

Focusing on Our First Mission Field

Date: 5/8/16

Read Together

Read the Scripture and overview below before your Life Group meets.

Scripture passage: Acts 16:1-6, 2 Timothy 1:3-5

The mission field is both wide and narrow. Wide, in that we are called to “go there,” casting our net to the ends of the earth. Narrow because we have also been given our own flock close to home to tend. This week we will focus on those closest to us at home. It is likely that each of us can recall that person who was most influential in our lives spiritually. The one who first offered us the Gospel, poured into us, and went the extra mile to insure we understood what the work Christ did for us personally on the Cross. For Timothy, two believing women—his mother and grandmother—nurtured him in the ways of God. Training him in the faith, mom and grandma helped this young man grasp the Father’s deep love for him. They told him the story of Jesus’ redemption and helped pave the way for his acceptance of the Gospel. Where is your first mission field? Are you boldly “going there,” sharing your faith with those closest to you? Proclaim the greatness of Christ to those in your home – “go there” with the Gospel.

Pray Together

Use the first few minutes of your lesson to lead your group in a focused prayer time.

- **Praise:** Spend time praising God for who He is.
- **Repent:** Take a few moments to silently confess any sin that is lingering in your heart.
- **Ask:** Verbalize your needs and the needs of others to God.
- **Yield:** Surrender your will to God.

Discuss Together

Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion.

- Take a few minutes to remember the person who nurtured you in the faith. Share how they influenced you and pointed you to Jesus.

Read Acts 16:1-6 & 2 Timothy 1:3-5

- Discuss background regarding Timothy’s life. Who were his parents? How were they involved in his faith journey? What did they do to nurture him in the faith?
- According to Matthew 28:19-20 what are we to do?
- Pastor McKinley said, “Discipleship is a life on life experience.” What does this mean with regard to sharing the Gospel in or close to home?
- Read Deuteronomy 6:4-7, 20-25. How does this passage help shape your “go there” experience close to home?



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- In his message, Pastor McKinley outlined ways we can be missional in our parenting. The first was to model a sincere faith (2 Timothy 1:5). What is a “sincere faith”? Is it a flawless faith or a faith that is saturated in grace, love and forgiveness? Give examples of ways parents can model a sincere faith for their children even though they are imperfect.
- The second key to missional parenting is to nurture faith by regularly reading God’s Word aloud at home, praying, and singing songs of the faith. Think of creative ways to instill these basic spiritual needs in your home and share with your group.
- A third key to missional parenting is to evangelize your children. Talk to them regularly about the Gospel and seek to lead them to Christ. Discuss considerations that we must remember as we share Jesus with children (age, temperament, development, interest, involvement).
- What are the basic things any person must understand to be saved? Give an example of how you would relay the Gospel to a young person. Use the following verses to frame your response.
 - Romans 3:23
 - Romans 3:10
 - Romans 5:12
 - Romans 6:23
 - Romans 5:8
 - Romans 10:9-10,13,17
- Who are you currently nurturing in the faith? Spend time in your Life Group praying for one another about this.

Do Life Together

These questions are meant to encourage you to apply spiritual truth and live on mission for Jesus. It is your Life Group leader’s responsibility to challenge you and hold you accountable to taking steps of growth and faith. Take these questions to heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to prompt you to grow in your role as a disciple and ultimately, a disciple-maker.

What will you do this week to nurture someone close to you in the faith?



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