

Discussion Questions



Key Takeaways

1. Mission is not one function of the church -- it is the function of the church. Everything the church does, from children's ministry to setting up chairs to leading worship, must be rooted in the mission of Jesus Christ.

2. Missiology and ecclesiology belong together. The study and practice of mission and the study and practice of being the church should never be separated. When they are, mission becomes either just a task the church performs or something the church has already finished.

3. Jesus modeled a mission that went to people, not only one that called people to come. The story of Levi in Mark 2 shows us that Jesus was willing to enter uncomfortable spaces, sit at unwelcoming tables, and be misunderstood by religious people -- all for the sake of the lost.

4. Every believer is a missionary. Pastors and career missionaries will never go where most of us go every single day. The Monday morning lunchroom, the hockey arena, the cul-de-sac -- these are mission fields, and we are the representatives of Jesus in those spaces.

5. Love that stands out invites questions. When we love the rejected, the difficult, and the opposed, people notice. That is when the door opens to share why.

Discussion Questions

When you hear the word "missions," what is the first image that comes to your mind? Where did that image come from?

Section 1: Rethinking What Mission Means

- The sermon described a common view of mission as "something the church supports that takes place somewhere else by carefully selected people." Have you ever held that view, even without realizing it? How has your thinking shifted, or how might it need to shift?
- What is the difference between mission being one thing the church does versus the thing that defines the church? Why does that distinction matter in practical terms?
- Think about the different ministries or roles in your church -- children's ministry, hospitality, worship, small groups. How does viewing all of them through the lens of mission change the way you think about your own involvement?

Section 2: Jesus and Levi -- Mark 2:13-17

- Read Mark 2:13-17 together as a group. What stands out to you most in this passage?
- The sermon pointed out that Jesus not only called Levi to follow him, but then followed Levi to his house. What does that tell us about how Jesus understood his own mission?
- The Pharisees were uncomfortable with who Jesus chose to spend time with. Have you ever felt uncomfortable with who God seemed to be calling you toward? What happened?
- Jesus responded to the Pharisees by saying that it is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. How does that statement reframe the way we should think about the people around us who do not yet know Jesus?

Section 3: Personal Application -- The Three Questions

The sermon closed with three questions for personal reflection. Work through each one together as a group.

Question 1: Who is your Levi?

- Who in your life has been written off, overlooked, or avoided by others?
- Is there someone in your workplace, neighborhood, school, or family that you have been hesitant to engage with? What has held you back?

Question 2: Where is your Levi's house?

- Jesus went to where Levi was. Are there spaces or environments you have been avoiding that God might be calling you into?
- What would it look like for you personally to leave the comfort of your own circles this week?

Question 3: Will someone ask you why?

- The sermon made the point that the question only gets asked when we live lives that give others reasons to ask. Honestly, is your love for people around you distinct enough that it raises eyebrows?
- What would need to change in your daily life for people to notice something different about you?

Practical Applications

Choose one or more of the following to commit to before your group meets again.

1. Name Your Levi Write down the name of one person in your life who fits the description -- someone overlooked, rejected, or difficult to love. Pray for that person by name every day this week and look for one opportunity to show them genuine care.

2. Go to the House Identify one space outside your comfort zone that you have been avoiding. Commit to showing up there this week -- not with an agenda, but simply to be present and to love well.

3. Audit Your Involvement Reflect on the role you play in your church community. Ask yourself honestly: am I doing what I do as a task, or am I doing it as an act of mission? Talk with a trusted friend or your small group leader about what you discover.

4. Start a Conversation Choose one person in your life who does not know Jesus. This week, ask them a genuine question about their life and simply listen. You do not need to have all the answers. Start by showing that you care.

5. Pray the Bold Prayer Use the closing prayer from the sermon as a guide for your own prayer this week. Ask the Holy Spirit to interrupt your ordinary moments -- meetings, coffee shops, conversations -- and remind you that you are there as a representative of Jesus.

Closing Reflection

Close your group time by reading this excerpt from the sermon aloud together:

"Every single neighbor that we serve, every co-worker that we love, every lonely kid that we bump into or befriend at the school, God is already there. God is already at work. He's calling us to also go there and to be that human connection of the gospel of Jesus."

Take a few moments of silence after reading it. Then invite anyone who wants to share one word or one sentence about what they are taking away from this discussion.

Close in prayer, asking God to make your group a group of everyday missionaries -- people whose love is so distinct that others cannot help but ask why.