

Dwelling in the Word

51 Jesus asked, "Are you starting to get a handle on all this?"

They answered, "Yes."

52 He said, "Then you see how every student well-trained in God's kingdom is like the owner of a general store who can put his hands on anything you need, old or new, exactly when you need it."-----

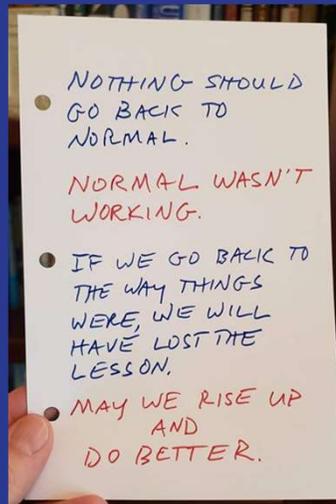
Matthew 13:51-52 The Message

Questions will be put in the chat

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Why Faithful Innovations?

Church Beyond Pandemic and 2020



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Paradigm Shift

What was true---even before the pandemic---is we are **living into a new paradigm.**

PrePackaged -----> Organic/Creative

There are many questions we have about what it means to be the Church and How to be the Church in this **new landscape, these ever-changing times.**

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Technical Fix vs. Adaptive Challenge

Technical Fix = a challenge with a known solution

Adaptive Challenge = a challenge whose solution is yet unknown;

Adaptive Challenges require Learning the way forward

Technical thinking: How do we “fix” the church? (*apply known solution*)

Adaptive Thinking: How do **we** live into God’s Kingdom?

“We” means who we are now, where we are located now, with the resources we have right now NOT who we used to be, what our neighborhoods used to be like, what we used to have or do



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Faithful Innovations for Adaptive Challenges

Faithful Innovations is a process for learning teams to use in order to discover solutions for the adaptive challenges, to learn our way into new behavior.

Faithful Innovations is a process of connecting/reconnecting with God’s faithfulness—trusting that there are solutions and ways forward that we have yet to discover. And the discovery requires our listening, our discernment, our reflection, and our willingness to experiment.

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FI is a process, not a program

FI is a process that can be used any time there is an adaptive challenge facing the church, a group, or a ministry



1. What is the question?
2. From whom do you need to hear? What do we need to learn?
(LISTENING)
1. What are you hearing? **(DISCERNING)**
2. What might you try? What kind of experiment can lead to the learning that is needed? **(EXPERIMENT)*******(next slide)
3. What was learned (or are you learning) from the experiment? **(REFLECTING)**
4. What is the next step? (more listening? another experiment? continuing with first experiment?)

NOTE: We do not experiment ON people---and the experiment is often more about learning who we are and where God is working!

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*****Experiments

When you are ready to experiment---Start SMALL not large. Take off a small chunk of your adaptive challenge---a first step toward learning

Adaptive Challenge: In our church, we don't know each other very well

Your experiment could be to use something you already have in place (such as the Peace or Fellowship hour) to encourage some simple ways to get to know each other.

Example: Have a stack of Cards with simple questions on them and each person gets one as they arrive at Gathering. At the Peace, they select one person to share the Peace, and then exchange cards and answer the question on the other person's card.

Sample questions: What is your first memory of church? What is your favorite hymn or song and why? When you got up this morning, what made you decide to come to church?

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Modes of Mission

Working For

- Meeting needs, charity
- Assumes church has abundance, neighbors have deficit

1% of Jesus' ministry (in Jerusalem)

Being For

- Taking correct public positions
- Having right attitudes and ideas

0% of Jesus' ministry

Working With

- Community organizing
- Joining networks and movements

9% of Jesus' ministry (in Galilee)

Being With

- Presence, participation, relationships, listening, story sharing, wonder

90% of Jesus' ministry (in Nazareth)

From Samuel Wells, *Incarnational Mission*, Eerdmans 2018.

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