



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

Firstly, you will notice that at the start of each lesson there are three important bits of information. These will be the basic tools you need to lead the study.

All Scripture will appear in this BLUE colour. All Scripture references are taken from the NIV version of the Bible unless otherwise stated.

All discussion questions are in this GREEN colour. These discussion questions are meant to help open up times of sharing in your group.

Occasionally you will see text in RED. Red text are some ideas and thoughts that you may want to use for your group.

The bulk of the text will be in BLACK. This is the script and information for your lesson. However, please do not stick to the script word for word. The information is there just to serve as a guideline. Please feel free to lead or facilitate the discussion in the way which GOD is leading you.

Call To Community: Missional Community
Pastor Steve Murray
24 July 2022

Getting-to-Know-One-Another Questions:

- Have you ever been on a missions trip? If yes, what did you do and what was the experience like?
- Have you ever been part of serving the wider Tauranga community? If yes, what did you do and what was that experience like?

Opening Discussion Question:

- When you hear the word missional what comes to mind?
- How would you define the word missional?

Throughout this series we have been exploring what it means to respond to Jesus' call to community. In week one Pastor Steve talked about the prophetic call for us to begin to build a "contrast" community that is a foretaste of the Kingdom of God here in Tauranga. We discussed together a definition of biblical community and from that definition highlighted six key themes – **Christ-centred, authentic, hospitable, active, missional, and sacrificial**. Every week we have been touching on one of the six key themes to unpack the kind of community God is calling us to be. In this week's message Ps Steve shared with us what it means to be a missional community. He also updated us on some of our mission partners both locally and globally.

Missional Community:

We often find ourselves in situations where God wants us to challenge ourselves and find a way to honour Him. These opportunities come in our ordinary day to day lives. The question is, are we ready to seize these moments, step out with faith and courage, and participate in God's healing and redeeming mission?

- What are some times in your day-to-day life where you have the opportunity to step out in faith and with courage and participate in what God is doing?
- How can you be ready to make yourself available to be used by God in those moments?
- Do you find you are usually timid in these types of situations or are you usually bold? Share why do you think that is.

Our mission at Lifezone is to help people Live for Jesus and Share His love. Ps Steve quoted "We must afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted."

- What do you think it means to "afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted"?
- Do you feel like God is calling you to step out of your comfort zone and make yourself available for God to use you in the lives of those around you?

Ps Steve did not locate "missions" as necessarily happening in another country, but he talked about engaging in God's mission in our ordinary lives.

"God's vision for mission is that all are involved, that justice and salvation are wrapped up in the same package, that it is His mission, not ours, that mission starts at home and is worked out in many different ways. God wants to see you live out your faith in ordinary and spectacular ways. Ways that transform you, grow you and help you understand that a life of faith is filled with hope. A hope for the next person who finds restoration and redemption through Jesus. A realisation that those of us who have decided to follow Jesus have found redemption and purpose in Him."

- Have you ever considered that all Christians are called to be part of God's mission?
- How are you currently involved in God's mission?

A lot of times when it comes to participating in God's mission we are confronted with feelings of inadequacy and a realisation that the tasks and challenges are bigger than anything we can handle out of our own strength.

"We realise that we can't overcome the world's problems when we are faced with just how broken and sinful it and we actually are. It's healthy to realise that we aren't all that, that we cannot do what we would want to!" God does the healing, saving and redeeming work, and He uses sinful, broken, inadequate people who faithfully make themselves available to God's work to accomplish His mission.

- In what ways have you struggled with feelings of being inadequate when it comes to partnering with God in His saving mission?
- Have you stepped out in faith before and experienced God working through you or through a team in powerful ways?
- Was there anything from the stories that stood out to you or inspired you?

Read Matthew 9:9-13:

'As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.'"

- Why do you believe it is significant that Jesus calls a tax collector to be His disciple and to participate in His Healing and Redeeming mission?
- "Jesus chooses the least of us to make the greatest impact for His kingdom." How does His statement encourage or challenge you?

Jesus' extraordinary saving and healing work took place in ordinary day to day moments.

Read the following verses from [Matthew chapter 9](#):

"18 While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him and said, 'My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live.'"

" 20 Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak.""

27 As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, 'Have mercy on us, Son of David!'"

32 While they were going out, a man who was demon-possessed and could not talk was brought to Jesus.”

Matthew the tax collector (see verse 9), saw Jesus carry out His healing and saving work, all while doing the ordinary things in life like walking and talking with people.

- “Do we believe that God can transform our ordinary into his extraordinary?” What do you think? What is your experience?

In this next passage we see how Jesus sends His disciples out to participate in His mission “to the lost sheep of Israel.” At the end of the Gospel of Matthew Jesus is recorded sending out His disciples to participate in His mission of making disciples of all nations ([Matthew 28:18-20](#)).

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’

Read [Matthew 10:5-8](#):

“5 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: ‘Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. 6 Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. 7 As you go, proclaim this message: “The kingdom of heaven has come near.” 8 Heal those who are ill, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.”

- Is there anything that stands out to you in the passage? If yes, share what it is and why this stands out to you.
- Verse 7 starts with the phrase “As you go” Why might that be significant for our instructions of how to engage missionally? [Hint: It shows that the mission Jesus entrusts us with is carried out as we walk through our day to day lives.]
- Do you see yourself as participating in God’s mission in your ordinary day-to-day life? Why or why not?
- From your experience, “What does it look like to participate in the saving and healing mission of God in your ordinary day-to-day life?”
- Is your heart sold out for Jesus?

It is powerful to be missional as a community. “The disciples had no fear of failure because they were together with Jesus and with one another. Missions lived out in community emboldens us to live in a way that transforms what is around us.” We also can be emboldened when we participate in the mission of God as a community. We also can be confident of God’s presence because the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives, and in the world around us.

- How can we encourage and embolden each other to participate in what God is doing as a community?
- Do you have faith that the Holy Spirit is working everywhere?
- Do you have the courage to make yourself available to be used by God?

Pray:

Make yourself available in prayer to God each day. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you as you walk through your day. Ask for courage and strength to seize the moments in which God wants to work in your ordinary daily moments and wants to do something extraordinary.

Take some time and ask God where you can share Him in your ordinary.