



8-6-17 Sermon Discussion Guide

"Missiology: You are a missionary"



Context

Throughout this summer we are talking about words and ideas that we often hear in church but rarely define. This summer provides a chance to hit "pause" and reflect upon these ideas, their importance, and their impact upon life. This series began by asking the question, "What is theology?" Throughout this summer we've looked at who God is, who we are in relation to God, and how God saves us. We are now in a time where we examine what the Christian response to God looks like. After discussing the response a Christian has to God's grace, we discuss mission – God's missionary purposes in the world and how we join in.

Checking In

Since the last time your group has met, how have each of you experienced God at work? What have you celebrated? What have you mourned?

Introduction

Missiology is our theology of mission. What is God's mission in the world? What is God doing in the world around us? How do we fit into that mission? Believe it or not, we are all missionaries, participating in God's mission. This impacts everything we do and everything the church does. Get ready to spend a lot of time in your Bible, looking at a lot of different passages. This discussion of mission is going to take all over. As an introductory question, ask, "What do you think of when you envision a missionary?"

Discussing the Text – John 20:19-23 (NIV), Ephesians 1:9-11, Luke 10:9,11, Genesis 12:2-3, Ephesians 4:11-12 (NRSV), John 1:14 (The Message)

1. In John 20, Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to his disciples to prepare them to be sent out. In this passage, also in John 15:26-27, and in the theology of the Trinity, we learn that God is a sending God. God the Father sent the Son, the father and the Son sent the Spirit, and all three send the church. Where was Jesus sending his disciples and for what purpose?
2. Ephesians 1:9-11 is a good summary of God's mission in the world. How would you summarize God's mission based on Ephesians 1:9-11?
3. A central part of God's mission is Jesus' proclamation that Kingdom of God has come near (Matt 4:17, Luke 10:9,11). What do you think the Kingdom of God is? Why would it be important to proclaim that it has come near? How would a passage Luke 4: 16-19 or 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 help us begin to understand the Kingdom of God?
4. Genesis 12:2-3, Mark 10:45, and Matthew 5:13-16 all identify a common theme. What common thread do you see in these passages?
5. How does Ephesians 4:11-12 help us see that everybody is called to be a missionary? And how does John 1:14 help inform our understanding of what we do as missionaries?

So what?

1. Does being a missionary include a set of practices that every missionary does everywhere?
2. Where do you see God at work in the community around you?
3. Where is God sending you to participate in God's mission?
4. Does it encourage you or challenge you to know that you're a missionary? Why?
5. If mission is more about what God is doing in the world already, how does that impact what we do? How do we know if we are joining with God's mission rather than hindering it?

Prayer

Share something you for which you are thankful and/or something for which you need support. Have the group ask God in daily prayer each day what God's doing their work, home, or school.