

F.A.Q.

Here's some Frequently Asked Questions [F.A.Q.] we have compiled into a document for your interest. Message us if you have a question you think should be added ... 😊

1. A quick comment on our MISSION

God defines the mission. The church does not have a mission; the mission has a church! The mission is identical for every believer, every church and every workplace ministry. We are here to disciple nations in accordance with Gen 1:26-28 and Matt 28:19-20.

Genesis 1:28 (NIV)

^{1:28} God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

We are called to rule over this earth and expand Eden until we fill the earth. This is what it means for heaven to come to earth. What began in a garden, will end in a city when New Jerusalem comes down and re-establishes this earth as it was intended. Rev 21-22

This same mission was stated by Jesus after the Ascension

Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

^{28:19} 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, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

We **all** carry the same mission. We are here to figure out how to disciple this nation and the nations of the earth. This is what it means to be Kingdom focussed. We are focussed on discipling nations! Nothing less.

2. What's our specific vision; our preferred future

Being disciples who are making disciples that make disciples.

Every church community is part of the jigsaw which fulfils the great commission to disciple nations. No one church has it all. We need each other in Godly honour, respect, and unity to wholeheartedly fulfil each piece of the puzzle, without threat or insecurity for each other. For us, our focus is making disciples who multiply.

3. What's a definition of a disciple?

Matthew 4:19 (NIV)

¹⁹ "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

- "Follow me" - Someone who has learnt to hear God's voice through the Scripture and leading of the Holy Spirit. They follow through grace filled obedience

- “I will make you” – Someone seeking the Lordship of Jesus over every area of their life. They seek nurturing accountability with other for personal growth.
- “Fishers of men” – Someone who intentionally disciples another and seeks God’s Kingdom in their workplace and 3rd spaces.

4. How do we disciple a nation?

Our obedience to Jesus makes us a disciple. As we accept this, we become His disciples establishing His Kingdom in our lives, our families, our workplaces, our 3rd spaces where we live life and in our communities. Transformed people transform the nation. And so a grassroots Kingdom movement occurs and a nation becomes disciplined.

For us to disciple the nations - we need disciples. People who are not just followers of Jesus but are sons and daughters of the Father and are good seed to be sown into the world. The role of the church is to make disciples. That is our function in the Kingdom purposes. We raise up strong disciples with Kingdom vision who are sown into the world and disciple the people around them and the workplace where they are established.

Matthew 13:37-38 (NIV)

^{13:37} He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. ...

5. How do I spend time with God?

SOAP is a way to have a daily devotional time with Jesus. It's a way to get the best out of the passage.

S = Scripture. From your reading, select a verse or passage that catches your attention or 'jumps out at you'. Write it in your journal.

O = Observation. Write down 1 - 3 points you observe in the Scripture.

A = Application. Write down ONE thing you going to do with what you observe in the Scripture eg. I'm going to pray about this or tell someone or call someone or do something.

P = Pray. Pray about the passage. Then pause and write down anything you feel God saying to you. God speaks through thoughts or pictures when you pray. Grab those and write them down. I actually head it "God says".... Helps keep focus. 😊😊

6. What are helpful resources for reading the Bible?

Bible in a Year – download the app: <https://bibleinoneyear.org/en/>

YOUversion – check out the reading plans: <https://www.youversion.com/the-bible-app/>

How to Pray – Great course and check out the TOOLSHED: <https://prayercourse.org/home/>

7. What happens in a Cell Group?

Click [HERE](#) to take you to our cell resource page. Look for A Study on Acts to give you an idea of what Scripture says about groups that met in homes.

8. What is a DISCOVERY Bible Study?

It is a simple reproducible way to apply a passage of Scripture that allows the Holy Spirit to teach us how the passage is helpful to our present situation. It invites us to change one thing that will help us in our current situation. We grow when we apply Scripture. Knowledge is important but obedience unlocks spiritual and relational growth. Here's how it works – we take a passage of Scripture and ask 7 questions:

1. What are you thankful for? (*Introduces people to true worship of God*)
2. How are you or people you know struggling and how can this group help? (*Introduces authentic community and ministry*)
3. Did you do what you committed to do last time? (*Introduces testimony and faith*)
4. What does the Scripture today say to you? (*Introduces the Holy Spirit as the teacher*)
5. What does this passage mean to you? (*Introduces hearing God through the Word*)
6. How will you obey? (*Introduces obedience-based faith – not head knowledge “If you love me, you will obey me”*)
7. Who will you tell? (*Introduces multiplication and movement so that urban area can be reached*)

Following these questions will build authentic community, spiritual growth and build a movement of God's Kingdom to others. Best of all – its simple and reproducible and you can do exactly the same with others.

9. What is a 'Word of Knowledge' and where does it fit in?

1 Corinthians 12:1,7-8

*Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware....But **to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.** For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and **to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit;** (NASB95)*

Simply, a **word of knowledge** is a supernatural revelation of information received through the Holy Spirit. It is knowledge received apart from natural analysis or human means. We receive this insight for 'the common good' of those in our cell group or community around us by:

1. Feel It
2. See It
3. Read It
4. Think It
5. Say It
6. Dream It
7. Experience It

As we share and pray for a person in our cell group or community, God will reveal His intervention in our lives. We often share these insights in our corporate celebrations. Equally, they are powerful tools of God's intervention in our lives in our cell groups. But, more importantly, they help those far from God experience the love and heart of God as their Father when we step out and use these Word's in the community around us.

What questions would you like added to this list? Email info@escs.co.za and we will include your question.