

Back to School: Reminding Ourselves of Who We Are and Why We Are Here

Week 4: Necessary Church

Introduction: Three key ideas to consider:

1. **The majority of Jesus' ministry was in the community, not in the temple.** Jesus consistently took His ministry to the people. The gospel accounts are filled with His interactions out among the people.

2. **When our church gets involved in the community, people are more receptive to our mission and our message.** There is a huge variety of possibilities including options like a local food co-op, or a foster care agency, or Habitat for Humanity, or support of a local elementary school, or addiction recovery house, or a homeless shelter and that just scratches the surface. The bottom line is that when people begin to see, sense and experience that you care about them their perspective changes about who you are. That impacts their receptivity to your mission and the gospel message. Perhaps many individuals may never attend Cornerstone, but observation and experience says that God is pleased with this kind of ministry and ultimately it does draw people to His church.

3. **We can create programs on our terms; but we impact a community on their terms.** We get to decide what structure and programs make up the foundation of Cornerstone. As part of the Cornerstone family, you have the privilege and responsibility influence the culture of our church. But when it comes to impacting the community around us, people require that we meet them on their turf, on their time and their terms. For example, rather than create our own church sports league of some kind, why not go out into the community and volunteer to lead, coach and invest financial resources into sports leagues that already exist?

The Big Picture: Impacting the community-at-large with Kingdom good, truth, love, kindness, peace, and generosity is faithfully living out God's great commission today!

Discussion:

Share:

- What is the greatest difference you think Cornerstone has had on the community?

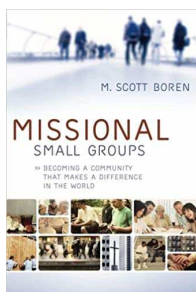
Discuss:

Sermon Review:

- Write down any questions or thoughts that stand out to you as you review the sermon together. Discuss them as a group.

- What does it look like to “seek the welfare of the city in which you live” (Jeremiah 29:7)
- When you think of the city where you live or your immediate neighborhood, what are the biggest needs you perceive?
- How do you think making a practical difference in the Northwest Metro area would influence the way people view Cornerstone? How would that impact their view of Christ?

Further Exploration on this Topic:



Missional Small Groups: Becoming a Community that Makes a Difference in the World
by M. Scott Boren

From the Publisher: Small groups are a great place to connect with other churchgoers, but many wonder, is this all there is? Is sitting in a living room, talking about a book or watching a video the extent of what we can do together? Isn't being a Christian community about something more than this?

Pastor and author Scott Boren thinks so. In this latest release from missional thinktank Allelon, Boren gives leaders and members of small groups the tools they need to make an impact on their communities. Beginning with a gentle critique of current small group models, Boren goes on to show how a uniquely Christian paradigm can set groups free to transform their communities. The final section of the book offers over twenty practices that groups can do to become more missional.

Ultimately Missional Small Groups is about helping groups follow Jesus by equipping them to bring his message and healing to a hurting world.

Link: <https://www.amazon.com/Missional-Small-Groups-Community-Difference/dp/0801072301>