CBC WEEKLY RESOURCES

I. Sermon Recap

II. Study Guide

III. Devotional

IV. Small Group Resources

"Missiological Mindset"

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COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
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SERMON RECAP

This week's message brought our "Lord of the Harvest" mission month to a deeply personal place: before we are sent into the harvest, we must first receive the ministry of Jesus in our own lives. From Luke 4, Jesus announces His mission. The sermon reminded us that Jesus does not merely save us so He can "use" us. He comes for us. We are not an overlooked tool in His hand; we are the mission of His heart.

Through a powerful personal testimony, we were reminded that Christ's redemptive work is not abstract or distant. He meets real people in real poverty, real pain, real captivity, real blindness, and real oppression. The good news is that none of these things disqualify us from His love. In fact, they are exactly the places Jesus came to enter with healing, freedom, and life. Our wounds and limitations are not barriers to His grace; they are invitations for His grace to be displayed.

The practical encouragement is simple but life-changing: let Jesus finish His mission in you. Do not rush past healing to become useful. Do not minimize your need for freedom, wisdom, peace, or restoration. The most powerful witness we carry is not merely what we know or say, but what Christ has done and is doing in us. As we yield to Him, we become living displays of His mercy.

II. STUDY GUIDE

Key Points

- Jesus' mission is personal before it is programmatic. Luke 4 shows us that Christ came for actual living breathing people.

- We are not merely tools for God's work; we are recipients of God's restoring love. God's desire is not simply to use us, but to heal, deliver, fill, and transform us.

- Our testimony is the evidence of His mission. The work of Jesus in us becomes the light others see through us.

- Mission begins with surrender. We become most useful when we allow the Holy Spirit to bring freedom, sight, healing, peace, and joy into the places we would rather hide.

Key Scripture

Primary Sermon Text:

- Luke 4:16–21 — Jesus reads from Isaiah and announces His mission: good news, healing, liberty, sight, freedom, and the favor of the Lord.

Verses Mentioned or Quoted in the Sermon:

- Isaiah 61:1–2 — The passage Jesus reads in Luke 4 concerning the Spirit-anointed mission of the Messiah.

- Luke 4:16–21 — The central text of the message.

- Isaiah 42:3 / Matthew 12:20 — "A bruised reed He will not break," referenced in connection with God's tenderness toward the wounded.

- Mark 14:3 — The alabaster flask broken and poured out, referenced as an image of brokenness releasing fragrance.

- Luke 5:8 — Peter's response, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man," alluded to when describing feelings of unworthiness.

- Galatians 2:20 — "I have been crucified with Christ… Christ lives in me," quoted during the communion reflection.

- Philippians 4:7 — "The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding," referenced as part of Christ's work in us.

- 1 Peter 1:8 — “Joy inexpressible and full of glory,” referenced as part of the life Jesus gives.

Other Relevant Verses

- 2 Corinthians 4:7 — “We have this treasure in jars of clay.”

  General thematic tie: This verse reinforces that God’s glory is displayed through weak and fragile vessels.

- Ephesians 2:10 — “We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works.”

  General thematic tie: This verse helps balance identity and mission: we are first God’s workmanship before we walk in His work.

- 2 Corinthians 5:17–20 — New creation and ambassadors for Christ.

  General thematic tie: This passage connects personal transformation with outward mission.

III. DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL

Day 1: You Are the Mission

Reflection Question:

Where have you believed that God is more interested in what you can do for Him than in what He wants to do in you?

Reading:

- Luke 4:18
- Isaiah 61:1

Thought:

When Jesus stood in the synagogue in Nazareth, He read from Isaiah 61—a passage filled with messianic hope. In its original context, Isaiah spoke to a people who had known deep pain. The “good news” was not vague religious optimism. It was the announcement that God Himself was coming to rescue, restore, and renew His people.

In Luke 4, Jesus says, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” He is declaring that He is the Spirit-anointed Servant who brings God’s restoration. His mission is not first to recruit workers but to redeem people. He comes to the poor, the brokenhearted, the captive, the blind, and the oppressed.

This changes how we see ourselves. We are not projects to be rushed into productivity. We are people Jesus loves. His desire is not merely that we would serve Him, but that we would receive Him. His healing, His truth, His freedom, His peace, and His life.

Challenge:

Take five quiet minutes today and say honestly to the Lord: “Jesus, show me where I need to receive Your ministry before I try to do ministry for You.”

Day 2: Good News for the Poor

Reflection Question:

In what area of your life do you feel spiritually, emotionally, or relationally “without what it takes”?

Reading:

- Luke 4:18
- Matthew 5:3

Thought:

When Jesus says He was anointed to preach good news to the poor, He is speaking to those who know their need. In the ancient world, poverty was not only financial. It often meant vulnerability, powerlessness, dependence, and lack of resources. The poor were those who could not secure their own future.

This connects deeply with Jesus’ words in the Beatitudes: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Poverty of spirit is the honest recognition that we cannot save ourselves, heal ourselves, or make ourselves whole. It is not weakness that keeps us from God, it is often the doorway into grace.

The sermon reminded us that Jesus comes to those who do not have what it takes. That is good news. The gospel is not an announcement that strong people can climb higher. It is the announcement that God has come near to the needy, the empty-handed, and the desperate.

Challenge:

Name one area where you feel insufficient. Instead of hiding it, bring it to Jesus in prayer and ask Him to meet you there with His sufficiency.

Day 3: Healing for the Brokenhearted

Reflection Question:

What wound have you minimized, ignored, or assumed Jesus is not interested in healing?

Reading:

- Luke 4:18
- Isaiah 42:3

Thought:

The phrase “brokenhearted” carries the idea of being crushed, shattered, or inwardly broken. In Scripture, the heart is not merely the place of emotion. It is the center of thought, desire, will, and identity. To be brokenhearted is to experience deep fracture at the core of who we are.

Isaiah 42 says of the Servant of the Lord, “A bruised reed He will not break.” A reed was fragile, easily bent or damaged. In human hands, something bruised might be discarded. But in the hands of God’s Servant, the bruised are handled with tenderness.

This is the pastoral heart of the message: your broken places do not repel Jesus. They draw His compassion. He does not stand at a distance waiting for you to become whole enough to approach Him. He comes as the healer. He is gentle with bruised reeds and near to shattered hearts.

Challenge:

Write down one painful area of your story. Then write beside it: “Jesus is not repelled by this. He came to heal here too.”

Day 4: Liberty for the Captives

Reflection Question:

What pattern, fear, habit, shame, or lie has felt like captivity in your life?

Reading:

- Luke 4:18
- Galatians 5:1

Thought:

In Luke 4, Jesus announces liberty to the captives. The word picture is powerful: people taken prisoner, unable to free themselves. Captivity can be spiritual, emotional, relational, or behavioral. Sometimes we are trapped by sin. Sometimes by shame. Sometimes by trauma, fear, bitterness, or lies we have believed for years.

In the biblical imagination, liberty is not merely the absence of restraint. It is restoration to life with God. When Israel was delivered from Egypt, they were not simply freed from Pharaoh, they were freed to worship the Lord. Likewise, Christ does not set us free so we can drift aimlessly. He frees us so we can live as beloved sons and daughters in the presence of God.

Galatians 5:1 says, “For freedom Christ has set us free.” Freedom is not a side benefit of the gospel. It is part of Christ’s mission. The Lord of the Harvest sends free people into the harvest, people who can testify, “Jesus met me in my chains.”

Challenge:

Ask the Holy Spirit to identify one chain He wants to break. Share that area with a trusted believer, pastor, group leader, or counselor as a step toward freedom.

Day 5: Vessels of His Glory

Reflection Question:

How might God want to display His grace through your story, not despite your weakness but through it?

Reading:

- 2 Corinthians 4:7
- 2 Corinthians 5:17

Thought:

Paul says we have treasure in jars of clay. In the ancient world, clay jars were ordinary, fragile, and inexpensive. They were useful, but unimpressive. Paul uses this image to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

This connects beautifully with the sermon's message. The world does not need to see polished religious performance. It needs to see the treasure of Christ shining through real. Our weakness does not disqualify us from mission. When surrendered to Christ, it becomes a place where His power is made visible.

Second Corinthians 5 says that anyone in Christ is a new creation. That new creation identity becomes the foundation for our calling as ambassadors of reconciliation. We are sent, but we are sent as people being made new.

Challenge:

Consider your testimony in one sentence: "Jesus has met me in and is making me." Look for one opportunity this week to encourage someone with that truth.

IV. SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

Opening

Welcome everyone and create a peaceful space for honest conversation. This week's theme is deeply personal: Jesus does not simply call us to mission; He first makes us the mission of His mercy.

Before discussion begins, invite the group to pause and pray. Encourage a simple, Spirit-led prayer asking the Lord to open hearts, bring honesty, and help each person receive His healing and freedom.

Thematic Recap

This week's message centered on Jesus' announcement in Luke 4: He came to bring good news, healing, freedom, sight, and deliverance. The sermon reminded us that we are not merely instruments God wants to use, we are people Christ came to redeem and restore. Our usefulness in the harvest flows from the transforming work of Jesus within us.

Core Message Highlights:

- Jesus' mission is deeply personal.
- Our brokenness does not disqualify us from His love.
- Christ came for the poor, brokenhearted, captive, blind, and oppressed.
- Healing is not selfish; it is part of becoming a faithful witness.
- Our testimony is a display of God's grace.
- We are sent into the harvest as people being restored by the Lord of the Harvest.

Icebreaker

Question:

Think of a time when you experienced unexpected kindness, help, or rescue. What happened, and how did it affect you?

Scripture Exploration

Passage 1: Luke 4:16–21

Discussion Prompts:

1. What stands out to you about the specific people Jesus names: the poor, brokenhearted, captives, blind, and oppressed?
2. Why do you think Jesus chose this passage from Isaiah to announce His public ministry?
3. How does this passage challenge the idea that God only wants to “use” us?
4. Which phrase from Jesus’ mission feels most personal to you right now?

Passage 2: Galatians 2:20

Discussion Prompts:

1. What does it mean to say, “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me”?
2. How does this verse connect personal surrender with daily life?
3. What is the difference between trying harder for Jesus and allowing Christ to live through us?
4. How does the phrase “who loved me and gave Himself for me” help make faith personal?

Passage 3: 2 Corinthians 4:7

Discussion Prompts:

1. Why do you think Paul describes believers as “jars of clay”?
2. How can weakness become a place where God’s power is displayed?
3. What pressures do Christians sometimes feel to appear strong, polished, or put together?
4. How does this verse encourage honesty and humility in community?

Grand Synthesis Prompt

Looking at Luke 4, Galatians 2:20, and 2 Corinthians 4:7 together, how would you describe the relationship between being healed by Jesus, being filled with His life, and being sent as His witness?

Application: Growing in Personal and Communal Prayer

Use this section to help your group move from discussion to practice.

Personal Prayer Practices

- Pray honestly about need. Name before God where you feel poor, brokenhearted, captive, blind, or oppressed.
- Invite Jesus into specific places. Instead of general prayers, ask Him to bring healing, freedom, wisdom, or peace into areas.
- Practice listening prayer. Spend a few minutes in silence, asking, “Lord, what are You showing me about Your mission in me?”
- Pray from Scripture. Use Luke 4:18–19 as a guide for prayer over your own life.

Communal Prayer Practices

- Create space for safe confession. Encourage group members to share only what they are comfortable sharing.
- Pray in themes rather than fixing. Focus on Jesus’ healing, freedom, and presence rather than giving quick advice.
- Carry one another’s burdens. Ask group members how they can pray specifically during the week.
- Celebrate signs of grace. Make space in future gatherings for testimonies of how God is working.

Closing

Prayer Needs

Leave space for group members to share prayer requests, especially around:

- Areas needing healing
- Places of captivity or fear
- Family burdens
- Emotional or spiritual weariness
- Opportunities to share Christ with others
- Fresh surrender to the Holy Spirit

Closing Prayer Prompt

Invite one or more group members to pray around these themes:

- Thank Jesus for coming near to the poor, brokenhearted, captive, blind, and oppressed.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to continue Christ's restoring work in each person.
- Pray for courage to receive healing rather than hide need.
- Ask God to make the group a safe community of grace.
- Pray that CBC would be sent into the harvest as people transformed by Jesus.

Leader Notes

- Set a gentle tone. This discussion may bring up painful parts of people's stories. Move slowly and compassionately.
- Do not pressure anyone to share. Give permission for silence or partial sharing.
- Avoid fixing. When someone shares honestly, resist the urge to immediately solve the problem. Listen, affirm, and pray.

- Keep Jesus central. The focus is not on pain itself, but on Christ's presence, healing, and freedom.

- Protect confidentiality. Remind the group that personal stories shared in the group should stay in the group.

- Watch for pastoral care needs. If someone shares about serious trauma, addiction, abuse, self-harm, or crisis, encourage them to connect with CBC pastoral care or a trusted Christian counselor.

- Encourage practical next steps. Healing often includes prayer, community, Scripture, confession, counseling, and ongoing discipleship.
