

## Episode 4 How Does it Disciple Us?

### The big idea

Whole-life preaching is one of the main ways for us to equip individuals and communities to learn to live the way of Jesus in their contexts at this moment.

### For reflection and discussion

1. Think of the last few sermons you preached. What were you trying to do through preaching, and how far would you say you succeeded?
2. To what extent are you self-conscious about the significance of the place of preaching in the discipling of people in your congregation?
3. How do you typically go about the task of 'application' in preaching? What do you make of the distinction mentioned in the video between 'application' and 'implication'? How helpful might it be to explore the 'implications' of a biblical text for everyday life?
4. How do we become more aware as preachers of how we ourselves are 'Corinthianised' by the culture in which we live? What does the equivalent of 'de-Corinthianising' the congregation look like in your context? How might regular preaching play a significant role in that task?

### Something to do

With the congregation, begin to describe the cultural norms in your wider community (your city, town, or suburb, etc.). You could get the conversation going by inviting people to complete sentences like these:

- In our town/city, success is judged on the basis of...
- In our town/city, the heroes are...
- In our town/city, the fears are...
- In our town/city, the hopes are...
- In our town/city, we would want to be known as...
- In our town/city, we are known as...

You could do the same for families, streets, schools, and workplaces.

Wrestling with these sorts of issues allows us to begin to see how we are affected as a church by these wider attitudes, to reflect on how we might think and live differently where necessary, and to explore how our ongoing preaching might reshape us to live well for Christ and others in our community.