



Life On Mission - Week 1

April 25-26, 2020 - Tim Harlow

This week, Pastor Tim kicks off a new series about God's mission for us and how we connect with those around us.

NOTE: We are sending this out before the services so you and your families can spend time watching service and discussing the Study Guide together! If you're looking for some virtual ways to connect with your Small Group, check out Zoom or Google Hangouts!

CELEBRATE

At the beginning of your small group time, it's good to share about your week and share with each other how you're doing. So, spend some time, right now, connecting before jumping into the discussion questions. You can use the *Connect* section as a guide. If you're doing this Study Guide on your own, take a moment to focus your mind on God and what He might want you to hear today.

CONNECT

1. Talk about the people (family, old friends, neighbors, etc.) with whom you've reconnected during this COVID-19 crisis. What led to you reconnecting with

these folks?

2. Talk about your favorite memory of a "backyard" event - maybe a barbecue, game of bags, or specific times with your family. What made these times so special?

Before watching the sermon, or moving on in this study, take a minute to remember that God is always with you. Pray as a group for God to bless your conversation and open your eyes and hearts to what He wants you to hear.

REFLECT

Before moving forward in your study, remember the big picture of this week's teaching:

- Jesus' mission for us begins with knowing that He invites those furthest from God to a relationship with God. No matter how far away they seem.

SCRIPTURES USED: Matthew 9:9-13, Luke 19:10, Acts 1:3-5, 8; 2:1-4

RESPOND

1. Talk about a thought, phrase, or moment from this week's message that resonated with you. What made it stick out to you?
2. Pastor Tim noted that many people who struggle with church or faith have been given a picture of Jesus that simply doesn't do him justice. Talk about your earliest memory of hearing about Jesus. Do you still think of him that way?
3. Read Luke 15:1-7. The three stories that Jesus creates in Luke 15 (the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son) may be familiar to you. But read verses 1-2 closely. Why does it matter who the audience is for Jesus' story here? How would the tax collectors & sinners hear the three stories that follow? How would the Pharisees hear them?
4. Pastor Tim said that one of our biggest roles in the future will be to "be a witness to the power of Jesus and his peace." When you hear that statement, what objections or questions come to mind for you? What in that statement makes you hopeful or excited for the next chapter of what God is doing?
5. One of the biggest challenges to the mission God has given us is our feeling that we need to have all the answers to all the questions about faith. Pastor Tim said that our role wasn't to "preach" or beat people over the head with Jesus, but instead start with connecting. Think together about one or two people you can connect with even during this time of social distancing, etc.

Takeaway

Write down the names of the people you thought about in question #5. Throughout this series, pray that God would give you the courage and the opportunity to be a witness to them. Pray specifically for those people either at dinner or during your normal time of prayer. Pray that God will give you the power to seize opportunities with those folks when they come up.