

Announcements

We're going back to East Cobb Middle School! Our first Sunday at ECMS will be June 27. The address for East Cobb Middle School is 825 Terrell Mill Rd, Marietta, GA 30067.

Prayer Suggestions

On Sunday we were able to meet our missions partners in Honduras, David Guevara and his family. Here are some ways to pray for them:

1. Pray for the communities that were affected by the hurricane last year. One such community lost 12 homes. The government is relocating the entire community on a new plot of land, but they don't have the money to rebuild. Pray for resources to rebuild this community.
2. Pray for David, his family, and the pastors of the communities as they face opposition from others. While Honduras is open to the gospel, some communities and leaders are closed to it and do not like it when David and his partners come into their communities.
3. Pray for rest for the Guevara family as they are here for the summer.
4. Pray for vaccines and relief from COVID. Many people in Honduras do not have access to vaccines or healthcare.
5. Pray for Blossom Creek Farm as they provide income and training for pastors, and help to invest in their communities.
6. Pray that people will be open to the gospel and they will come to know and love Jesus.

Joshua Project Unreached Peoples: <https://joshuaproject.net/pray/unreachedoftheday>

Family Time

Family Time is an intentional space where we live out the model we see in Acts 2:42. We want to be devoted to the Word together, break bread, fellowship, and pray. It's also a place where we practice hospitality. We want this time to foster both spiritual and relational growth moving the group from acquaintances and friends to family. Family Time begins with conversations around a meal, followed by a discussion about Sunday's sermon.

Sermon Discussion (30-40 min)

Title: 5 Values of a Faithful Missionary

Series: Missions Emphasis Weekend

Scripture: Acts 20:17-38

Other Scripture/Cross-References

Matthew 28:19-20

Acts 1:8

2 Corinthians 5:18-20
Hebrews 12:1-2

Not mentioned in the sermon, but related in terms of sacrifice: Hebrews 10:32-36 (but especially 10:34 -- "you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one" ESV)

Main Points

1. *Paul served the Lord faithfully with humility* (v 19)
2. *Paul preached a multiethnic gospel* (v 21)
 - a. For Paul to preach a multiethnic gospel, he had to live it out
 - b. Don't say you believe a multiethnic gospel if you don't live a multicultural life
 - c. Local implications:
 - i. The gospel brings people together, displays unity, and gives us a better understanding of who God is
 - d. International implications:
 - i. 3.2 Billion people who do not know God
 - ii. We have the means and the message to share the gospel with people around the world
3. *Paul wanted to finish well* (v 22-24)
4. *Paul was faithful to preach the gospel and invest in the local church* (v 25-31)
5. *Paul gave more than he took* (v 33-35)

Quotes

Don't say you believe a multiethnic gospel and live a monoethnic life.

The world says success is the goal, but the gospel leads to sacrifice and surrender.

Questions

1. What challenged you? What were your takeaways? What encouraged or convicted you?
2. What questions do you have?
3. Serving Faithfully with Humility
 - a. Are you living a life of faithful humility (seeing yourself rightly before God, being about His Kingdom, and viewing the need others have for the gospel)?
 - b. Are you willing to go wherever and do whatever God asks of you?
 - c. Are you open-handed with your life (career/job/hobbies/homes/neighborhoods/etc)?
4. Multiethnic Gospel
 - a. Do you believe the gospel is for all people? Does your life reflect that?
 - b. Paul was compelled to take the gospel to those outside his people group -- are you? (Not just overseas, but in your community)
5. Finishing Well
 - a. What does it mean to finish well?
 - b. Are you running after the wrong things? How can you run after Christ?
 - c. Are you tempted to quit? How can you remember God and keep going?
 - d. If your life ended today (or tomorrow or next week), would you be able to say you had finished well?
6. Preaching the Gospel/Investing in the Local Church
 - a. Do you understand that God's plan is YOU through the power of the Holy Spirit?
 - b. Do you feel the weight of that call?
 - c. Are you investing in the local church?
7. Giving Over Taking
 - a. How generous are you with what you've been given (time, talent, treasure, thoughts, etc)?

- b. Is your life more characterized by giving or receiving?
- 8. Which of the 5 values is easiest for you? Which is hardest?
- 9. Which one of these 5 values can you take a step forward in? What will that step be? How can the group encourage you as you take that step?

Points of Theology & Useful Definitions

Humility: the opposite of proud and arrogant; thinking of yourself appropriately in light of who God is and what He has done for through Jesus.

Resources

Books on Missions:

When Helping Hurts, Steve Corbett & Brian Fikkert

Across the Street and Around the World, Jeanne Marie

Neighborology, David Apple

Toxic Charity, Bob Lupton

Compassion, Justice, and the Christian Life, Bob Lupton

Strangers Next Door, JD Payne

Discipleship Groups

Discipleship Groups are where our community groups divide into gender-specific groups for a time of more intentional discussion and connection. This creates a safer and more intimate space to open up our hearts in order to grow deeper in the gospel. This time begins with a discussion about Sunday’s sermon and then transitions to a time of transparency where we are honest about where we are relationally, personally, missionally, and spiritually.

Sermon Discussion (30-40 min)

See Sermon Discussion Notes above.

RPMS (30-45 min)

R	How are you doing RELATIONALLY ? (friends, coworkers, neighbors, spouses, family -- also, how are you building relationships with people different from you or on the margins?)
P	How are you doing PERSONALLY ? (emotionally, mentally, physically, financially, etc.)
M	How are you doing MISSIONALLY ? (what you’re doing daily to be on mission, how you’re engaging people, etc)
S	How are you doing SPIRITUALLY ? (time with God, in Scripture, what you’re learning, who you’re learning from, memorization, etc.)

Prayer (10-15 min)

