

Season 4 Trailer: Cultivating Neighborhood Shalom

Speaker 1 [00:00:05] Welcome to the Embedded Church podcast, where we share stories about renewing the connections between place, the built environment and the mission of God.

Speaker 2 [00:00:15] Season four of the Embedded Church podcast is produced in partnership with the Ormond Center at Duke Divinity School. The mission of Ormond Center is to foster the imagination, will and ability of congregations and communities to be agents of thriving.

Speaker 1 [00:00:28] I'm Eric Jacobsen.

Speaker 2 [00:00:30] And I'm Sarah Joy and will be your host on today's episode of the Embedded Church podcast.

Speaker 3 [00:00:41] Hello to all of our listeners, welcome to Embedded Church and we're super excited that you're tuning in. And what our guests don't know is that Eric and I have a couple of partners with us on the line in this recording, but we'll introduce them to you in just a moment. We started this podcast, not really knowing where this would go. So excited to be already on season four. It's kind of crazy, Eric, isn't it? Absolutely. Yeah. Yeah, it's flown by seasons one and two. Spent a lot of time really interviewing pastors about ways that they're engaging their neighborhood and their place with a lot of fun. Kicked it off into season three, season three.

Speaker 1 [00:01:19] We did a book club because you and I are such book nerds and we've got some favorites that we realized we were referring to. But a lot of you all may have not been familiar with them. So some good material there. Season three was great, but I'm especially excited about this upcoming season because we have some partners at the Ormond Center at Duke University. We have Josh Yates' and Chris Elisara joining us and helping to put together what I think is going to be our best season yet.

Speaker 3 [00:01:44] Eric, you're already raising the stakes.

Speaker 1 [00:01:46] I know that's that's what I do. Let's get our new partners online here. So we've got Josh Yates, we'll start with Josh. Josh, tell us a little bit about your role at the Ormond Center and how did you get connected to us in the first place? Sure. Well, first, it's great to be with you. Absolutely. We're excited. We're extremely excited for these series of conversations. I am the executive director of the Ormond Center for Thriving Congregations and Communities at Duke Divinity School. And its mission is to help foster the imagination, the will and ability of congregations and communities to be agents of thriving.

Speaker 3 [00:02:25] Because you're based at Duke Divinity School, is your focus mostly North Carolina then? Are you across the country?

Speaker 1 [00:02:32] So we have what we like to call a preferential option for North Carolina. We will work everywhere with anyone, but will first and foremost do it in our home state of North Carolina.

Speaker 3 [00:02:43] So how did you find out about the embedded church podcast and get connected to us?

Speaker 1 [00:02:47] I think that's a great story. At some level, it really begins with one of your key themes, which is a connection to place and community. It turns out that I happened to share a mutual love and connection to one such very unique and wonderful place with Eric in Missoula, Montana. Yeah, I think that's how we first met, was around your book. I was at UVA at the time and you came, but we quickly realized we had the connection to Missoula, Montana, where I'm from. We shared a connection there for sure. Yeah. And Burgess's Bakery really, I think was at the heart of it when I don't get down to it. And then I said, Joy, we met at a Congress of New Urbanism meeting, I think, in Dallas.

Speaker 3 [00:03:32] Yeah. And I actually think it was Chris Elisara who introduced us at that conference.

Speaker 1 [00:03:38] It's such a small world. Let's talk about the connections between our theme, which has been embeddedness and your theme, which is thriving. Let's kind of play around with how those things might interact with each other as I've gotten to know your work and what the mission of the Ormond Center is about it. I think we have the same starting place, which is a belief in the role of the local church to be a faithful witness to God's redeeming work in the world, not only in the pews, but in the ways the pews connect to the streets and neighborhoods in larger communities. And that's a starting proposition for the work of the urban center. And I think the work of the embedded church podcast has been a wonderful resource and storyteller for how that's taking place and can take place in our country. And if I could jump in there, Josh, one of the things that we're already benefiting from, as we were planning this season, you've been emphasizing that we're interested in the local church, but not only the gathered church, but the scattered church. And so we've I think primarily Sergio and I have been talking with pastors and church leaders doing things within their congregations in the neighborhood and kind of from the church center. But you are challenging us to think about Christians who work in various fields and expressing their faith and their discipleship within the planning community or in the arts community. And so that's going to be a piece of this upcoming season, I think is going to be particularly interesting.

Speaker 3 [00:05:12] Definitely. I really agree with that. And I would say that that's a great intro to Chris Elisara. He's been quiet, but he's been listening in. I see him. And because he is somebody who is all about connecting people across different spheres and different areas of work and expertise. So that's one of the things that he brings to the table. He's a great networker and is involved in so many things across the country and across the world, actually. So, Chris, I'd love for you to join. And tell us a little bit about who you are and your role at the Ormond center.

Speaker 4 [00:05:44] These are Joy, Eric, Josh, it's great to be here and to be talking about things that we love. Right. And that's why I'm at the Women's Center. My role there is to lead the studio, the placemaking to do the things that you're talking about now that you're doing in your church that you're doing professionally, you're doing but me in an academic context. And what that means is what you've said is I have a role that I can bring people in the conversation. I can convene without platform conversations about how to make places better, comport with God's shalom and intentions for people's lives and community. And I couldn't think of a better place for me to land than the human center to be able to do that. And essentially what we're doing is providing an opportunity to create the mindsets, the tool sets and then the skill sets to be able to make plays. So what is the center for placemaking place? We know it's a part of God's heart, but the making peace you put into it together, we're having to make plays through those understandings, those

mindsets. Through those skill sets that you actually can do things in finance, design, planning, pastoring, community development and in the process, what do you put together with your hand, with your fellow congregants, with your business partners to make places? So that's what we're doing at the Ormond Center, at the Divinity School. But because it's across a university center, we're actually doing this in conversation with our partners in the business school and our friends and colleagues and academics in sociology and the school environment. And so they all have a stake in places that have some to contribute. That's what we're doing. In a nutshell.

Speaker 3 [00:07:52] That's not super exciting. Yeah, it's just that holistic vision, which I really love.

Speaker 1 [00:07:56] And if everyone's confused by placemaking, don't worry, because we are going to talk about that this season and really unpack that term for folks. Can I say one more thing about this?

Speaker 4 [00:08:07] I'm excited about this. Yeah. This because this is said women relationship. We're in a partnership and when we're thinking about what we're going to do, Edelman said, we said this is the first thing we want to do to blow up your podcast, do as many people as possible around the country and around the world. I just am really excited that we can partner together to make what you do, just go places, hopefully with our contribution that it needs to go down. And I think

Speaker 1 [00:08:44] we're doing a surgery. Surgery is about the media stars. I can see

Speaker 4 [00:08:47] it.

Speaker 3 [00:08:50] I'm going to say. So you mean blow up in a good way, right?

Speaker 4 [00:08:54] Oh, yeah. I mean, blow up in a in a fantastic way. Right? Yeah. You're getting calls. People are right and they want to know why, how and where. And they're passing this podcast on to their friends and their past, a friend, then students and so on. This is what this is all about, is getting what you're doing here, out there as far and as wide and as deep as you possibly can.

Speaker 3 [00:09:22] Thank you. We're excited and we're excited to have you all in partnership because you're helping us have the resources to do that and to point people back to the audience and earn the good work that you're doing and the resources and tools that you'll be putting together for these church communities to really activate them as well so that we can do that.

Speaker 1 [00:09:47] Let's get a little more specific about sort of the vehicle, the focus of this coming season, so. Why don't you talk a little bit about the kind of key verse we're looking at and some of the terms that we're going to be exploring together?

Speaker 3 [00:09:58] Yeah. So, Jeremiah, twenty nine seven is the key verse for this season. Y'all will hear it repeatedly throughout the episodes. And so hopefully by the time you finish listening to season four, you will have it memorized by heart. And that verse says seek the welfare or the Siloam of the city that I have called you and pray to the Lord on its behalf for its welfare or Shulem, you will find your welfare. And so we think that there's three key words that we want to unpack in this season that come through that verse, the first word being Siloam. So that gets interpreted as welfare or sometimes peace.

But we think that there's an even greater depth to that word. Another word is place. This verse is a call to a very specific place. The Israelites are living in exile in Babylon and God calls them to really focus on that place and to seek the welfare of that place. And then how they do that is by placemaking. So we get to unpack that term a bit more. And what we think that that means and how that is a calling on our own lives individually and as community members.

Speaker 1 [00:11:07] That's awesome. I listen to that goal, particularly as a pastor leading a congregation in hopes that pastors will be asking better questions based on that. Jeremiah. Twenty nine seven. This idea of our vocation as a church, our vocation as Christian leaders in the community really comes out of God's call that we find in passages like Jeremiah. Twenty nine seven. Because without that kind of clarity, it's really easy as a pastor to get caught up in, I don't know, an image of success or what it means to succeed as a pastor or as a church that really gets disjointed from the Bible. I think it's really important to think through our goals in light of our vocation as churches, that that's more biblically rooted than those things. And I'm hoping that as we talk about Jeremiah and seven and the importance of place in placemaking, we'll start to ask better questions, more faithful questions about what God's calling us to be and do in our communities. So that's kind of one of my hopes for that for this this season.

Speaker 3 [00:12:07] I'd love to hear from Josh or Chris, do you have any thoughts on Keevers and where you want to take it this season

Speaker 1 [00:12:12] since Eric played the role of pastor? I'll play the role of sociologist in to say that I think that this question that this verse opens up for us in seeking the chillum of our communities is one that couldn't be more timely all around us. Our communities are in turmoil all around us. Our churches are in turmoil. Whether it's the impact of covid or race or any number of issues, opioids, health, we can go down a whole list of compounding crises. And so I just want to say that never before has the tension to our place is either been more needed and urgent, or have we had greater opportunity to be the church to offer hope to the world that that we have right in who we are. And so I want to commend to our listeners that this is a moment of great need, but also a great opportunity for the witness of our faith in real lives. That and embedded ways. I think you're absolutely right, Josh, and I think that's part of what I'm hoping will come out, especially as we get into the part the second half of our season where we really start talking to people in the field, whether they're pastors or practitioners of various kinds.

Speaker 4 [00:13:33] For me, I am. Really hoping that, you know, that verse speaks to a lot of people who were hurting. But we're asked to be faithful and because their faithfulness. Everybody was blessed, and that is something that is a call to the church to be faithful in this hard time. Yeah, and I think as we go deeper into our faith and deeper into the scripture, the deeper our relationships and start to act in ways that are consistent with our faith and consistent with loving one another and loving the places that we're we're in and the communities that we're in. My prayer is that these conversations we're going to have will enable us to do things that are going to bless our community and be a blessing to the wider community, because I said in your flourishing, the others will flourish and that this is an equation that needs to kind of break through because there's a tendency to think, you know, that's not the equation that God works with. There is some equation, we get it, they don't get it, but that's not what that. Yeah, it says do this and everybody will flourish together. And that's what I think is the witness of the gospel in our time as we make police and community together is all about.

Speaker 3 [00:15:05] I love it. It's beautiful. I'm excited to get started. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Speaker 1 [00:15:09] Absolutely. Can't wait to jump in.

Speaker 3 [00:15:12] Quick recap for our listeners first. Season four is titled Cultivating Neighborhood Shalom. And the first three episodes will be further conversations with Eric and I and Josh and Chris at the Ormonde center unpacking those three key terms that we mentioned before. Siloam place in placemaking. And the next set of episodes will be more of our standard format, where we interview pastors and practitioners in the field and glean some insight and wisdom from their stories and the work that they're doing. The episodes will be released every two weeks and we look forward to having you all part of the season and listening in and being in communication with us.

Speaker 4 [00:16:04] This is Chris again, I want to mention another new thing happening this season, at the end of each episode, I'll be adding a segment we're calling The Ormond Coda. What's that? Well, after recording the episode, then listening to it a few weeks later, giving us some distance and some breathing room, but briefly share what personally resonated with me about the conversation, it will likely be a mixture of things like the reprise of a poignant idea, a practical challenge and a word of encouragement. Maybe this thing would be more like a benediction. I don't know exactly what it's going to be, but we're going to give it a try. See you at the end of Episode one.

Speaker 2 [00:16:50] Thanks for tuning in to another episode of the embedded church podcast. Be sure to check out the episode show notes for links to resources and other helpful information related to this episode. If you'd like to connect with us to share comments or ideas about the work we're doing. We'd love to hear from you. You can send us an email at info embedded church dot com or leave a voice message on our feedback line by dialing seven six zero five to seven three to six zero followers on Instagram Embedded Church podcast or visit our website w w w dot embedded church dot com. Finally, thank you to our Stephen for partners at Ormond Center and to all of our faithful listeners and supporters who have helped us make it to Season four, we are honored and encouraged until next time.