

# COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with  
one another in our homes

Sermon 7/28/24

Ted Rastatter

Mark 6:7-13

Recently at church we talked about being *in* Jesus's family and not just familiar with who Jesus is. Jesus taught that it is those who do the will of God that are his family. In this week's section of Mark, Jesus sends his twelve disciples out into the land in pairs, giving them authority to heal and to cast out demons. When they do so, they are doing the will of God and participating in the mission of Jesus. In his sermon this week, Pastor Ted presented three lessons in participating in Jesus's mission.

Being in the family of Jesus means participating in Jesus's mission to spread the word that the kingdom of God is now. As he taught the disciples, we are to learn that we must go together, travel light, and give to whomever will receive.

-When we work together, the work is light. Being part of the church is going together, and even when we are alone, Jesus is with us to empower us for good works.

-Traveling light means dependence on Jesus. It is not money or things that make the mission successful.

-The mission is the message. Our focus is not on who receives and who doesn't, who resists us and who accepts. God will provide where he sees fit. We fulfill our commission when we share the good news that Jesus died to redeem sinners to eternal life - that message is not just inviting people to church.

Discuss with your group:

1. Why did Jesus send the disciples in pairs? Couldn't he have reached more people if he sent them out individually?

In the next week or month, how can you "go out two by two" or "go together" with other believers to participate in the mission?

2. Ted shared an anecdote of a father in the airport telling his son, "I've got everything we need. You just concentrate on walking."

When does this quote make you think about your relationship with Jesus and your participation in his mission? What things are you seeking or stockpiling that you think you need to participate with Jesus? What are you depending on instead of walking with the Father?

3. When you pray, what do you ask God for? Healing? Help? Or that he would make you a more effective worker for his kingdom?
4. When you talk to others about Jesus, do you share the gospel with them, or do you simply invite them to church? Why do we tend to just invite people to church instead of speaking the gospel in words to them? What are strategies we can use to get better about this?
5. Spend some time practicing sharing the gospel in words with the others in your group. If someone in the group doesn't know what to say, help each other learn different ways to give the "elevator speech" for the gospel.