



Baptist Churches  
of NSW & ACT

**GEN ONE**   
1000 Healthy Churches in a Generation

# re: **DISCOVER CHURCH**

## Coaching Clusters

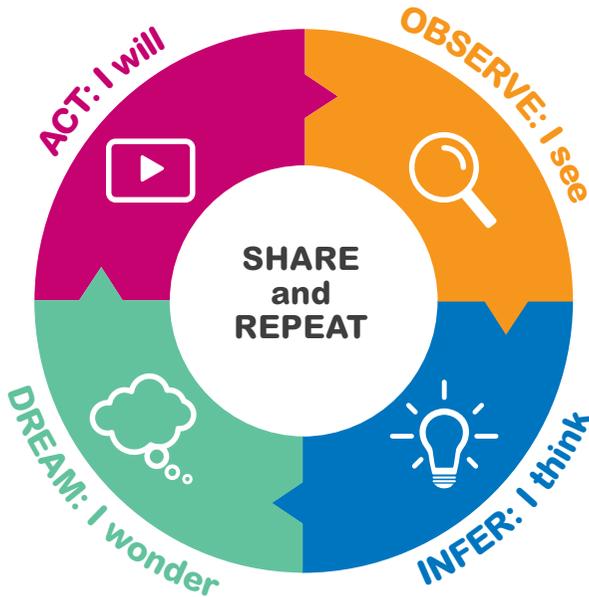




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# CYCLE OF DISCOVERY

An agile approach to Life and Ministry



## **ACT: I will**

- Give it a try. Put your new insights into action and reflect on how it went.
- What could you do differently next time?

## **OBSERVE: I see**

- Create a list of how life has changed.
- What are people doing differently?
- What are the assets and strengths in your church and neighbourhood?

## **DREAM: I wonder**

- Begin to dream about how this shapes the way you could be the church.

## **INFER: I think**

- Discuss together how to make sense of what you have observed.

# reDISCOVER CHURCH

## – Coaching Clusters –

**We are living through a global pandemic that is changing the way people and institutions inhabit the world. COVID-19 has forced the church to examine all its activities and re-imagine new ways to be the people of God in this generation.**

This is not the first time in history this has happened and it won't be the last. God has shepherded his people through pandemics, global conflicts, deep persecution and natural disaster before and each time the Church has discovered new ways of being the people of God and a light to the world. Disruption has often been the catalyst for mission.

**reDISCOVER CHURCH** is a 4-session coaching cluster for leaders who want to work together through the Cycle of Discovery with the support of trained coaches. It is for those who want to see an extraordinary mission-shaped movement of God:

- Transforming, healthy communities
- Raising and empowering Kingdom-focused leadership
- Reproducing disciples, groups and congregations
- Impacting our society, culture and world

The pandemic is changing us as a society. Regathering as a church will likely be more of a transitional process than a moment in time and the end result likely won't look exactly like our pre-COVID context. The people of God have a unique opportunity to **reDISCOVER CHURCH** in a 'pandemic aware' world. This document provides a framework for the coaching clusters and includes key questions for leaders to discern with their teams and church communities.

**For more information visit**

**[www.nswactbaptists.org.au/project/cycle-of-discovery](http://www.nswactbaptists.org.au/project/cycle-of-discovery)**

## Week One

**This session will focus on assessing the rhythms of church life and the structures and processes that support these. There will also be a chance to review, compare and refine your churches COVID safe plan.**

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### Before the session

**Reflect on the following key questions as a leadership team and church:**

- What are we noticing about how people are experiencing connection?
- What are we noticing about who we are missing?
- What are we noticing about who is not being seen and not being heard now, or in the way we usually be the church?
- What has this experience revealed to us about the church at its best?
- What have been the most encouraging or inspiring stories of the church from this recent season?
- What are we thinking about what it means to be the church?

**Create or update your organisational chart that maps the staff, ministry leaders and governance group/s for your church.**

### During the session

**Each session will be dynamic as leaders hear and respond to the thoughts and reflections of others. The type of questions that will be explored include:**

- Describe what a typical follower of Jesus engaged in your church looks like in a pandemic aware world.
- What are the structures and processes needed to support this?
- What do you need to start, stop, continue or change to create this environment?



# GEN<sup>ONE</sup> LEADERSHIP

## Week Two

**This session will focus on raising and empowering the Kingdom-focused leadership needed to navigate ministry and mission in a pandemic aware world.**

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### Before the session

**Reflect on the following key questions as a leadership team and church:**

- What are we noticing about people who are discovering new gifts we never knew they had?
- What are the roles of the staff? What do they do with their time? (Not who do they work with – ie: youth, kids, worship etc – but what do they do?)
- Do any new leadership roles emerge as a result of envisioning new ministries following COVID-19?
- What was revealed in our leadership during the COVID-19 crisis?
- How did we manage to adapt and what practices or character attributes allowed this?
- Did people rally as a team for what needed to happen?
- What gaps did we see that need addressing?
- How have we been communicating? Is it effective?
- What new strengths emerged in our teams?

**Draw a picture of what it looks like for your church to reach someone who does not know Jesus, engage them in discipleship, enfold them into the life of the community and then empower them as a leader.**

### During the session

**Each session will be dynamic as leaders hear and respond to the thoughts and reflections of others. The type of questions that will be explored include:**

- Describe the character and competencies of a leader in your church who develops and empowers leaders, who then do the same.
- How were leaders formed and empowered pre COVID-19? How could this change in a pandemic aware world?



## Week Three

**This session will focus on developing the behaviours, structures and process needed to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word, sign and deed through interdependent partnerships.**

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### Before the session

**Reflect on the following key questions as a leadership team and church:**

- Over the past 5 years how have we been engaged in mission? What has been the fruit/results of this? What new rhythms are we noticing which bear fruit?
- During the pandemic where have we seen the Spirit at work in the life of our church and in our community? Where has prayer been situated?
- How does the gospel intersect with the cultural narratives of a pandemic aware world? How can we announce and demonstrate this?
- Who are the people in our community that are least reached? What do we need to start, stop, continue or change to better engage this / these group/s?

**1. Draw a 'proximity diagram' that reflects the groups in your community (including the 'near' groups and the 'distant' groups – including the least reached).**

Note any potential lines of connection: schools, sporting groups, public spaces.

**2. How do we encourage a culture of innovation and creativity, where people have permission to experiment and fail in a safe way?**

### **Dream Big:**

How many people live in your Local Government Area (LGA)? How many congregations would it take to effectively reach your community and see it transformed?

### During the session

**Each session will be dynamic as leaders hear and respond to the thoughts and reflections of others. The type of questions that will be explored include:**

- What external support has enabled you and your church to navigate COVID-19 in a healthy way? How can these partnerships be further developed?
- How can you collaborate with other churches to develop leaders, reproduce congregations, sites or church plants and better reach your community?



## Week Four

**This session will focus on understanding and partnering together in the assets and needs of the society, culture and world to see Kingdom transformation.**

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### Before the session

**Reflect on the following key questions as a leadership team and church:**

- What are we noticing about how God is redeeming, restoring and renewing our society, culture and world?
- What are we noticing about how our strengths and capacity as a church align with the felt needs of the community?
- Do our activities build trust and stronger networks and enhance cooperation?
- Who are the most vulnerable people in churches and in the community? What support is available to them and how could we best care?
- What are we noticing about whose voice isn't being heard? How could we respond?
- How is COVID-19 impacting other countries / cultures around the world? What does it look like to respond as the Church?

### During the session

**Each session will be dynamic as leaders hear and respond to the thoughts and reflections of others. The type of questions that will be explored include:**

- If you had 2 or 3 dreams/hopes about how you/your church can become an active presence of Christ in your neighbourhood, what would they be?
- What partnerships should be fostered to see the transformation of society and culture locally and globally?





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