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## II. CONTEXTUAL MAPMAKING.

### A. EXERCISE #2: Contextual Mapmaking.

This exercise is designed to spur you to help develop your contextual, 'lay of the land'. Think of this as an experiment in the discipline of gospel cartography: cultural mapmaking. Those who developed the blueprints of territory previously undocumented needed to see the land for themselves. They needed to drift the rivers, climb the mountains, consider the natural landmarks and take note of the variety of vegetation that covered the landscape. Then they needed to write it down in a way that was understandable to those that wanted to travel through that geography. Good missionaries are similar in that they need to observe the culture, noticing the people, taking copious mental or written notes of the values they seem to express and the patterns of thought they tend to travel. Some of this information you will know intuitively because you have already experienced it. Writing it down will help you to clarify what you think and will help you to articulate how the gospel provides the necessary answers to future disciples' questions. The final exercise in our training is to begin the process of developing a personal missionary plan for yourself. **Even hearing that out loud may cause you to feel overwhelmed by this, but be assured, this is a long journey, not a sprint. There is no hurry to this.** It's a process that can easily take months, and is sometimes developed over the course of years. Even then, it is learning that is never finished. What we'd like for you to do is to break out in your groups and to organize the time given in this way:

**1. Self evaluation.** (15-20 minutes) Spend the first 15 minutes answering some of the questions in the inventory alone, as a couple, and maybe even as a family. You may want to 'mute' your zoom feed to discuss. We would encourage you to begin with prayer, and be praying all the way through this exercise. Ask God's Spirit to reveal to you things you may not have seen before and ask for the humility to accept what He reveals to you, and the courage to act upon what you are prompted. Unless you have done something like this before, 15 minutes will seem like 15 seconds. You cannot possibly arrive, just start the journey!

### 1. THE CONTEXT OF YOU.

#### A. Spiritual gifts. *How has Jesus gifted me?*

1. ***As you look through the lists found in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 12:27-31, Ephesians 4:11 and Romans 12:6-8, what do you think are your primary spiritual gifts?*** Why do you think that? Are you presently using your gift(s) to encourage and build up the church? Why or why not? If you feel you are not using your gifts, what is preventing you from using them more or more often?



2. **What gifts would you like the community to help you understand more? Why?**

**B. Personality. How has Jesus wired me?**

1. **Where do you tend to fall in the spectrum of introvert and extrovert?** (If you need a simple understanding, [here](#) is a helpful article to start). How does this affect the kinds of 'notes' you will play in your church family? In your community and city? Within your workplace? In your recreation choices?
2. **What personality tests have you taken to help you further understand who Jesus has made you to be?** There are many such tests out there and no one test gives a fully complete picture of a person. That being said, many of these tests have helped disciples evaluate themselves with greater detail. We can recommend a few. These links are the free version, you will have to pay for a more in depth one.
  - a. [The Enneagram test.](#)
  - b. [DISC personality test.](#)
3. **What size is your plate?** How many intentional discipleship relationships do you honestly think you can handle?

**C. Present connections. How has Jesus connected me already?**

1. **What further opportunities do you have in your workplace to develop friendships at a further level?** What ways could you be more intentional with those you work with? Spend time outside of the workplace?
2. **In what ways could you be more intentional about where you shop? 2. Start simple.** Incremental changes done consistently are far more important than large scale changes done occasionally.
3. **What are ways that you could pursue as a deeper level as the result of thinking like a provider, rather than a consumer?**

**D. Opportunities. What opportunities has Jesus already provided?**

1. **What clubs, organizations, teams are you already involved in?** To what degree would being more intentional about these connections help develop opportunities for discipleship?
2. **What have you been asked to be involved in, but you've turned it down because you don't desire it?**

**E. Passions or interests. What lenses has Jesus given you to see through?**

1. **What lenses do you tend to see your church community through, prophet, priest or king?** How does that affect your desire to see change in your church?



2. ***What desires for change in our city do you have?*** What is the story that led to this?

#### **F. Phase of life. Where has Jesus placed you right now?**

1. ***How much time does your schedule allow for more missionary work right now?*** What is preventing you from acting on these promptings?
2. ***Is there anything you need to subtract before you add?*** What are things that you are doing that don't serve the ultimate hope of missionary work you'd like to be involved in?

### **2. THE CONTEXT OF YOUR CITY.**

#### **A. Where do I live?**

1. ***Is your community, urban, suburban or rural?*** How does that affect the mindset of the people that live here? Why do people move nearby?
2. ***Are the people who live in the NW quadrant different from the ones who live in the SW?*** How?
3. ***What is the climate like?*** How does that affect who lives here?
4. ***Why do people move to my city?*** My neighbourhood? My condo building? My cul-de-sac?

#### **B. What are the people like?**

1. ***What different ethnicities are represented in my neighbourhood?*** How does that affect the neighbourhood?
2. ***What kinds of age variants do I find in my community?***
3. ***Are people generally single, married, have families, live as empty nesters?*** Why are these types of people attracted to living here?

#### **C. Where do they gather?**

1. ***Where do people tend to gather for community or human connection in your neighbourhood?*** In your city? Is your neighbourhood filled with pubs and restaurants, off-leash dog parks or schools? Do people shop nearby? Is the community association active or in need of finding volunteers?
2. ***What does this seem to tell you about the people who live there?***

#### **D. What are their values?**

1. ***What seems important to the people I'm observing?***
2. ***What do stories tell me about why they live here?*** What their stories?
3. ***What would it take for me to find these things out?*** If I am not aware, what is preventing me from finding these things out?

### **3. THE GOSPEL IN CONTEXT.**



The final step to your missionary plan is to ask the question, “Now that I know the context, how may I faithfully bring the gospel to my area of influence with the community that I am connected to?”

1. Are there ways that I can confirm the deep desires that are behind the values that I have discovered?
2. How could the gospel provide hope to the stories of brokenness that I hear of and experience myself?
3. What cultural values am I sensing that I’m going to have to confront? Why? How?
4. How can your local church equip you for your missionary plan? What part do you have to play in that equipping?
5. What do you need to do to reorder your rhythms as a small group to make it a safe place for growing disciples to be part of?

**2. Group share and discussion. (30 minutes)** Once you have spent 15 minutes evaluating, we encourage you to begin the conversation together as a group. Have each person share 1 or 2 highlights of their evaluation. Keeping in mind all that we have learned, observers should understand that good questions can be enormously helpful to those who share. In the last session, we noticed that when the Apostle Paul contextualized, he was always looking for ways to affirm what he could in the conversations and friendships that he was developing. This should be true in your groups as well. Look for ways to affirm what the Holy Spirit is showing those in your group.

You might say something along these lines:

- ★ ‘I see that in you as well.’
- ★ ‘I feel the same way about that need or issue.’
- ★ ‘I’ve noticed that gift in you and would agree this is a direction to pursue’.
- ★ ‘I’d support you if you moved in that direction.’

If you are bold enough to receive questions, you may want to ask some clarifying questions such as these:

- ★ ‘What do you see as the, ‘next step’ in your plan?’
- ★ ‘How do you see this fitting into the overall, ‘song of the gospel’ in our city?’
- ★ ‘How can we pray for you?’
- ★ ‘In what ways do you feel you need, ‘equipping’ from your church?’
- ★ ‘What are questions you have that are still unanswered?’

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## V. CONCLUSION.



In your groups, discuss the biggest take away from session 6? Why? If you're comfortable, be prepared to share with the large group.