

Series Title: 'The Mission of God's People'

Primary Aim: This series is all about how we reach out and share our faith with the people around us. We will try to build up a picture of what living a missional life might mean for us and look like in our context. For most of the sessions we will focus on developing a vision for reaching our friends breaking it down into questions of what we say and what we do. In the final session we will expand the vision to include the nations as we discover the joy of partnering with God in His desire to reach the nations.

1. A Vision for our friends: The Basis of a Missional life

Passage: Luke 15, John 1:1-18, 1 Corinthians 7, Romans 1:16

Blurb: This session begins by thinking about how we grow a love for people through the lens of Jesus' parables about the lost sheep, coin and son. We also will begin to think through who make up our various spheres of influence. Then we think a little about Jesus' incarnational approach (John 1:1-18) to reaching our world. We will see from what Paul says in 1 Cor 7 that we are called to remain as we are and be witnesses in those contexts. We will also spend time trying to understand where are friends are at (Everts & Schaupp material) which is crucial to helping us to think about our final section on how we approach sharing our faith (Hybels material looking at Peter, Paul, the Blind Man, Matthew, the Samaritan woman and Tabitha). To finish we will reflect on the power of the gospel both from Romans 1:16 and also from stories of transformed lives.

2. Doing life with our friends – Distinctive and Prayerful living

Passages: Matthew 5:13-16 and Colossians 4:2-6

Blurb: This session focuses on our lifestyles: specifically how we live lives that provoke questions, bear testimony and point people to Jesus. We will spend our time in Matthew 5 thinking about what it means to be Salt & Light and how these descriptions of our identity help us understand the impact that distinctive lives should have on those around us. We will also think about how we pray for our friends and how prayer and sharing our faith go hand in hand.

3. Speaking to our Friends – Creating Curiosity

Passages: Acts 17:16-33

Blurb: This session focuses on how we speak to people: specifically we want to think about what it might mean to be intentional about how we share with others in a way that creates curiosity. Paul in Athens is a brilliant example of this as he relates aspects of their culture to his faith about Jesus. We will also think about what it might mean to ask good questions of others and in doing so begin to communicate something of our own worldview and faith.

WEEKEND AWAY: Mission Possible: All things to all people

Blurb: Be inspired about sharing Jesus with your friends, and discover how the greatest Mission ever assigned is fully POSSIBLE as hear stories and engage with the radical call of Jesus to live a missional life. Session 1 will look at how the 'The God of Mission has a Church', then in session 2 we will think about 'the heart of a missionary' and finally in session 3 we think about 'What Missionaries Get To Do'.

4. A vision for the world – Into the Nations...

Passages: Genesis 12, 17, Deuteronomy 28-30, Matthew 28, Revelation 7, Isaiah 6

Blurb: This session seeks to help us lift our eyes to the nations. We will recognise that we are all missionaries and that increasingly the nations are coming to us! We will think about our own story of being involved with the nations before spending the bulk of our time thinking about God's heart for the nations through a whirlwind tour of some of the 4-600 references to the nations in the Bible. To finish we consider how we can play our part in the this big story of God's heart for the nations.