

THE MISSION OF GOD *Small Group Discussion*

FIVE

BONUS: MAKING JESUS KNOWN IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

DISCUSSION OVERVIEW

This week we will talk more about the neighborhoods around us and pray for the gospel to go forward in our church and in our lives.

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?*

Consider the following neighborhoods:

- The neighborhood you grew up in
- The neighborhood you live in now
- The neighborhood you work in
- Other neighborhoods you frequently visit (for church, to eat, shop, play, etc.)

What is similar between the neighborhoods?

What makes them unique?

BOOK *What does Scripture say about this?*

EPHESIANS 3:14-21

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

What do we learn about God in this prayer?

Potential answers: God's love is something we can know, and yet it surpasses knowledge.

What things does Paul pray for? How does this impact our prayer?

Potential answers: God to do immeasurably great things to bring glory to himself through the church and Jesus.

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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.

PRAYER TIME

Take time as a small group or in smaller groups (2-3 people) to pray together for these things.

Pray and thank God for who he is and all he's done for us in his mission through the gospel, through Jesus, and through his church.

Pray for people that do not yet know Jesus in our families, workplaces, and communities, as well as our neighborhoods.

May God's gospel move forward!

Pray for Hope, other churches in the Twin Cities, in the US, and churches and missionaries around the world.

May God's gospel move forward!

Pray for God to open your hearts and eyes to his work and what he is calling us to in joining him on his gospel mission.

May God's gospel move forward!

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

Possible questions to consider:

What is something you'd like to do to get to know your neighborhood better?

What are some things that we can do as a small group to keep pursuing God's mission?

Pray, volunteer, do a community event, etc.

What is something that encourages you or challenges you about your role in seeing the gospel move forward?

How can we be praying for you?