



THE DIGITAL MISSION

COURSE WORKBOOK

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The Digital Mission Course Workbook

digitalmissioncourse.com

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Workbook Introduction

I am so excited you are taking **The Digital Mission Course**. Over these eight sessions, the videos will guide you through understanding technology biblically, theologically, and culturally. It is not organized to tell you what to do in your context, but to discover the why. As a result, it will give you the framework to design digital ministry methodologies specific for your context.

If you are taking this individually, use this workbook to take notes and follow along. The reflection questions at the end of each session will help you move concepts into concrete actions.

If you are taking this as a team, use this workbook to take notes and follow along. The questions at the end of each session will help you discuss what you are learning and provide a framework for moving concepts into actions.

Again, this is not designed to tell you what to do. I am a firm believer that each context is unique. Thus, this is equally applicable if you are a small church or a larger church, a rural church or an urban church, or if you will adopt a hybrid (in-person and online) model or an exclusively digitally one. In each option this course will give you the language, understanding, and questions needed to begin the process of either designing/ planning or redesigning/evaluating your online ministry.



Session

1

The digital eruption

Personal Reflection and Group Discussion Questions

How did you and your church, organization, or ministry adjust to the sudden shift fully online?

- What lessons did you learn?
- What successes did you experience?
- What frustrations did you have?

What questions do you have going into this course?

Session

2

A theology of technology

Technology continuum



Technology is defined as *“Anything that extends our reach”*

Technology can extend our reach in either of two directions

A biblical survey of technology

- We were created to create (Imago Dei)

“Then God said, ‘Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.’” Genesis 1:26

“God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.’”
Genesis 1:28

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” Genesis 2:15

Three examples of how technology can move in two directions

Clothing

“Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.” Genesis 3:7

“The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.” Genesis 3:21

Boats

“So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. This is how you are to build it...” Genesis 6:14-15a

“Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth.’” Genesis 9:1

“But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord.” Jonah 1:3

Bricks

“They said to each other, ‘Come, let’s make bricks and bake them thoroughly.’ They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. Then they said, ‘Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth.’” Genesis 11:3-4

Technology and the incarnation

Technology continuum revisited



Personal Reflection and Group Discussion Questions

Make a list of the positive impacts of digital technology (internet, mobile devices, social media, etc.).

Make a list of the negative impacts of digital technology (internet, mobile devices, social media, etc.).

We talked about clothing, boats, and bricks in this session. What other forms of technology do we see in scripture? How are they used to move people towards the Great Commandment and Great Commission or away from it?

How does this understanding of technology change your view of technology? What would it mean to have a more *technocritical* view of technology in your life? In your church's/ministry's/organization's life? Where does your church/ministry/organization need to move on the technology continuum?

NOTES



Session

3

Understanding digital culture

The danger of digital colonialism

Digital culture is not just a different platform, it is a different planet

Media ecology and Marshal McLuhan

"All media/technology works us over completely." Marshall McLuhan

"We don't know who discovered water, but we know it wasn't a fish."

Marshal McLuhan

Media ecology and Walter Ong

Primary Orality

Literacy

Secondary Orality

| | Primary Orality Pre-Printing Press | Literacy Printing Press | Secondary Orality Electronic and Digital Technology |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| How we experience and understand truth and reality? | Hear to believe | See to believe | Experience to believe <i>(expressed through story and participation)</i> |
| How we experience relationships? | Communalism | Individualism | Tribalism |
| How we view authority? | Authoritarianism | Institutionalism | Democratism |

Four shifts of digital culture

- 1) Experience as story
- 2) Experience as participation
- 3) Relational authority
- 4) Tribalism

Implication of this understanding for ministry

Personal Reflection and Group Discussion Questions

Do you see technology having impact on culture? Where? How? How does technology change the way we understand truth and reality, our relationships, and authority?

Did your church move to a digital platform unaware that it was a different culture?

How is digital ministry cross-cultural?

How are these shifts (which are most evident in digital space) making their way into larger culture (in-person) influenced by digital technology?

Have you been practicing digital colonialism with your digital ministry? How?

How do you think this cultural awareness should affect discipleship, evangelism, mission, corporate worship gatherings, preaching, etc.?

NOTES



Session

4

Experience as story

(told through narrative,
image, and metaphor)

Understanding this shift

Implication of this shift

Personal Reflection and Group Discussion Questions

How do you see this shift playing out in broader culture? In your ministry?

How do you see this shift in digital ministry?

What are the potential possibilities this shift opens up for ministry and mission?



Session

5

Experience as participation

Understanding this shift

Implication of this shift

Personal Reflection and Group Discussion Questions

How do you see this shift playing out in broader culture? In your ministry?

How do you see this shift in digital ministry?

What are the potential possibilities this shift opens up for ministry and mission?

What are the potential challenges this shift poses to ministry and mission?



Session

6

Relational authority

Understanding this shift

Implication of this shift

Personal Reflection and Group Discussion Questions

How do you see this shift playing out in broader culture? In your ministry?

How do you see this shift in digital ministry?

What are the potential possibilities this shift opens up for ministry and mission?

What are the potential challenges this shift poses to ministry and mission?



Session

7

Tribalism

Understanding this shift

Implications of this shift

Personal Reflection and Group Discussion Questions

How do you see this shift playing out in broader culture? In your ministry?

How do you see this shift in digital ministry?

What are the potential possibilities this shift opens up for ministry and mission?

What are the potential challenges this shift poses to ministry and mission?

Do you see the waning effectiveness of proposition and methodologies of literacy in your digital ministry?

Session

8

A hopeful vision for Digital Mission

The urgency button

Digital continuum revisited



Digital Mission vision

I envision a church that is digitally engaged, locally expressed, untethered from a Sunday centric performance focus, centered on and at the Lord's Table, growing organically, and active in God's global mission.

Digitally engaged

Untethered from a Sunday centric performance focus

Centered on and at the Lord's Table

Growing organically

Active in God's global mission

Personal Reflection and Group Discussion Questions

Over these eight sessions, did you change where you are on the technology continuum? How? Why?

Why do you think it is so important to have a "two-key launch" strategy? What might be some of the barriers to that? How can your church/organization/ministry proactively deal with those barriers?

What part of the hopeful Digital Mission vision resonated with you the most? What part do you sense is the greatest need? What part are you wrestling with? What part might you disagree with?

Course wrap-up and next steps

This course gave you a foundation of understanding to create or evaluate your digital mission strategy. The next step is to dig deeper into this area.

To go deeper, read ***Digital Mission: A Practical Guide for Ministry Online***. This book will take a deeper dive into digital culture as well as help you process its implications on the gathering, scattering, and organizing nature of the church.

To begin thinking through ministry implications, complete the **Digital Mission Masterclass** and learn about how to take this material further in application on a variety of different ministry areas.

Other books and resources



Digital Mission: A Practical Guide for Ministry Online

Is designed as a theological and methodological exploration of online ministry with the specific goal of aiding the reader in creating an implementable online ministry strategy for a church or ministry.

We are in the midst of a digital eruption. Digital technology has done more than interrupt or disrupt our everyday lives: it has erupted and completely transformed the landscape around us. S.I.M. technology (Social media, Internet technology and Mobile technology) along with its younger sibling G.R.A.I.N.

(Genetics, Robotics, Artificial Intelligence and Nanotechnology) are reshaping our world so fast that we rarely take the time to stop and take note of what is happening and how we are adapting (or not adapting) to the new digital landscape.

This book is designed to help you to stop, observe, and adapt thoughtfully and purposefully. The following pages will attempt to answer the questions: What are the impacts of digital technology? What are the possibilities that they open for the church? What are the potential problems and risk factors? How do congregational leaders plan effective online ministry initiatives that will be faithful theologically to the nature of the church and the mission of God? How do churches move beyond simply transferring ministries online?



Age of Kings: Pursuing God's Heart in a Social Media World

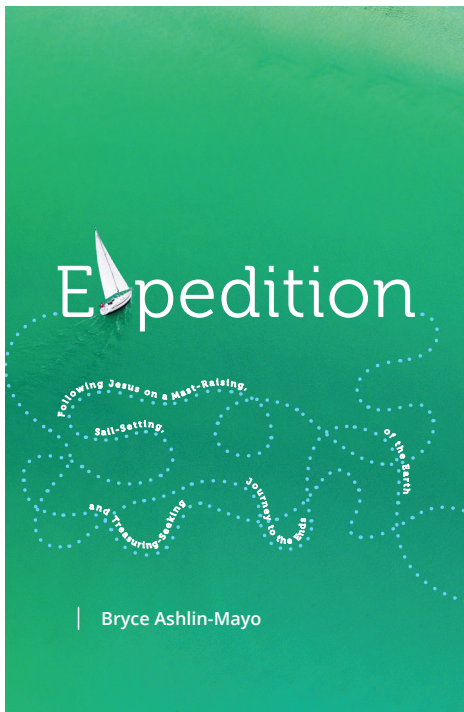
We are living in a unique time in history.

Social media and information technology have given everyone access to power, knowledge, and a platform—things that once belonged only to kings and queens.

Journeying through the life of David (a king after God's heart), *Age of Kings* addresses the issues of our social media age: personal propaganda, #hashtivism, acquaintance-friendships, trolls, selfies, desire, cognification, and fake news.

Like a guidebook for the newly crowned kings and queens of this age, *Age of Kings* equips the

reader to discover their true worth and identity, to conquer giants, to experience true friendship, to share their life authentically, to give all glory to God, to walk in sexual wholeness, to embrace humility, and to seek truth in community.



Expedition: Following Jesus on a Mast-Raising, Sail-Setting, and Treasure-Seeking Journey to the Ends of the Earth

Deciding to follow Jesus is the beginning of an amazing adventure that is much like an expedition. Like the beginning of all expeditions and journeys, there is always excitement and numerous questions. This book aims to answer some of those questions, provide some practical first steps, and give a brief orientation of what it means to follow Jesus using the imagery of an expeditionary sailing ship.

Blog/Website

Bryce regularly writes about ministry and digital culture. To discover more, visit bryceashlinmayo.com. If you would like to subscribe and be notified of new blog posts, books, and resources by Bryce, subscribe to updates at bryceashlinmayo.com/subscribe.

About me



Bryce Ashlin-Mayo has been married for over twenty-five years to Laurie and they have three great kids. Bryce has served in fulltime pastoral ministry with the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada for about twenty-five years in a variety of roles. He now serves as Lead Pastor at Westlife Church in Calgary, Alberta and teaches sessionally at Ambrose University and Seminary.

Bryce has a Bachelor of Theology from Ambrose University, Masters of Divinity in Pastoral Leadership from Taylor Seminary, and has completed his Doctorate of Ministry in Semiotics and Future Studies from George Fox University.
