

Joining Jesus on His Mission

Lesson 7 (Chapter 19 & Conclusion)

God's Word

Read Hebrews 10:19-25. Identify one idea (or more) that Jesus is teaching you:

- About himself.
- To believe or trust.
- To do.

Book study

1. The author tells the importance of gathering with missionary friends to reconnect and tell our "God-stories." (p. 156) Find phrases in Hebrews 10:23-25 (below) that describe the benefits of this practice.

23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

2. "Missional stories reinforce missional values, which reinforce missional practices, which produce more missional stories." (p. 157) List characteristics of missional stories that give glory to God and reinforce missional values.
3. Think about how Jesus trained his disciples to go out into the world. What were some of the things he did to get them ready?
4. Below are the 5 questions that are used in a Missional Community. Look at them, what benefits do questions like these provide to a group of people who want to be neighborhood missionaries?
 - a. Seeking the Kingdom: How did you see God at work this week?
 - b. Hearing from Jesus: What has Jesus been teaching you in his Word?

- c. Talking with People: What kind of conversations are you having with pre-Christians? (By “pre-Christians” we mean to err on the side of hope!)
 - d. Doing Good: What good can we do around here?
 - e. Ministering through Prayer: How can we (your brothers and sisters in Christ) help you (fellow neighborhood missionary) in prayer?
5. Now, in groups of three (or more...but not groups of 2 or “groups” of 1!) answer one or two of the 5 questions. Be prepared to share an answer or two with the big group.
6. As a larger group, suggest ways we might establish and maintain strong missional communities among the people of Calvary. As best you can, answer (or tell how you would answer) the following questions, giving thought to the widespread nature of our congregation (members living throughout the DFW area while wanting to be active in the Lake Highlands Neighborhood.)
- Who will you invite?
 - Where will you gather?
 - When will you start?
7. *Joining Jesus’ mission is not so much about changing the whole church as it is about changing our own mindset and practices and inviting a few friends to come with us. Think of a “pinch of yeast” as it gradually spreads through “the loaf” of our congregation. We don’t try to convince the whole congregation to be “missional,” all at once. We start with the few who are ready and willing to come along with us and put the mindset and practices of a Neighborhood Missionary into play as part of our everyday lives. Joining Jesus’ mission is not about changing what we do when we go to church on Sunday mornings. It is about changing what we do when we go out as Church into our neighborhoods, workplaces, and schools on Monday mornings.*
- What makes sense about the above paragraph?
 - Why focus on changing your own mindset and practices before trying to change anyone else’s?
8. What are three things that challenged you from this study? What are three things that encouraged you from this study?