

Intercultural Leadership

Module 1, Part 1 — “Our Changing Context — Blessing the Nations”



Watch this episode:



THINK

Considering the rise of visible minorities, what are some of your own personal challenges and opportunities in embracing people who are distinctly different from you?

Take a few minutes to reflect on your changing ministry context. What implications can you draw upon for your own context(s)?

How might this lens of Vision, Context, Strategy, and structure better inform your approach to ministry in our changing context.



REFLECT

How do the Apostle Paul’s words help us understand our changing demographic context?

“From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷ God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us” Acts 17:26-27

Robert and Tim start their talk on changing context by calling for adaptive strategies. Read “A Ministry Model” (page 2) and take a few minutes to compare the adapted strategies of Saint Paul in bringing the gospel to Antioch (Acts 13), Lystra (Acts 14) and Athens (Acts 17).



DISCUSS

In what ways is your local context changing because of immigration patterns?

What are some of the challenges and opportunities you and your church face in this changing multicultural ministry context?



ACT

How might you adapt your ministry approach, considering your changing context?

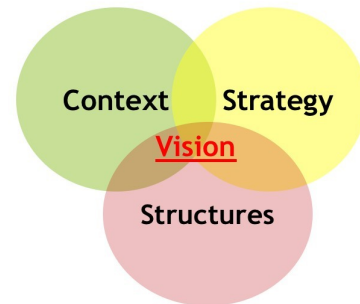
How might the Samaria principle challenge the way you engage in ministry in your local context?

A Ministry Model for Adapting to our Changing Ministry Context

Throughout this course we will be referring to this model to assist us in reflecting on our personal and ministry context.

Vision: God Desires to bless the Nations

Every ministry needs a clear and compelling vision. It is important that our vision aligns with God's vision. Old Testament scholar Chris Wright suggests, "A missional hermeneutic proceeds from the assumption that the whole Bible renders to us the story of God's mission through God's people in their engagement with God's world for the sake of the whole of God's Creation." We as God's peoples are called to join in His mission of blessing the nations.



Context: Constantly Changes

Although a biblical vision should not change, the context into which it is communicated is constantly changing. This course will focus on understanding this changing context in which we live and how we can be more effective in living out and communicating the gospel in our everchanging context. Just as we exegete scripture so too we must exegete our ministry context.

Strategy: Adaptable yet focused on implementing the Vision.

Strategy is the process whereby we see our vision become a reality. The apostle Paul was a master at strategizing how to adapt the gospel to different cultural contexts. In Antioch (Acts 13) In Lystra (Acts 14) and In Athens (Acts 17) Paul adapted his ministry strategy considering the changing context. We too must adapt our mission strategies to our changing context to see God's vision become a reality.

Structures: Need to be Flexible not Fossilized.

Too often we see our ministry structures as somehow sacred. Often, we are unwilling to adapt our structures to the realities of our ministry context. Structures must be flexible reflecting the principle that, "**Form must always follow Function.**" New wine cannot be put into old wine skins (Matt 9:17) and structure, like old wine skins, must be adapted so that the vision and strategy can bridge into our everchanging ministry context.

Application: Take a few minutes and reflect on your changing ministry context. How might this lens of Vision, Context, Strategy, and structure better inform your approach to ministry in our changing context?