

Discussion Questions



Part 1: Rolling Away the Stone (Preparation)

1. **Read John 11:38-39.** Why do you think Jesus asked people to roll away the stone instead of doing it Himself? What does this teach us about our role in missions?
2. Pastor Henry shared how Tina persistently played Christian music, softening his heart before he accepted Christ. Who in your life might need you to "roll away the stone" through persistent, gentle influence?
3. The story of the man in Shipyard took many people over many years. How does this challenge our expectations for quick results in evangelism? How can we stay faithful when we don't see immediate fruit?

Part 2: Coming Forth (Obedience Without Excuses)

4. **Read John 11:43-44.** Lazarus could have had many excuses not to come out. What excuses do you find yourself making when God calls you to step out in faith or share your faith?
5. Pastor Henry emphasized that "when Jesus calls, we need to obey—no excuses." What is one area where you sense God calling you to action but you've been hesitating?
6. How does fear of what others will think hold us back from obeying God's call? How can we support each other in overcoming this fear?

Part 3: Removing the Grave Clothes (Discipleship)

7. **Read John 11:44.** Why did Jesus have the people unwrap Lazarus instead of doing it Himself? What does this teach us about the discipleship process?

8. Pastor Henry said, "Most of missions happens by walking with stinky, dirty, filthy people." How does this challenge our view of missions and discipleship? Why is this the "dirty work"?
9. Who is someone in your life that might need help "unwrapping their grave clothes"—dealing with sin patterns, learning to follow Jesus, or growing in faith? How can you walk alongside them?

Key Takeaways

Have different group members read these aloud:

1. **Trust God even when it doesn't make sense.** Jesus delayed coming to Lazarus so the disciples would learn to believe. Sometimes God's "no" or "wait" is building our faith.
2. **You have a role in missions.** Whether it's prayer, teaching, mentoring, providing material needs, financial giving, or simply inviting people to church—every role matters.
3. **Obey when Jesus calls—no excuses.** Like Lazarus coming forth despite potential embarrassment, we must respond to God's call without letting fear or inadequacy stop us.
4. **Discipleship is messy work.** The real work of missions happens after someone accepts Christ—walking with them through their struggles, sin, and transformation.

Practical Applications

Personal Reflection

Take 3-5 minutes of silence for each person to prayerfully consider:

- Which of these roles in missions fits me best right now: prayer warrior, teacher, mentor, provider, financial supporter, or inviter?
- Who is one person God is putting on my heart to invest in spiritually?

Group Action Steps

Choose one or more to commit to as a group:

1. **Prayer Partners:** Pair up and commit to praying for one specific person who needs Christ for the next 30 days. Share updates at your next meeting.
2. **Hospitality Mission:** Plan a group dinner or activity where each person invites someone who doesn't know Christ or is a new believer.
3. **Mentorship Commitment:** Identify someone in your church or community who is a new believer and needs help "unwrapping grave clothes." Commit to walking with them.
4. **Support Missions:** Research one of the EMMC missionaries mentioned (Bolivia, associate missionaries) and commit to pray for them regularly and/or provide financial support.
5. **Study Together:** Read a book on evangelism or discipleship together (suggestions: *The Master Plan of Evangelism* by Robert Coleman, *Discipleship Essentials* by Greg Ogden).

Closing

Reflection Question:

"Where do I fit in?" has been our guiding question. Complete this sentence:

"Based on this discussion, I believe God is calling me to..."

Closing Prayer

- Pray for boldness to obey without excuses
- Pray for the specific people each member mentioned who need Christ
- Pray for EMMC missionaries and global missions efforts
- Pray for willingness to do the "messy work" of discipleship