

The Romero Prayer

It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view.

The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts; it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection. No pastoral visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water the seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something and to do it well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

Amen.

8. CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

As you look back on the last 6 weeks of this course, we ask you to reflect on the following questions:

What have you learned about Albert Street Uniting Church?

What have you learned about the work of WMQ?

What have you learned about yourself?

What have you learned about God and your faith as a Christian disciple?

Membership:

If you are not already a member of Albert Street Uniting Church, is this something you would like to consider?

If so, please talk to a member of the Ministry Team.

Get Involved:

Is there a ministry at Albert Street Uniting Church where you would like to serve?

- Welcome Team
- Morning Tea Team
- Praxis Team
- Emergency Relief
- Community Meal
- Art From the Margins
- English Corner
- Life Groups
- Online Prayer
- Open Church
- Leading in Worship (Bible reading, prayers etc.)
- Powerpoint/Livestreaming
- Audio monitoring
- Online worship
- Volunteering in Office
- Other

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