

THE MISSION OF GOD *Small Group Discussion*

FOUR **MISSIOLOGY - ON MISSION** **WITH THE GOSPEL**

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?*

What is an item on your bucket list (something to learn, a place to visit, etc.)?

Why is that on your list?

BOOK *What does Scripture say about this?*

2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-21

¹¹ Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. ¹² We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. ¹³ If we are "out of our mind," as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴ For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Q1 What does Paul mean when he says we no longer regard anyone from a worldly point of view (v.16)? How might this impact the way we think about people?

Potential answers: The cross of Jesus changes everything about how we think about people. God has made reconciliation available through the gospel, and calls people to faith in Jesus.

Q2 What does it mean that Christ's love compels us? What are ways we can lose focus of that reality?

Potential answers: Christ's love to us overflows into our love for him and others. We can lose focus of that when we think we have to evangelize others so that God will love us, instead of sharing the gospel because God loves us.

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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.

Q3 What does it mean to have the ministry of reconciliation? What might this look like?

Potential answers: We join God in his reconciling work. Practicing hospitality and setting up our lives to create opportunities to love our neighbors well; Helping people see across differences; Offering forgiveness; asking good questions of co-workers, etc.

Q4 What does it mean to have the message of reconciliation? What might this look like?

Potential answers: We have the gospel, and the message is urgent. We can find ways to have spiritual conversations with friends and neighbors.

THE GOSPEL *The Good News of Jesus*

In what ways can thinking about ourselves as reconciled people and 'ambassadors for Christ' impact our gospel outreach?

Potential answers: We think of ourselves and our identity as God's people on God's mission, instead of judging ourselves by our actions or how good we are at evangelism.

In what ways does Jesus empower us to practice the ministry of reconciliation and share the message of reconciliation?

Potential answers: He is the one who accomplishes reconciliation, and he has gifted us to tell others about what he has done.

Accountability/Reflection

Share together and pray for each other

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

Possible questions to consider:

How can we, individually or as a small group, embrace the role of being Christ's ambassador?

Who do you know that needs to hear this good news of God reconciling people to himself in Christ? What is one step you can take to share this good news with them?