

# Maize Plant Discipleship Syllabus

*I tell you that unless a grain of wheat that falls to the ground dies, it stays just a grain; but if it dies, it produces a big harvest — Jesus, John 12:24*

Jesus refers to his own mission using a simple metaphor of seed entering the ground and dying, in order to produce a large harvest. Grown throughout sub-Saharan Africa, the maize plant provides a similar, highly recognisable metaphor.

## Metaphor of the Maize Plant

Good seed sown in good soil, stimulated by sunshine and refreshed by rainfall produces dynamic growth and a good harvest.

Messianic communities also need to be rooted in good ground that allows us to draw on vital, spiritual *nutrients*, to be stimulated by the revelatory *light* and to be refreshed by the living *water* of the Messiah's Spirit.

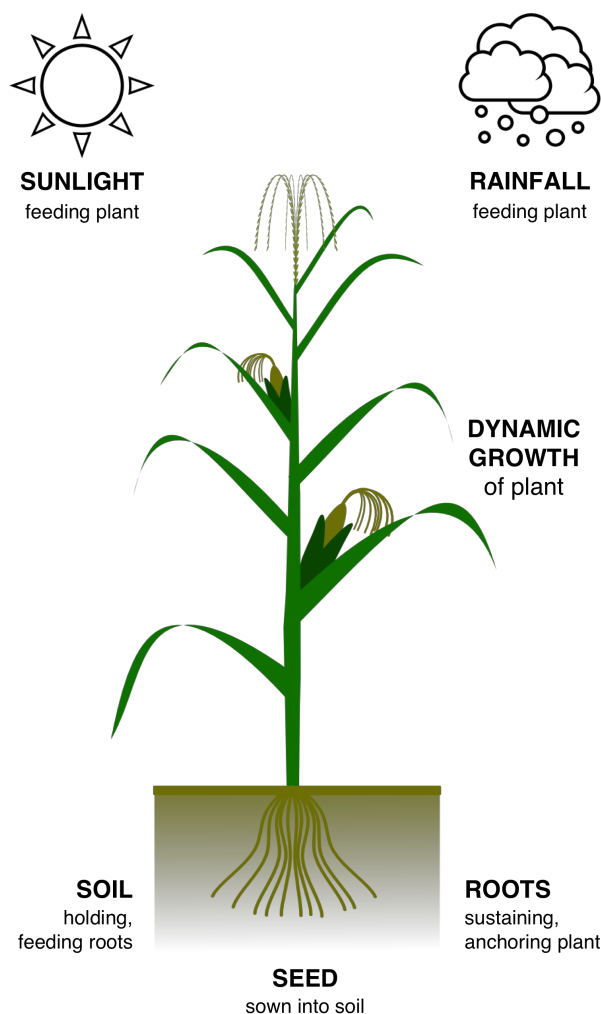
This creates the *dynamic growth* of messianic community, anchoring it against the withering winds of false teaching and sustaining it amidst the excessive heat of trials, temptations and vocational responsibility.

*The figure opposite portrays these basic components of the maize plant metaphor.*

## Syllabus Structure

The Syllabus incorporates a Facilitators' Handbook and 16 Handbooks (one per module) structured to symbolically reflect this metaphor and the imagery of maize, in terms of: soil, roots, plant growth, sunlight and rainfall.

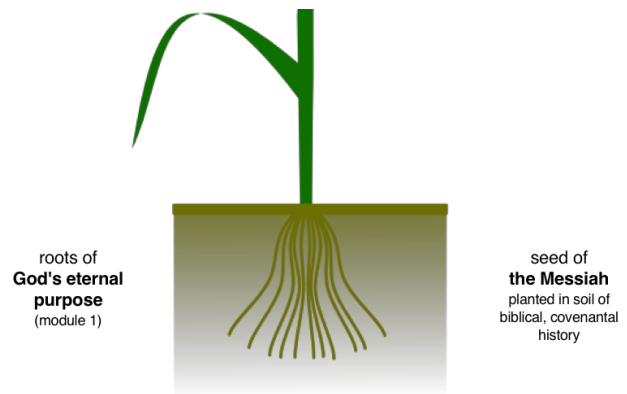
- **Soil and Roots (Messianic Foundations)** — which represent the biblical, covenantal community, context and vocation of Israel (Module 1)
- **Maize Plant (Messianic Dynamics of Growth)** — which represents the dynamic spiritual growth and multiplication of messianic community (Modules 2 to 9)
- **Sunlight and Rainfall (Messianic Disciplines of Growth)** — which represent the essential spiritual disciplines that stimulate and sustain the growth of messianic community (Modules 10 to 16).



## Soil and Roots (Messianic Foundations)

**Module 1.** A panoramic overview of scripture, revealing God's unchanging, eternal purpose—the foundation of the entire syllabus.

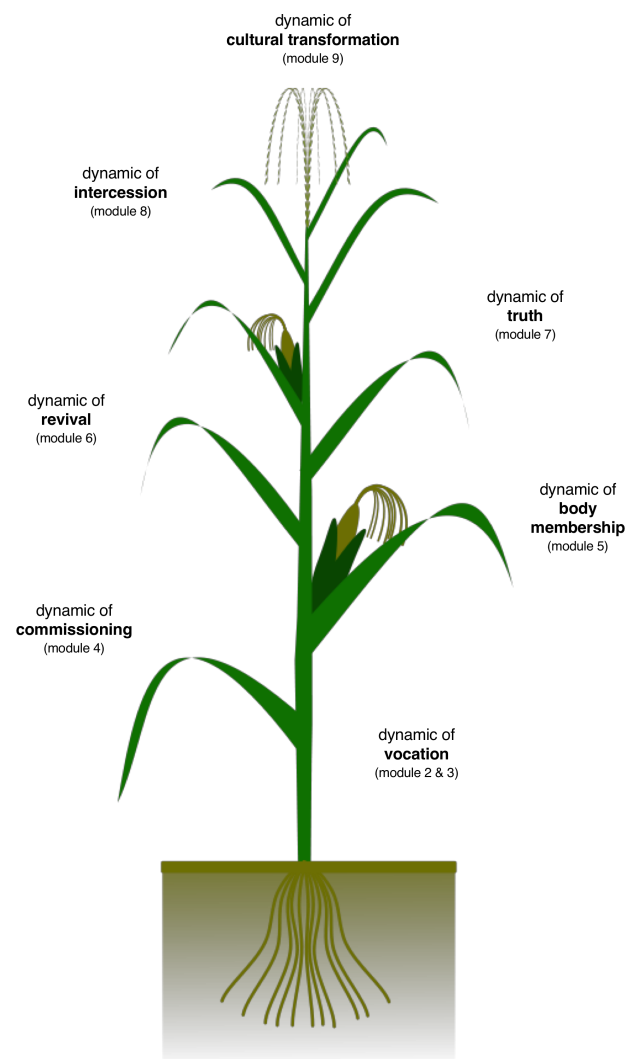
- **God's Eternal Purpose** — the Messiah is the Seed that enters the soil of the biblical, covenantal history of the people of Israel, in order to die and ultimately produce a great harvest of people—a messianic covenant community—from amongst the peoples of the earth.



## Maize Plant (Messianic Dynamics of Growth)

**Modules 2 to 9.** The spiritual dynamics that produce the characteristic development, growth, structure and fruit of messianic community.

- **Dynamics of vocation: the Gentiles** *the historical development the Messianic Community's vocational mission to bless the nations of the world*
- **Dynamics of vocation: the Jews** *the significant responsibility of the Messianic Community towards the Jewish people.*
- **Dynamics of commissioning** *strategic and structural dynamics of messianic commissioning and community growth.*
- **Dynamics of body membership** *dynamics of membership, commitment and spiritual maturity within the body of the Messiah.*
- **Dynamics of revival** *a cycle of spiritual activities representing the dynamics of revival, leading to a spiritual harvest.*
- **Dynamics of truth** *encountering truth, as we walk in practical, covenantal faithfulness towards God's revelation, wisdom and direction.*
- **Dynamics of intercession** *the priestly vocation of the Messianic Community to be a house of prayer for all nations.*
- **Dynamics of cultural transformation** *the call to work amongst and on behalf of the nations, towards cultural transformations that signal the presence of God's kingdom.*



## Sunlight and Rainfall (Messianic Disciplines of Growth)

**Modules 10–16.** Seven characteristic *disciplines* of messianic community, which open us to receive the revelatory *light* and sustaining *living water* of God's Spirit—without which we become spiritually weak and incapable of producing good fruit.

- **Disciplines of spiritual maturity** *three stages of encounter and growth in spiritual maturity: pastoral-devotional; missional-vocational and apostolic-intercessory.*

- **Disciplines of running the race** *motivations, qualities and disciplines for living an enduring life of service: “completing the race marked out for us.”*

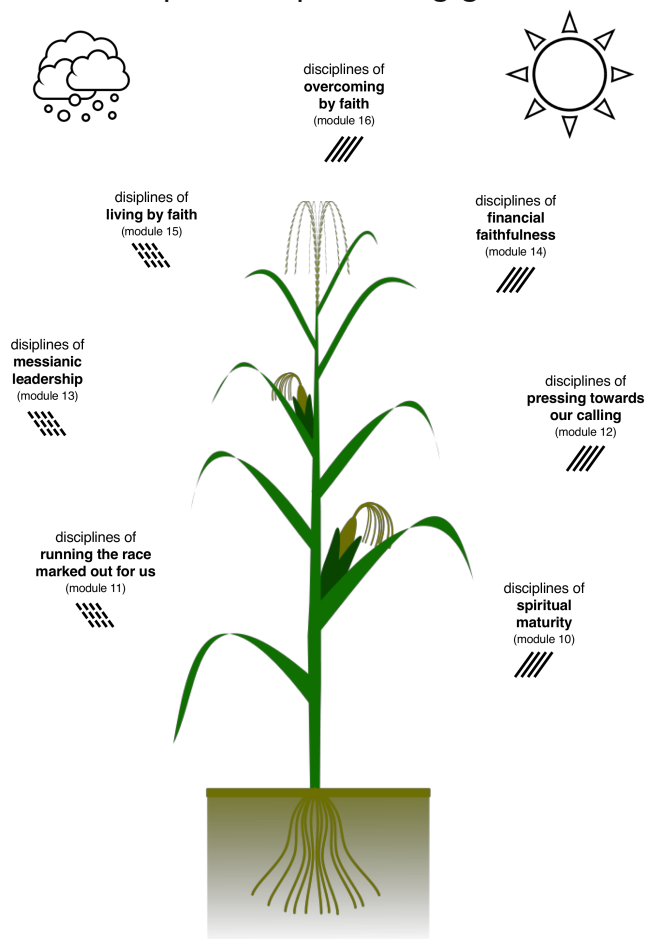
- **Disciplines of pressing toward our vocation** *identifying and excelling in our personal vocation, through a deepening of our relationship with the Messiah—including a lifestyle of “prayer without ceasing.”*

- **Disciplines of financial faithfulness** *a biblical perspective upon financial faithfulness, wealth and poverty.*

- **Disciplines of messianic leadership** *the qualifications, motivations and characteristics of faithful messianic leadership and a leadership model balancing the needs of tasks, teams and individuals.*

- **Disciplines of living by faith** *seeing with eyes of faith enables us to endure times of testing and purification and embrace challenge as an opportunity to experience God's faithfulness.*

- **Disciplines of overcoming** *Confronting idolatrous, cultural strongholds in the power of the Spirit and discerning strategies that make room for a transformative encounter with God's overcoming power.*



### Format

Each MPD module *Handbook* contains four interrelated *Studies*, each of which incorporates:

- Scripture Readings
- Topical Sections and Summary
- Questions for Group Discussion

The format is designed to facilitate reflective group learning—so that Maize Plant Discipleship relies simply upon facilitators willing to co-ordinate study groups and discussions.