

## beyond discussion

*With the end of the organised discussion questions what do we do now?*

*Don't stop reading just because we've stopped meeting!  
It'd be great to keep on reading through until the end! Only 4 chapters to go!*

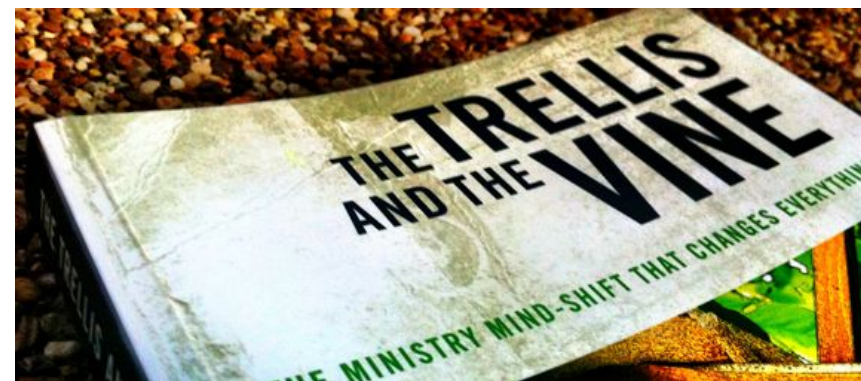
*In fact, you don't have to stop meeting!  
How about planning to get together with others from your encouragement group without any discussion questions to keep on talking about what you discover in chapters 9-12?!?!?*

*But individually, I encourage you to begin prayerfully dreaming about the difference this vine work ministry mind-shift might make to your Christian life within nightchurch. Think about what it might look like for you to be a disciple making disciple.*

*As you seek to grow as a follower of Jesus... and grow others around you, what's next?*

*Feel free to come & chat with Margie & I about that sometime. Those are the conversations that we love to have!*

*Paul.*



## nightchurch encouragement groups term 4, 2011

# Discussion Guide

based on discussion guide available from [matthiasmedia.com.au](http://matthiasmedia.com.au)

### Reading & discussion plan

Oct 17-23	Discussion 1	chapters 1-2
Oct 24-30	Discussion 2	chapter 3
Oct 31- Nov 6	Discussion 3	chapter 4
Nov 7-13	Discussion 4	chapter 5
Nov 14-20	Discussion 5	chapter 6
Nov 21-27	Discussion 6	chapter 7
Nov 28-Dec 4	Discussion 7	chapter 8
Dec 5-	beyond discussion	chapters 9-12

# Discussion 1

(before the discussion: Read chapters 1 and 2)



from the BIBLE

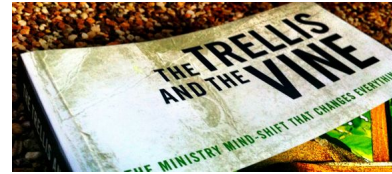
## Read Matthew 28:16–20

1. Discuss the enormity of Jesus' claim in verse 18 to help each other appreciate it. (Daniel 7:13–14 may be helpful also.)
2. Put Jesus' command in verses 19–20 in your own words.
3. What is the link between verses 19–20 and verse 18?
4. Discuss what difference these verses should make to your day tomorrow (and each day after that)?



from the book

1. Summarise in your own words, from chapter 1, the difference between “trellis” work and “vine” work.
2. Discuss what examples there are of “trellis” activities in nightchurch or APC.



2. How would you describe the pastoral model of nightchurch? Discuss whether it fits one of the 3 categories, or is a mixture.
3. Discuss the implications of this.
4. From page 102:-  
"Sunday sermons are necessary but not sufficient."  
Discuss what you think of this statement. What Scriptures support your position?
5. What could we learn from the example of Richard Baxter (pp 104-107)?
6. Discuss any other things you found helpful, confronting, confusing in chapter 8.

*Pray together concerning the things you've been discussing. Pray that God would help you to be a disciple making disciple.*

# Discussion 7

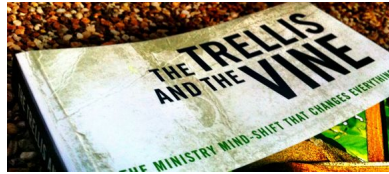
(before the discussion: Read chapter 8)



from the BIBLE

## Read Colossians 3.12-17

1. From these verses what are the apostle's expectations of how Christians should minister to each other?
2. Use these verses to reflect humbly on our gatherings as nightchurch. What are we doing well? What could we do better?



3. From page 8:-  
"the basic work of any Christian ministry is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of God's Spirit, and to see people converted, changed and grow to maturity in the gospel."  
Where and when do you think most of the vine work happens in nightchurch?

4. The big warning of this book is that trellis work tends to take over from vine work. Discuss what you think of this warning.

5. Give each member of the group the opportunity to select 1 or 2 "ministry mind-shifts" (chapter 2) that they think are particularly applicable to nightchurch.

Discuss why they are applicable.  
How does the need for these shifts show itself in nightchurch?

6. Discuss any other things you found helpful / interesting / challenging from chapters 1 & 2.

*Pray together giving thanks for the authority of Jesus and asking for his help in being disciple-making disciples. Pray for each other & for nightchurch.*



from the book

1. On pages 94-101 there are 3 models of pastoral ministry described. (They are summarised in the table on page 101.)

Take some time to help each other appreciate the differences between each model.

## Discussion 2

(before the discussion: Read chapter 3)



from the BIBLE

### Read Psalm 80.7-19

1. At the time this Psalm was written what was the state of Israel, God's vine?
2. What is the plea of the psalmist?

### Read Hosea 14.4-7

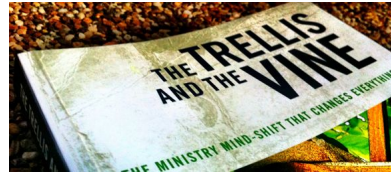
3. What does God promise concerning his people, his vine?

### Read 1Peter 1.10-12

4. According to these verses, when Hosea spoke of God's promise, what was he actually speaking of?
5. What is God's plan for the our world?
6. How is he achieving this plan?

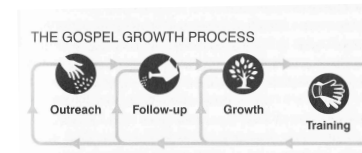
### Read Colossians 1.3-6

7. What is God's plan for the our world?
8. How is he achieving this plan?



from the book

1. Discuss together the 3 implications of the simple idea that the gospel produces growth (pp82-83)
2. Read aloud together the the definition of training on page 85 (in *italics*).
3. Work through the following diagram from p85 helping one another appreciate its significance.



4. Discuss the value of a chart like that on page 87.
5. Where would you place yourself on that chart?
6. From page 89:-  
"If growing the vine is about growing people, we need to help each person grow, starting from where they are at this very moment. There needs to be inefficient, individual people ministry, as well as the more efficient ministries that take place in larger groups."  
**Discuss what you think about this quote.**  
  
**Discuss what difference this quote should make to the way you view yourself and your role within nightchurch & APC.**
7. Discuss any other things you found helpful, confronting, confusing in chapter 6.

Pray together concerning the things that you've been helped and challenged by. Pray for APC & nightchurch.

# Discussion 6

(before the discussion: Read chapter 7)



from the BIBLE

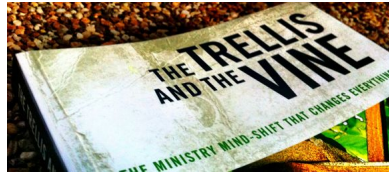
## Read Colossians 1.3-10

1. The apostle describes gospel growth in 2 ways in these verses. Discuss what these 2 ways are.

2. Having been transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of Christ, what continuing gospel growth does the apostle pray for?

3. What might this gospel growth look like within the life of nightchurch?

4. What might this gospel growth look like within your individual life?



9. From the readings from 1Peter & Colossians, how would you summarise in your own words, the extraordinary thing that God is now doing in the world?

10. What difference should what God is now doing in our world make to you?



from the book

1. Discuss this quote from p37:-

"... the vine is the Spirit-empowered word, spreading and growing throughout the world, drawing people out of the kingdom of darkness into the light-filled kingdom of God's beloved Son and then bearing fruit in their lives as they grow in the knowledge and love of God. The vine is Jesus, and as we are grafted into him, we bear fruit (John 15:1-11)."

2. Look back at the 3 implications described on pages 38-39. Which of these 3 strikes you as most relevant or applicable to your own situation?

*Pray together giving thanks for the sovereign mercy of the Lord God and for what he is now doing in the world. Thank him for rescuing you from darkness into light. Ask for his help that our thoughts & actions might bear fruit.*

# Discussion 3

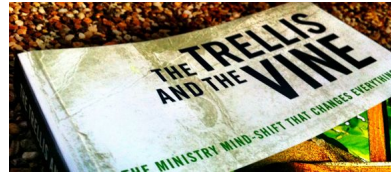
(before the discussion: Read chapter 4)



## from the BIBLE

1. Read the following passages and discuss what they teach about the role of all Christians in speaking the word of God to others (whether believers or unbelievers):

- *Matthew 28.16-20*
- *Romans 15.14*
- *1Corinthians 10.31-11.1*
- *Ephesians 4.15-16*
- *1Thessalonians 1.6-10*
- *Hebrews 3.12-13*
- *Hebrews 10.24-25*



## from the book

1. From page 70:-

"In the New Testament, training is much more about Christian thinking and living than about particular skills or competencies."

Discuss what is helpful / challenging / new about this idea.

2. Discuss how training is similar to parenting? (pp75-77)
3. Reflect together on your training as a Christian so far... who has trained you... what sort of training you've experienced.. its effectiveness...
4. Discuss what opportunities you have to train another in Christian ministry. Share what prevents you from taking up such opportunities.
5. Using pages 77-79, come up with a list of the dangers and benefits of using training programs and courses.
6. Discuss any other things you found helpful, confronting, confusing in chapter 6.

Pray together, giving thanks to God for the training you have so far received. Ask him to help you spot opportunities to train others and to take up those opportunities.

## Discussion 5

(before the discussion: Read chapter 6)



### from the BIBLE

1. Read the following passages and discuss what they teach about training.

- **2Timothy 3.10-17**
- **Phillipians 3.17**
- **1Corinthians 4.14-17**
- **1Corinthians 10.32-11.1**
- **1Thessalonians 1.4-7, 2.10-12**

2. See if you can come up with a one sentence definition of "biblical training".



### from the book

1. Read together from the bottom of page 53-54:-

"The New Testament envisages that all Christian disciples... or give gentle, respectful answers about the Christian hope (1Pet 3:15-16)"

**Discuss your thoughts about the examples that are given on pp54-56 of speaking the truth in love.**

Help each other explore the different ways this might look like in your life.

2. Discuss any other things you found helpful, confronting, confusing in chapter 4

*Pray together asking the Lord to help you all be disciple making disciples seeking to speak the truth in love in all the different situations, relationships & contexts that you find yourselves in. (Its an exciting prayer!)*

# Discussion 4

(before the discussion: Read chapter 5)



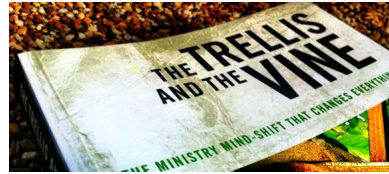
from the BIBLE

**Read Philippians 1.3-11, 1.27-30, 2.12-16**

1. What is the nature of the partnership that the Philippian Christians had with Paul?
2. What do these verses teach us about being a partner in the work of Christ? Why do we do it? What does it look like?

**Read Phillipians 2.19-30**

3. What do we learn of gospel partnership from the examples of Timothy & Epaphroditus?
4. Discuss how you respond to these examples.



from the book

1. If gospel partnership is the normal Christian life (p66), how is this seen in your own life?  
Who are you in gospel partnership with and how are you working together for the growth of the gospel?

2. From page 67:-

"... at a profound level, all pastors and elders are just partners. They do not have a different essence or status, or a fundamentally different task- as if they are the real 'players', and the rest of the congregation are spectators or support crew. A pastor or elder is a vine-worker who has been given a particular responsibility to care for and equip the people for their partnership in the gospel."

**Discuss whether this is how you view the role of elders and pastors within APC & nightchurch.**

**How does this view express itself in the congregational life of nightchurch?**

3. Discuss any other things you found helpful, confronting, confusing in chapter 5.

**Pray together concerning your gospel partnerships and the life of nightchurch & APC. Use the passages from Phillipians to shape your prayers.**