



Mission

Jeremy Peters ~ March 20, 2016

“As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.” - Jesus

1. **SERVICE** – *We want to put others ahead of ourselves.*

Philippians 2:1-11; Matthew 5:46-48; Luke 10:25-37

2. **VOCATION** – *We want to live out the unique call of Jesus on our lives.*

Ephesians 2:10

3. **WITNESS** – *We want to put the glory of Jesus on display in word and deed.*

Matthew 5:13-16; Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 3:15-16; Colossians 4:2-6

4. **HOSPITALITY** – *We want to intentionally create space in our hearts for others.*

Luke 4:40; 7:36-50; 13:31-35; 19:1-10

Small Group Questions

1. What excites you most about the invitation of Jesus to partner with Him in Mission? Which of the 4 strategic markers do you feel most challenged by in this current season? Why?

2. a) Read Luke 10:25-37. Can you think of someone in your sphere of relationships who is difficult to love? If loving someone means to work towards their well-being, how might you tangibly do this for someone you find challenging?

Where do you find it challenging to serve if it goes unnoticed, causes inconvenience, or is costly?

- b) Discuss the following quote: *“Everyone likes to be considered a servant. No one likes to be treated like one.”*

Why do we tend to take offense when someone ‘treats us like a servant’ and yet want to be considered a servant?

3. a) What is your current understanding of how God has uniquely called and gifted you? How would you end the sentence: “At the end of my life, I would like people to line up and thank me for _____.”

- b) To help give you a picture of your unique gifts and personal assets, take a blank piece of paper (or use your journal) and do the following:

Draw a tic-tac-toe grid. Fill each of the nine empty boxes with a word or phrase that describes you at your best as it relates to serving, working and doing (no particular order is required). These nine words or phrases describe your best contribution through what you already know about your passion, skills, abilities, gifts, experiences and environment.

Share with the group the words you chose. Where possible, take time to affirm each other in the ways you see these descriptors evidenced in each other’s lives.

4. a) How is taking a 'sales pitch' approach to sharing the gospel different than the mindset of introducing someone to a person? Does this approach intensify or reduce any sense of fear or apprehension in giving a verbal witness to Jesus?

b) Discuss the following quote by Hugh Halter & Matt Smay: *"Focusing on **what we say** without regard to **how we say** it doesn't work in marriage, with our kids, in politics, or in any other social arrangement. So why do we think it would work with God?"*

What are some examples of 'how' the gospel is sometimes communicated that undermines our message?

What are some examples of 'how' the gospel could be communicated that would enhance the likelihood of our message being considered?

c) Take time as a group to pray for people in your life who don't currently know Jesus and ask Him to open up opportunities to give a witness. (Is there anyone Jesus wants you to invite to one of our Easter services?)

5. a) How is it possible that Jesus was the most hospitable person who ever lived, yet He did not have His own home to live in? How does this challenge your current view of what hospitality is?

b) Discuss the following quote from Henri Nouwen: *"Hospitality means primarily the creation of free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place."*

c) What do you think it means to 'create free space' for someone in our hearts? How might someone actually do this? Do you find this easier to do with some people more than others?

d) Why is it sometimes hard to offer people 'space in our hearts' without trying to change them? Can you think of someone who at some point created space in their hearts for you that allowed you to figure out who Jesus was creating you to be? (In other words, they didn't try to change you, but still provided an environment conducive to positive change and growth.)

e) If hospitality is intentionally creating space in our hearts for others (including enemies), what tends to prevent you from extending hospitality to others? Who might Jesus be asking you to 'intentionally create space in your heart' for?

Pray for each other!

6. Take time to listen in prayer as a group, asking Jesus the following question: "Jesus, what area of mission are you excited to partner with me on? Is there a next step you're inviting me to take?"

Share with one another what you think Jesus might be saying.