

Discussion Guide

Week of January 19, 2014

Mission

Passage Overview: Christians are called to embrace the *gospel* (both individually and corporately), mature biblically in *community*, and engage in *mission* through the use of their God-given gifts, resources, and time. Everything we do should be with the desire to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ. Collectively as a church, we are called to proclaim the gospel and make disciples. This requires us to coordinate our efforts together, constantly seeking to reach our neighbors and the nations. And as individuals with jobs, families, neighborhoods, etc., we are called to live in the world, evangelizing and discipling those around us.

Understanding God's Word—Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10.

- In vv4-5, Paul describes how the message of the gospel came to the Thessalonians. How did it come to them? How was this message delivered?
- What happened to the Thessalonians after they received the gospel (vv6-10)?
- How is salvation described in vv9-10? Specifically, notice how salvation is described as something that has happened in the past, is happening in the present, and will happen in the future? How does this broaden the way you think of salvation?

Living and Applying God's Word

- Read Matthew 28:18-20 and 1 Peter 2:9-10. What is the mission of the church? Why does the church exist?
- Instead of leaving missions and evangelism to the “professionals,” every Christian, every member of a local church, is a missionary (one sent on a mission). How does this concept of “every Christian is a missionary” challenge the notion that missionaries are only those sent to faraway, dangerous places? How does it change the way that you think of yourself and your purpose in life?
- Why should we, as a church, proclaim the gospel to our neighbors *and* the nations? Why is neglecting one or the other an incomplete view of what it means to live on mission?
- How might you be a verbal witness to the gospel in your web of relationships?
- What would it look like for you to love your neighbor and do good to all people, especially to the outcast (Gal 6:10)?
- How might you integrate faith and work in order to engage the culture through your vocation?
- Read John 13:34-35. We engage in mission by visibly displaying the gospel *together* as a sent-out family. What could this look like for you as a Community Group?

Prayer: Ask God to help you live for him in your home, at your place of work, and among friends, family, and neighbors. Identify one or two people in your life who do not know the Lord. Pray for their salvation and commit to those in your group to look for opportunities to share the gospel with them.

Announcements

- Young Adult Bible Study (Jan 23, 7pm)
- Missions Conference (Jan 24-26)
- Baptism Sunday (Feb 8)