

Community Part 8: Mission

How to Use

The goal with these discussion guides during the next few weeks, is that with your group or a few others, to have honest and authentic discussions around this idea of living life together as a “new family in Christ.” The hope is that this resource is not simply a study guide to further discuss the previous weekend’s message or a certain text in Scripture, but instead an application guide of how to further flesh out and live out God’s vision for biblical community. Each week will have a brief overview to read together, 2-3 discussion questions and a suggested practice to implement with your group.

The discussion questions have been crafted in a way to help get past the surface level response we can default to and to dig into honest and perhaps challenging conversations. You might not get through them all each week and that’s okay. Allow for some space for the Spirit to work and to give time for the conversation to reach a more intimate level. We would encourage you to invite the people you’re walking through these guides with to perhaps be a little more vulnerable than they might normally be. If your group size is large, consider breaking up into a few smaller groups to better facilitate honest conversations.

Our goal for the suggested practice each week is to help establish some new rhythms and ways to live out this idea of biblical community. Our challenge to you is to try these practices through the entire 9 weeks of this series. Perhaps at the end discuss with your group about how these practices went and what they might want to continue doing.

We would also encourage you to start each discussion with a time of prayer, inviting the Spirit to work in you and your group’s heart and minds around this topic of community.

Overview (Read this aloud together)

Leader: Read Jeremiah 29v1-9

If we’re being honest, we can be tempted to relegate the idea of missions to those who are particularly called to missional work in another part of the world or the occasional/one-time serving opportunity that checks off the box of serving others. For Jesus and those who follow Him, being on mission was more than those things.

Instead of it being something we do to feel good about ourselves and move on with our lives, we are called to build relationships, or kinship to those around us and in our world. To build the kind of relationships in which time and space eventually creates family. Just as we were once invited into the Father’s new family, we want to extend that same invitation to others.

It is in the mundane, ordinary daily moments of life where we are called to live out the Kingdom ethics taught by Jesus to those around us. To leverage the collective resources and abilities of our community for the flourishing of our city. How can we live life in such a way

that we are bringing about shalom to our family, our neighbors, our coworkers, and our community?

Discussion Questions

Leader: For the discussion this week, our encouragement to you is to use this time with your group to discuss and evaluate your current rhythm of mission. If your group doesn't have a regular rhythm of mission, use this time to establish what one could look like and take active steps towards implementing it.

What does everyone understand our community's mission rhythm to be? Do we have one?

If we have one, how does everyone feel like it is going? What is going well and what could use some tinkering?

If you need to establish one or perhaps reevaluate your current rhythm, here's some helpful questions to work through as a group:

What matters to us? What are some areas and values we individually and as a group have that might be helpful in picking an area to live out mission in?

What are some potential limitations our group might have in engaging a mission? How can we address some of the limitations of our group or work within them? Think through time, resources, group size, commitment length, etc.

Who can coordinate? Does anyone feel interested in stepping into this role? Let's take some time to talk through this, pray and commit to having someone today to follow through on this important call Jesus has for us.

Practice for This Week

Prayer should play a healthy role in the way we do mission. As we move closer to our neighbors (or our "Three") through missions and intentional living, we should also commit to bringing them before God in prayer (check out this [helpful resource](#)). This week, in our prayers, let's ask God to move our hearts towards compassion and action, that He would raise up the people of God in our church to live out the Kingdom in their communities and that we would be the kind of people to pursue kinship relationships with those on the margins.