



SHERPA

A DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY



The Gospels contain a story of a larger kind which embraces the essence of all other stories. But this story has entered history and the primary world. **This story is supreme. This story is true.**

J. R. R. Tolkien





INTRODUCTION



You're standing on the bank of a majestic river.

The cool morning air awakens your senses: the earthy aroma of river water, the faint whoosh above you as a pelican glides by, the kaleidoscope of colours painted across the sky.

As the sun rises, so does the early morning blanket of mist. Gradually, the glass-like surface of the river is laid bare before you.

Stillness.

You can't help yourself. You collect a small stone and drop it in, and as the circles roll out across the river, you marvel at the influence of such a small action.

Some of these ripples bounce and multiply along the bank near your feet, others stretch out toward the far side, and you may never know what they touch.

Our spiritual formation will bring influence to our environment. Our understanding of who we are, why we're here, and what we're to do with the life we've been given, will ripple out and touch those around us.

The question is, 'what kind of influence will we bring? In what way will the ripples of our **identity, purpose, and priorities** influence the people around us?'

This leads us to another question, '**what is causing the ripples? What are the small stones - dropped into the water - that shape things like identity, purpose, and priorities?**'

You turn and look to the guide who is standing beside you, and together you continue your pilgrimage in search for the answers to your questions.

As a discipleship formation process, SHERPA is built on the assumption that our stories are the small (or large) stones that cause the ripples of life to surge outwards.

As we understand the stories that are happening to us, and the ones we are choosing, we will be able to align ourselves with the greater narrative of God's story. And as we allow Him to shape us, we can bring the kind of influence that He desires in this world.

THE PURPOSE OF SHERPA IS THREE FOLD

1.

Providing a discipleship space for youth pastors and leaders

Discipleship can be understood as **"Allowing Jesus to shape your identity, purpose and priorities."**

In order to be intentional in this, we have created an unhurried and accessible process of pilgrimage through the whole story of God.

2.

Providing leadership impetus for youth pastors and leaders to raise up leaders

As leaders take this pilgrimage through God's story, they will be drawn into the life of Jesus and His early followers. This process will help them reflect on how they might see those around them influenced in a similar manner, and will foster an environment for the identification and raising up of emerging leaders.

3.

Providing a model for ministry diagnosis and coaching

A leaders' responsibility is to not only see their own formation take place, but also the formation of the community around them.

SHERPA will give leaders a simple model to enable them to diagnose the health and development of their community's story, identity, purpose and priorities.

SHERPA is a 12 month commitment, and includes:

RETREAT 1

a weekend focused on 'you as a Jesus-follower'

RETREAT 2

an overnight retreat focused on 'you as a leader'.

RETREAT 3

an overnight retreat focused on 'your community'.

RETREAT 4

an overnight retreat focused on specific ministry issues.

IN BETWEEN RETREATS

ON-DEMAND LEARNING - a series of 5 podcasts and arranged coaching sessions.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, WANT MORE INFORMATION
OR WOULD LIKE TO BE INVOLVED IN SHERPA, CONTACT:**

ADRIAN BLENKINSOP

PHONE. 0412 134 339

EMAIL. ABLENKINSOP@CHURCHESOFCHRIST-SA.ORG.AU

