

THE MISSION OF GOD *Small Group Discussion*

TWO

CHRISTOLOGY - THE ROLE OF JESUS IN GOD'S MISSION

DISCUSSION OVERVIEW

This discussion will focus on Christology, namely the unique role that Jesus plays as the main character in fulfilling God's mission.

SERIES OVERVIEW

What is the mission of God? In other words, what is God trying to accomplish? To better understand that, we will look at how God wants to move the gospel forward in the world. This small group study will examine the roles that Jesus, the church, and we ourselves have to play in fulfilling God's mission in the gospel.

POSSIBLE FURTHER DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What other scripture comes to mind when you think of God's mission?
- How does our culture respond to the gospel?
- What makes this challenging?
- Where does Christ come into play / redeem this?
- What is the role of the Holy Spirit in this?
- What makes having a mission so important?
- How does this affect our small group?
- How has God called us to be a faithful presence in other's lives?

LOOK *What do we see around us and in our lives?*

Name one of your favorite characters (hero or villain) from TV or film. What things about that character resonate with you?

BOOK *What does Scripture say about this?*

JOHN 6:26-40

²⁶ Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. ²⁷ Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."

²⁸ Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?"

²⁹ Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

³⁰ So they asked him, "What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?" ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

³² Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

³⁴ "Sir," they said, "always give us this bread."

³⁵ Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶ But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. ³⁷ All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰ For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."

Q1 How do you see God's mission at work here? How do you see the purpose of God's mission from this passage?

Potential answers: God sent Jesus to give life to the world. God wants to save people and give life.

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God's mission is accomplished as his gospel moves forward through Jesus and the witness of his people, the church.

Missio Dei (God's Mission)

God desires that people would know him and be saved.

Christology (Jesus)

Jesus comes to make God known and to die for sins that we might be saved.

Ecclesiology (The Church)

Jesus calls his people to himself to gather together as the church, and worship God, nurture believers, and witness to the world of his good news.

Missiology (People on Mission)

Jesus calls the church to advance God's mission through the gospel in the Holy Spirit's power as more and more people become fully devoted followers of Jesus.

Q2 What are things that we look to besides Jesus to satisfy our spiritual hunger or spiritual thirst (v.35)? What might it look like to turn from those things?

Potential answers: Netflix, relationships, job status, identity, approval, etc. It might look like sharing our struggles in accountability and asking for help throughout the week.

Q3 In what ways do we see the role that Jesus plays in God's mission from this passage? What makes him unique? Different from us?

Potential answers: All that come to Jesus by faith will not be sent away but raised up at the last day. He is the one who accomplishes what we can not.

THE GOSPEL *The Good News of Jesus*

How does Jesus satisfy us in ways the things we mentioned above (Q2) cannot?

Potential answers: Jesus promises that we will never hunger or thirst, but be truly nourished by his life-giving ways. He promises us eternal life and security in himself.

How is Jesus the hero? How can seeing Jesus as the hero change the way we think about joining God on his mission of spreading the gospel?

Potential answers: We aren't the hero of the story, so we can take the focus off how good we are at sharing the gospel and remember we're just trying to tell people about Jesus.

Accountability/Reflection

Share together and pray for each other

TOOK *What will you take away from today's discussion?*

Possible questions to consider:

What keeps you from pursuing God's mission? How can looking to Jesus encourage you in that area? How can we, as a small group, encourage or challenge you in this area?

Who else needs to hear about Jesus as the truly satisfying hero and Savior?