



SERVE
CURRICULUM

CONTENTS

WEEK 1 // TO SERVE IS TO WORSHIP.....4

WEEK 2 // NEITHER DO I CONDEMN YOU.....10

WEEK 3 // THE GREAT COMMISSION.....14

SERVING = WORSHIP //////////////////////////////////////

When someone serves, they are worshipping. Can a person serve and not be worshipping? Why or why not?

Worship is outwardly manifested by service. How does a person worship as they serve (see Matthew 4:10)?

JESUS WASHES THE DISCIPLES' FEET //////////////////////////////////////

Read John 13:1-5. What is the attitude of Jesus in this passage? How does this impact how and why we serve?

WRONG REASONS TO SERVE //////////////////////////////////////

Look at the following wrong reasons to serve. Discuss each of these syndromes in your group. Have you ever experienced one of these syndromes? Give details and describe how it turned out.

"Rodeo" Syndrome – You were "roped" into serving. You are serving but not with joy and happiness. Read Psalm 100:1-2 and describe how we are to serve.

"Martyr" Syndrome – "Hey everybody! Look how much I'm sacrificing for God!"

"Workaholic" Syndrome – "No one, and I mean no one, else can do what I do! God needs me! So I serve, serve, serve."

"Lazy Bum" Syndrome – "Well, I do what I feel like doing, when I feel like doing it."

"Grass is Greener" Syndrome – "I'm serving but I'm missing so many other better serving opportunities."

HOW HAS GOD SHAPED ME? //////////////////////////////////////

Your created shape will help determine how you are wonderfully made to serve the Lord!

"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them."

Psalm 139:14-16

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

Ephesians 2:10

How do you find out what God has for you? How do you determine where to serve? One way is by understanding your S.H.A.P.E. which stands for:

S: Spiritual Gift

H: Heart (Passion)

A: Abilities

P: Personality

E: Experience

Let's look at each aspect. Answer all the questions to help identify how God has shaped you!

S: SPIRITUAL GIFT //////////////////////////////////////

"...each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another"

1 Corinthians 7:7

What are you gifted to do? (Have you taken a spiritual gifts inventory in the past?)

Why do you feel you may have these gifts (i.e. you've seen fruit in your life that others have confirmed)?

List areas you have served. How did it go?

List some areas where you would like to serve.

H: HEART (PASSION) //////////////////////////////////////

What do you love to do?

Do you like routine or variety?

Do you like serving with a team or by yourself?

Are you more introverted or extroverted?

If you knew you could not fail, what would you attempt for God?

A: ABILITIES //////////////////////////////////////

What natural talents and skills do you have? What is (or was) your occupation?

What talents or abilities have you learned?

How do the above "fit" with your gifts and personality?

P: PERSONALITY //////////////////////////////////////

How are you wired or how do you see yourself? Circle the traits below which are most like you.

Introverted or Extroverted

Self-Controlled or Self-Expressive

Like Routine or Like Variety

Cooperative or Competitive

Thinker or Feeler

What serving opportunities would best take advantage of your personality?

E: EXPERIENCE //////////////////////////////////////

Let's look at three aspects of experience: spiritual, painful, and educational.

Your Spiritual Journey: Describe a time when you have felt closest to God, or a meaningful spiritual experience that stands out in your mind.

A Painful Experience: Briefly describe trials or problems you have encountered. Can you relate these to someone else to help or encourage them? Or have you already?

Your Educational and/or Vocational Experience: Identify the following:

Your level of education:

Your favorite subjects:

Plans for further study:

Seminars or job-related training:

SUMMARY //////////////////////////////////////

Your walk will be most effective and fulfilling when you are using your **GIFTS** and **ABILITIES** in the area of your **HEART'S DESIRE** in a way that best expresses your **PERSONALITY** and **EXPERIENCE!**

In reviewing your S.H.A.P.E., what do you believe you are best suited for serving/ministry?

WEEK 2: MARCH 3, 2019

**NEITHER DO I CONDEMN YOU
JOHN 7:53 - 8:11**

DOES JOHN 7:53-8:11 BELONG IN SCRIPTURE?

From the ESV Study Bible notes: *“There is considerable doubt that the story is part of John’s original gospel, for it is absent from all of the oldest manuscripts. But there is nothing in it unworthy of sound doctrine. It seems best to view the story as something that probably happened during Jesus’ ministry but that was not originally part of what John wrote in his Gospel. Therefore it should not be considered as part of Scripture and should not be used as the basis for building any point of doctrine unless confirmed in Scripture.”*

Pastor and author John MacArthur discusses this passage in his commentary on John: *“The passage was most likely not part of the original text of John’s gospel. Yet, it’s beyond doubt an authentic fragment of apostolic tradition that describes an actual historic event from Christ’s life. It contains no teaching that contradicts the rest of Scripture. The picture it paints of the wise, loving, forgiving Savior is consistent with the Bible’s portrait of Jesus Christ. Nor is it the kind of story the early church would have made up about Him.”*

THE STORY //////////////////////////////////////

Read John 7:53-8:11. Describe the story and answer the questions of who, what, and where.

THE LAW //////////////////////////////////////

Read Deuteronomy 22:22-24 and Leviticus 20:10. What is the law that the Pharisees are using against the woman?

Does the law only address the woman who committed adultery? What about the man? So where is the man in this story? Why would they only bring the woman before Jesus?

How committed are these scribes and Pharisees really to the law or is the law a pretext for their prejudice against Jesus? Explain.

THE MOTIVE //////////////////////////////////////

Look at verse 6 which explicitly states the motives of these religious leaders. What were their motives? Looking at the "bigger picture," why are they confronting Jesus?

How did Jesus force them to expose their own misuse of the law?

JESUS VS. THE PHARISEES //////////////////////////////////////

Throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus standing against the Pharisees' view of the law. Read the following passages and describe what Jesus was saying:

Matthew 9:13; 12:2

John 7:23

Galatians 5:14; compare with Matthew 7:12

THE POINT IS... //////////////////////////////////////

In verse 7, Jesus says, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." Of course, that won't work as a basis for social justice. No criminals would be brought to justice if judges had to be sinless. What is the point that Jesus makes by this statement?

THE MOST REMARKABLE POINT IN THE STORY //////////////////////////////////////

The most remarkable point of this story is that Jesus exalts Himself above the Law of Moses, changes its appointed punishment, and reestablishes righteousness on the foundation of grace. The story points us to the message of the whole New Testament: we are called to be holy as God is holy.

How can we, mere humans, be holy?

Why is grace so critical in being holy?

TRUE OR FALSE? //////////////////////////////////////

Are the following statements true or false? Explain your reasoning and discuss in your community group.

“All of us, like this woman, have been caught in the act of sin and stand condemned by God’s holy law”

“God’s grace and love do not negate His truth or justice”

“God’s grace is the basis for a holy life”

SERVING IN THE COMMUNITY //////////////////////////////////////

Pray for the following local outreach ministries that reach out to our community:



Bridges International – Bridges International is a caring community of Christ-followers committed to serve, promote social connections and engage in spiritual conversations with international students so that students become leaders internationally.



Cru Inner City – We partner with inner-city churches that are committed to ministering to the whole person; body, mind, and spirit.



Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) – Our mission is to present to coaches and athletes, and all whom they influence, the challenge and adventure of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, serving Him in their relationships and in the fellowship of the church.



Fun Sports (Faith, Unity, Nurture) – Our mission is reaching children and parents for Jesus using various sports activities.



Bakersfield Pregnancy Center – The Bakersfield Pregnancy Center is a faith-based non-profit organization committed to upholding the sanctity of human life, sexual purity and healthy family relationships. We provide emotional, practical and spiritual support, as well as education for women and men with pregnancy-related concerns, including those who have experienced abortion or other pregnancy loss.



Flood – Flood establishes meaningful relationships with those in crisis to empower them to overcome their disadvantaged circumstances and encounter the love of Jesus.



Laborers of Love – An outreach ministry of RiverLakes Church showing our seniors how much we need and love them by doing light housekeeping and/or yard duties for those that need the help.



Lift Bakersfield – Our mission is to fulfill the biblical mandate to love and serve the lost and broken in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



The Mission at Kern County – The Mission at Kern County's purpose is to offer an environment conducive to the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of the people we serve by providing hope and a future through Jesus Christ.



Right to Life Kern County – Right to Life Kern County is a non-profit organization that offers education life issues and promotes life-affirming alternatives to a society afflicted by the prevalence of legalized abortion, infanticide, assisted suicide and euthanasia.

- Authority to forgive sins (Luke 5:20; 7:48)
- Authority to mediate to the Father (1 Timothy 2:5)
- Authority to send the Holy Spirit (John 14:26; 15:26)
- Authority to open the hearts and minds of His people (Luke 24:45)
- Authority to reveal the Father (Matthew 11:27; Luke 10:22)
- Authority to give eternal life to whom He chooses (John 10:27-28)
- Authority to raise us up on the last day (John 6:40)

What evidence in your life is there that Jesus has authority in your life?

Verses 19-20: *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

What He commands us to do, He empowers us to do. The command is to "make disciples."
How are we to make disciples (verses 19-20)?

How do you define the word "go" in verse 19? Was this command directed only to the disciples present at that time or is it for all believers throughout the years? Explain your answer!

How is the doctrine of the Trinity presented in verses 19-20? Who is with us until the end of the age and why is that so comforting?

Acts 1:8: *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

Verse 8 says the Holy Spirit gives the believer power. What does that look like in a believer's life? Why is the Holy Spirit critical for us to implement the Great Commission?

How has the Holy Spirit impacted your life and your walk with the Lord?

DISCIPLE-MAKING //////////////////////////////////////

Who was influential in your life in helping you be a disciple of Christ? How did he/she disciple you?

Who in your life have you discipled? How did you disciple that person(s)?

Today, do you feel prepared to make disciples? How challenging does it sound to you? What are your roadblocks?

GOD'S HEART FOR THE WORLD //////////////////////////////////////

Read Romans 10. What is God's heart for the world? What is the connection between God's heart for the world and our responsibility?

WORLD EVANGELISM UPDATE

Below is a summary of the status of world evangelism. Take time in your group to review and discuss.

Status of World Evangelization 2019

From Various Perspectives

People Group Perspective

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations (ethne)" Matt 28:19



The Lamb is worthy of "...worship from every nation, tribe, people and tongue." Rev 5:9-12

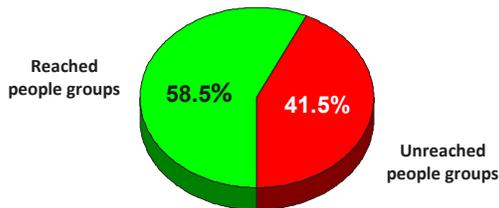
Individuals Perspective

"Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation" Mark 16:15



Where do we stand?

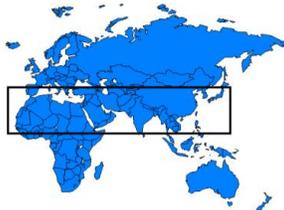
People Groups: 17,020
 Unreached People Groups*: 7,066 (41.5%)
 Population in Unreached Groups: 3,140,000,000 (41.3%)



* Unreached defined as: a) less than 2% Christ-followers and b) less than 5% Professing Christian.

Countries with the most unreached people groups:

| Country | Total People Groups | Unreached People Groups | % of Groups Unreached |
|------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| India | 2,560 | 2,292 | 90% |
| China | 543 | 444 | 82% |
| Pakistan | 422 | 414 | 98% |
| Bangladesh | 326 | 294 | 90% |
| Nepal | 274 | 266 | 97% |



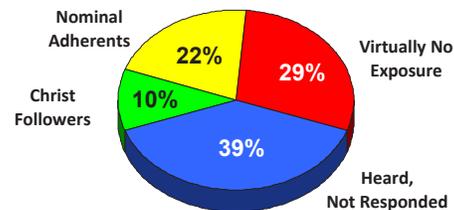
10/40 Window: The 67 countries of the 10/40 Window are home to over 5,920 unreached people groups. 5 out of every 6 unreached people groups are in the 10/40 Window.

50 Largest Unreached People Groups: Comprised of 1,456,000,000 (1.456 billion) souls. Almost 20% of the world's population live in these 50 largest unreached peoples. Every group is larger than 10,000,000 and none have an indigenous church capable of reaching the rest of the group. 47 of these groups are in restricted countries.

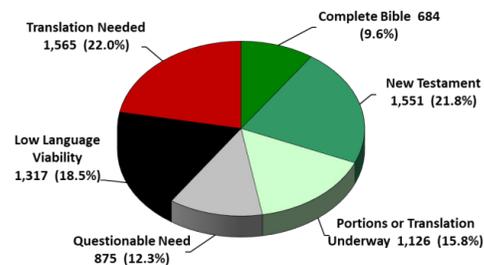
World Population: 7,597,000,000 (7.597 billion)

| % of Population * | Population | Category |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 10% | .76 billion | Christ-followers |
| 22% | 1.67 billion | Nominal Christian Adherents |
| 39% | 2.96 billion | Heard, Not Responded |
| 29% | 2.20 billion | Virtually No Exposure |

* Approximate Percentages



Bible Translation: Of the 7,118 languages, 1,551 have the New Testament available which covers over 95% of the world's population. The goal is to start all needed translations by 2025.



Media: The *Jesus* film has been translated into over 1,700 languages covering 98% of the world's population. Goal is to translate the film into any size language where someone is committed to use the film.

| Resource | Languages | Website |
|-------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Jesus Film | 1,700 | www.jesusteam.org |
| Online NT – Audio | 1,800 | www.bible.is |
| Online NT – Text | 1,275 | www.youversion.com |

Challenges

- Christianity (all kinds) is growing at 1.2% per year, but Islam is growing at 1.9% and thus faster than general Christianity. The positive news is that Evangelical Christianity is growing at 2.6% and thus faster than Islam. (*Operation World* 2010)
- About 90% of all cross-cultural missionaries labor among nominally Christian people groups, only about 10% among unreached peoples.
- 81% of all Muslims, Buddhists and Hindus do not personally know a Christ-follower. (*World Christian Encyclopedia*)
- Out of every dollar of Christian giving to all causes less than one penny goes toward pioneer church planting among unreached peoples.
- While Christians of all types make up about 1/3 of the world's population, the absolute number of non-Christians is increasing.
- An estimated 95% of pastors worldwide have had no formal training.

For more information see: www.joshuaproject.net

January 2019

Sources: Joshua Project, *Operation World*, BEE World, Jesus Film Project, *World Christian Encyclopedia*, www.progress.bible

RIVERLAKES COMMUNITY CHURCH SUPPORTED AND ENDORSED MISSIONARIES // // // // // // // //

Below are the many missionaries our church supports. Take time to pray for them as they faithfully continue serving the Lord.



JAMES AND MARY KAMAU
International Christian Ministries
Tanzania, Africa



DAVE & SUZANNE WASHBURN
Fellowship of Christian Athletes
Bakersfield, CA



DON & BEV URQUHART
Cru
Bakersfield, CA



KEN & CHRIS FRECH
Cru Inner City Ministries
Bakersfield & Los Angeles



MICHELE MORESI
Cru
Orlando, FL



DAVE CHAMPNESS
International Christian Ministries



MELANIE ELDEN
Wycliffe Bible Translators
Nairobi, Kenya



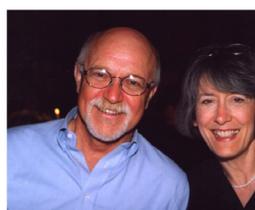
DAN & DEVRI WICKWIRE
Crossover Communications
Ankara, Turkey



SANDI RAY
The Broom Tree Refuge
Mountain View, AR



CHARLENE KIYABU
Cru/The JESUS Film Project
Orlando FL



TRENT & VIVIAN HYATT
Cru
Eastern Europe & Russia



PHIL & DEBBIE WALKER
International Christian Ministries

