



Thames North Synod Discipleship

**Paper D
20 March
2021**

Eddie Boon - Breakout rooms discussion

'Discipleship and place – Toward growth in our faithful presence'

We sometimes feel, as Christians, that we are living in some kind of exile in our day. The Judean exiles in Babylon were living in a very different culture from their true home yet were called on by the prophet to live fully in that place and seek its welfare (Jeremiah 29).

1. *Think of a time when you were particularly conscious of your 'place' and seeking its welfare – share something of that in your group, what happened and who else was involved?*
2. *What aspects of Discipleship were evident and how did you sense God at work?*
3. *What might be an intentional and natural next step for you to live even more fully present within and in-with your place?*

Here are some additional quotes about place that might be helpful now or in the future

"Place is a space which has historical meanings, where some things have happened which are now remembered, and which provide continuity and identity across generations."¹

"A geography large enough to live life together (Live, work, play etc.) and small enough to be a known as a character within it."²

"The role of the church is to be a sign, foretaste and instrument of God's coming reign in a place."³

"He who loves his dream of a community more than the Christian Community itself becomes a destroyer of the latter, even though his personal intentions may be ever so honest and earnest and sacrificial."⁴

I would welcome further thoughts or examples of this to share at:

<https://www.facebook.com/Disciples4everyday> or <https://twitter.com/DisciplesEveryd>
or email disc.enab@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Eddie Boon

<https://discipleeveryday.com>

Further reading if you are interested in continuing to think about this:

Exiles: Living Missionally in a PostChristian Culture, Michael Frost, Baker Books; Illustrated edition (1 Aug. 2006).

Staying Is the New Going: Choosing to Love Where God Places You, Alan Briggs, NavPress (1 Sept. 2015).

The City is my Monastery: A contemporary rule of life, Richard Carter, Canterbury Press Norwich (30 Oct. 2019).

Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places: A Conversation in Spiritual Theology, Eugene Peterson, Hodder & Stoughton; Reprint edition (20 Mar. 2008).

¹ *The Land, Place as Gift, Promise, and Challenge in Biblical Faith*, Walter Brueggemann, Augsburg Fortress; Revised edition (1 Jan. 1977), p5.

² *The New Parish*, Paul Sparks & Tim Soerens, Inter-Varsity Press, US; Illustrated edition (4 April 2014), p23.

³ *The Open Secret: An Introduction to the Theology of Mission*, Lesslie Newbigin, Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1995. p110, 113, 150.

⁴ *Life together*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, New York: HarperOne, 1978, p17.