

Lesson Eight: Reaching Out

LESSON EIGHT Reaching Out

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In the last lesson we talked about life in the church. As part of that we say how being a part of church community means that we serve others.



"Ministry"

Church and following Jesus is not only about getting what we need as much as is about making sure others are taken care of. This is not the job of only pastors or church staff but of all believers. Jesus demonstrated how humble service is at the very core of being made like Him as we grow spiritually. Just before He died, He stopped an argument among His students about which one was the greatest. Jesus quietly began washing their feet and taught them that greatness among Jesus' people means serving, not being served. You can read this story in John 13:1-20.

Philippians 2:4

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Giftings

Each of us has different things we are good at and passionate about. We you looked at various gifts and talents in the church in the last lesson. You will continually understanding and growing in your areas of strength and spiritual gifts.

I Peter 4:10

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: God has crafted you to be able to do what He has prepared for you.

Ephesians 2:10

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

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What has God made you able to do for the church?				

Basic Ministry Principles

- Get comfortable being uncomfortable. Ministry is full of awkward and uncomfortable situations, but you choose how you will act.
- You are there for them, not for you. Ministering is not about our needs, attention, or way of doing things. It is about serving others.

LESSON FIVE New Life

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• Jesus is the only true hero. You cannot save people, change people, or satisfy all needs and expectations.

• We are part of a family and team. Each person has a different personality and set of abilities. We all do something well. We need each other and do not need to compete with one another. We serve for God's glory (Matthew 5:16).

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What do you think your greatest challenge would be in serving others? How can you serve through the challenge?

Discipleship

Discipleship is helping others join us as we follow Jesus. As a believer, we need to be helping others move forward in their walk with Christ, teaching them to look to Him and, in turn, training others to follow Christ. This functions on an individual, group, and even national level (Titus 2:3-6; Mt. 28:19). A believer can disciple a non-believer toward Christ or disciple a believer to follow Christ more fully. When we begin our walk with Christ, we tend to focus primarily on ourselves and our wants and needs. But as we grow in Christ, we become ready to help another person in their walk with Christ. Discipling another person helps both parties grow and is a mark of maturity as a Christian.

Discipleship will look differently for different people. Sometimes it is more formal and structured and often involves going through a Christian book or book of the Bible together. Sometimes it more informal and involves a observing and conversing about matters of life as they arise. Styles are not what is important – helping others join us as we follow Jesus is.

I Corinthians 11:1

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.



How could we go about finding someone to disciple you? What kind of person would you look for and what kind of process would be best for you?



"Evangelism"

Evangelism

"Evangelism" comes from the Greek word for "good news" or "gospel". It means to tell the good news about Jesus to someone else. Some find this very exciting and some find it very intimidating.

LESSON SEVEN Life in the Church

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REFLECT

How do you feel about sharing the Gospel (or even just the idea of sharing it)?

Styles

There is not one correct way of sharing the Gospel. Here are several styles. See if one sounds more like you.

- Confrontational (Acts 2:36-39): sharing possibly uncomfortable spiritual truth directly.
- Intellectual (Acts 17:16-34): using logic to compare worldviews
- Testimonial (John 9): sharing what Christ has done in your life
- Relational (Mark 5:1-20): building friendships with the hope of engaging
- Invitational (John 4:29-30, 39-42): offering someone to your home or with you to a church gathering
- Serving (Acts 9:36-43): taking care of someone needs to show Jesus's heart.

Not only are there different styles of sharing the Gospel that fit different people's delivery, we also need to be able to share the message in a way that will make sense to different listeners.



Think of someone in your life who needs to know the Gospel. Which of the above styles would be best to share with them? What sort of person would best reach them?

The Great Commission

After Jesus died and rose from the dead He appeared many times to His followers. In several of His last conversations with the group of 12 men who had lived and travelled with Him as His students He gave some final instructions before He went up to heaven. Before He returned they, and we, are to go out telling people about who Jesus is and what He did for us. We are to teach them to obey His ways. This command to evangelize is a fundamental purpose of the Church. While evangelism is a blanket term for sharing the good news about Jesus and we can evangelize to our neighbors, Jesus specifically says that we are to go to make disciples (student-followers of Jesus) in all nations (or all cultural groups). Evangelism is both local and global. This does not mean that every believer will travel the world, but we should all find a part in taking the gospel to places that have never heard it.

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LESSON SEVEN Life in the Church

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Things you can do as part of the Great Commission to all nations

- Pray. There are many resources to help you know what to pray for internationally. Try PrayerCast YouTube videos, joshuaproject.org, operationworld.org, or our monthly missions prayer night.
- Send. You can support those who go by encouraging or giving money or other practical help.
- Welcome. Build intentional relationships with those in your own city who have come from places where they have not heard about Jesus.
- Go. Whether on a short visit or longer trip, be open to the possibility of God sending you to meet people who need Him.

Matthew 28:19

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,



"What's Next?"

As this class comes to a close, you should remember something we said in the beginning: this is a first step, not the only step. In general, you will continue to learn and grow for the rest of your life, but it is best to end the class with a more specific plan for your next phase of your walk with Jesus. This does not mean that you will know where God will be taking you in your life—in fact He will definitely take you to places, people, and experiences you never expect.

Some Next Steps

We will discuss specific options and plans in class.

Continue to learn. How?

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Continue to adopt the practices of prayer, worship we've talked about.

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	8	What will you do first as you move forward?
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