

# MODULE 1: INTRODUCTION

## MODULE OBJECTIVES:

**Explain** the Redemptive Design process and foundational concepts.

**Provide** a tangible taster for participants to experience and engage in Seed's unique design process.

**Invite** participants to commit to the Changemaker Community.

**Seed Tools:** "Introduction to Redemptive Design.pdf"

## MODULE OVERVIEW:

This module gives an introduction to Redemptive Design and a taster activity for participants to immediately experience a design tool and process.

## MODULE BREAKDOWN:

- 1.1 Welcome, Expectations, Connections
- 1.2 Joining Seed Community
- 1.3 Introduction to Redemptive Influence
- 1.4 Taster
- 1.5 Prayer

### Important Information for the Grower:

It is recommended that Growers prepare for this module by reading in full Seed's "Introduction to Redemptive Design". This resource, along with all the videos and tools is located in the relevant folder on the Changemaker Course section of the Seed website.



# 1.1 WELCOME, EXPECTATIONS, CONNECTIONS

SUGGESTED TIME: 10-20 MINUTES



Welcome to the first module of the Changemaker Community! This is a process that has been specifically designed to guide you on a process of engaging with Seed's Redemptive Design toolkit to equip you for real impact and influence in your context. This process is intended to create an environment for both deep spiritual growth and creative innovation as you imagine and discern how God is inviting you to participate in his redemptive purposes in the world.

This introduction module will outline more about this process, give you some more information about what is meant by "redemptive design" and give

you a taster of Seed's design process. It is a hope fueled process and we're excited to have you joining us here!



Before we get started, take some time to meet the others in your community – this process has been designed for fellowship!

## EXPECTATIONS

What are you hoping to gain from this community experience? What are you unsure about? We'll be checking back in at the end of this first session to check in with any of your questions and to have a go redrafting expectations – iteration is the name of the game in design thinking!



What are your expectations in joining this community?



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## GROWER NOTES



**Connect** — Allow time for introductions and welcome each participant to the Changemaker Community.

*Even if this is an existing small group, be sure to ask participants to connect afresh..*



**Read aloud the text above.**

**Mention** that this is not a course but rather a customized process of discernment and exploration. It's a journey of discerning our place within God's story so we can gain greater clarity about the changes that God is inviting us to participate in.



**Fill** in the text box "What are your expectations?"

*Allow participants a few minutes to complete individually before inviting some responses.*

*It is important to address confusion in this session so encourage people to consider what questions they may have as well as expectations. We revisit our expectations at the end of the session and can use it as an opportunity to check in on any outstanding questions people may have.*



**Ask** participants to share what their expectations and/or questions are of the Changemaker Community



**Pray** before continuing.

*Or you may like to start this session with prayer.*



## 1.2 JOINING SEED COMMUNITY

SUGGESTED TIME: 5 MINUTES

### GROWER NOTES

**Mention** to people that they will need to download some of the tools from the relevant folder on the Changemaker Course section of the Seed website.

Later in the journey (The *Theory of Change Canvas* in particular is a key tool they will need to download to access).



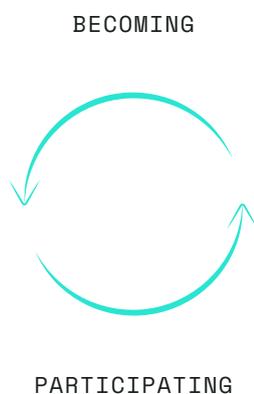
## ▶ 1.3 THE FOUNDATION OF SEED'S APPROACH

SUGGESTED TIME: 30-90 MINUTES



An excerpt from Seed's introduction to redemptive design

[Page 4-5] We become who God made us to be as we participate in the story of God. We participate faithfully in God's story as we more fully become who God made us to be.



Seed has been working on a new approach to formation that is grounded in this understanding of purpose. We call this approach **Redemptive Design**.

Many of the core approaches to formation in churches focus on growing our knowledge of God and His word. We spend our time preaching & teaching or engaging in bible study. These are fundamentally good things, yet the assumption behind these approaches seems to be that the more we learn, the more we grow. However, if the purpose of our lives has to do with becoming and participating, and if the goal of our faith is a way of life, not merely a way of thinking, then our formation must reflect that reality. Our formation needs to move beyond knowledge acquisition to something more embodied and more contextualized.

**Redemptive Design is a pathway for formation that intentionally moves beyond a 'learning' framework to a 'design' framework.**

[Page 6-7] We start by acknowledging that God's purpose is the foundation for finding our place in the world. From that foundation, we help people and organisations discover their own purpose, within God's purposes for the world (their place within God's story), by exploring two key concepts:

- 1. Identity** Who am I? Who has God created me/us to be? (i.e. BECOMING)
- 2. Context** Where has God placed me/us? What is God's design/intention for that place? (i.e. PARTICIPATING)

The process then flows into seeking to align both ourselves and our context with what God has done and is doing by his grace.

That means aligning the way we think and what we believe with what God says to be true of the world. It means aligning our desires and what we long for with what God desires for us. It means aligning our actions and the way we relate to others with God's intention.

We also need to recognise that this process of personal alignment doesn't take place in a vacuum. God places us in a context. If we are truly being formed in the ways of Jesus, then our purpose extends to aligning the things we make, and the change we seek to create in the world with God's foundational purposes.

Throughout the process, our energy and focus are drawn to God's purpose as the foundation. We understand God's purpose primarily through God's revelation to us in and through Jesus.



Contrary to most approaches to purpose, which rely on determining goals that we set out to achieve, this approach always drives us to be formed by God's story and shaped by God's grace. Formation is not about self-determination; it is God at work in us and through us, so it is about discernment and faithfulness.

Out of that foundation we then seek to be faithful in the way we live. We live into and up to who God has already made us to be by his grace in Jesus, in the contexts where God has placed us.

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## GROWER NOTES



**Watch** the video "Seed's Foundational Concept" from The Library.



**Read** the excerpt from the Introduction to Redemptive Design.

*If practical, feel free to allow people time to read the entire introduction.*



**Discuss** what you have watched/read  
*In discussion use the following prompts:*

- What resonated with you? What didn't?
- What does this concept of 'redemptive' mean to you?
- What approach to spiritual formation are you used to? What do you think of Seed's approach?



## 1.3 THE FOUNDATION OF SEED'S APPROACH (CONT.)

### Sowers and seeds

Seed's approach can be explained using the parable of the sower:

Jesus tells us in the parable of the sower that the seed is the Word of God (Mark 4:10-20) – the revelation of God's life and truth through Jesus. This seed is the foundation for purpose. The primary place we get access to the revelation of this purpose is in the Bible.

The parable of the Sower comes with a warning – the seed without roots will only last a short time and wither away when trouble or persecution comes. It is not only rootless seed that will not last – but also seed planted in the wrong place, among thorns, will be choked making it unfruitful.

So, to be a 'Changemaker' we need to consider not only the 'fruit' or things that are seen above

the 'soil' (design in our context and the actions we take) but to also examine the deeper, more hidden areas of our life (formation of our identity and our thinking and longings).

For us to flourish as changemakers in ways that enables others to flourish, the formation process of who we are becoming and deepening our roots in Christ is critical (Col 2:7; Jer 17:8; Ps 1:3). Formation is deeply connected to design, as a tree's roots are connected to its branches. Only with a healthy root system can a tree bear good fruit (Matt 7:17-20). The fruit are the tangible, multipliable crop that the design process shapes – change that we participate with God in our context, helping our context and the people in it flourish for God's glory (Galatians 5:22-23; John 15:1-16; Mark 4:20)

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## GROWER NOTES

 **(Optional) Illustration** – If time allows, this illustration may be helpful for some in your group. Otherwise, you can point to this text and encourage participants to read this as a devotional text between sessions.



## 1.4 TASTER

SUGGESTED TIME: 20-30 MINUTES

### Participation and Co-Participation

In his book *Culture Making*, Andy Crouch highlights the tendency that Christians have to condemn and critique culture. While it is entirely appropriate to discern and name things that are contrary to God's purposes as revealed in scripture, we need to recognise that when condemnation and critique are our only, or even our dominant posture, to the culture around us, we place ourselves in a position of superiority over our culture.

Crouch argues that as image bearers of a Creator God, we are invited to take the things that God has created and make something of them in the world. Our primary posture to

culture should not be to condemn or even transform culture, but rather to cultivate and create culture. We take the things that God has made and we make something of them. We are invited to co-create. As those who can 'see' reality differently, we have a responsibility and privilege to embody that new reality in the world. In doing so, we participate, as members of God's family in the outworking of God's story. As we do that, it necessarily disrupts the brokenness of the world, providing an opportunity to demonstrate the beauty of the Christian story and to invite people to join us and to live within that story.

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## GROWER NOTES

 **Read** the text above about Crouch's concept of culture making.

 **Discuss** what you have read  
*In discussion use the following prompts:*

- What resonated with you? What didn't?
- What does this concept of 'redemptive' mean to you?
- What approach to spiritual formation are you used to? What do you think of Seed's approach?





## 1.4 TASTER (CONT.)

### Design activity – a taster

To experience what our Changemaker Community sessions might be like, let's briefly go through a micro design process:

#### **Start by choosing a context:**

If you are all from the same church or local community, do this process together/ collaboratively and consider the local suburb/community that your church is in. Discuss as you go, using a whiteboard (digital or physical) or some butcher's paper to record the conversation.

If you are from widely dispersed geographic communities, do this process individually, and each of you consider the local suburb/community that you live in. Record your own response, then share/discuss as you go.

Go through the following steps.

**1. Imagine** – Take some time to imagine what a future that is more aligned with God's intention for creation might look like?

Think 10 years into the future. What has changed? How are people feeling about the change? Who has been involved in the change?

**2. Current Needs** (Empathy/Listening) – Identify the main groups of people who live in your community. Choose a maximum of 3 or 4 (e.g. Young professionals, retirees, families with English as a second language).

What are the felt needs of these people groups? What do they value? What do they want? Where could Jesus and the way of Jesus make a difference for them?

**3. Analyse** — What needs to change to move toward the different future you have imagined? What are the barriers getting in the way? Where is God already at work?

**4. Discern** – What could we do differently? How could we move toward the different future? Is there a part you could play?



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## GROWER NOTES



This activity can be done individually or as a group. We recommend doing it as a group but only if you have a shared context, i.e. your church community or local geographical community. We don't want to jump right into the contexts that people will be exploring later-on in the program, i.e. their workplaces. If this activity needs to be done individually, encourage participants to think of their local communities.

This is an important part of the first session because it gives a sense of the working and reflective nature of the Changemaker Community sessions. While there is some great content to chew on in the coming

sessions, the focus will be on helping the participants to analyse and understand themselves and their context through the lens of the Christian story. This requires some thought, ideation, reflection and work.

At the end of this taster session, be sure to point out the way in which they have just understood (in a limited sense) the "story" of their local community. And they have begun to imagine that the story could have a different future, as they seek to align themselves with God at work in that place.

This activity may be especially helpful for those who are not yet convinced about the benefits of a Changemaker Community.



## 1.5 PRAYER & REFLECTION

SUGGESTED TIME: 5-10 MINUTES

### Expectations

After unpacking some key concepts and having a taster of the design process, we want to revisit your first list of expectations. Are any questions outstanding?

Have a go now at refining your expectations for the coming journey.



What are your expectations in joining this community?



**Pray** to close, asking God to guide the Changemaker Community and help you imagine a future that is aligned with his purposes.



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## GROWER NOTES

 **Invite** participants to share any outstanding questions from their initial list of expectations.

*If there are any outstanding questions that you can't answer you can always bring them to your Seed coach.*

 **Encourage** participants to consider whether they have any new expectations that have emerged since the discussions in this session and the experience of the micro-design taster activity.

**Invite** participants to share any updated expectations they have about the process. Prompt them to consider "what are you looking forward to?"

 **Pray** we will be part of raising up a generation of leaders who are deeply engaged in their context.

*It's our desire to be people who are shaped by the Christian story. People who are solution-focused, who believe that the Christian story has something of value to offer the world. Empower us to be people who translate what we believe about Jesus into tangible expressions that others can touch, taste and see. We want to be people who go to work with a humble confidence in Jesus, because we understand and have experienced the difference he makes in our own lives and in the world. Embolden us to imagine a different future and to step out in faith as well follow you and your purposes God. Amen.*

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## BEFORE NEXT TIME

- **Read** in full the Introduction to Redemptive Design (if you haven't already).
- **Read** Ephesians 1-3

