



The Harvest is Ready Discussion Guide

Matthew 28:18-19 (ESV)

"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit'"

How Jesus Walks out His Mission

Icebreaker Question: Have you ever been out of the country? If so, how many countries have you been to and what was your favorite?

Please Read: Matthew 9:18-26

1. Jesus responds to invitations.

Reference: Matthew 9:18-19 & Matthew 9:23-26

The ruler invited Jesus to come heal his daughter and He was laughed at when He said that she was asleep. But He did not waver in His confidence.

Discuss:

- What is something you would like to invite Jesus to do for you?
- What might be something you would like to be invited to do for the Kingdom of God?
- Have you ever invited Jesus to something and He responded in amazing ways? Please share the story if you are comfortable.
- Have you ever invited Jesus to something and felt like He turned the invitation down? If you're comfortable, share that story.
- How do you stay faithful when you don't understand God's answer?

2. Jesus allows interruptions.

Reference: Matthew 9:20-22

The woman with the issue of blood reached out and touched Jesus' garment. Jesus said that HER faith healed her. Pastor Mark made the point that Jesus did not get bent out of shape that she had made Him ceremonially unclean on His way to heal someone. He took a moment to SEE her before He moved on.

Discuss:

- How do you feel (or how might you feel) when you reach out in faith?
- Are your expectations of what the response might be, accurate? In other words, have you already assumed what the response will be before reaching out? How could you adjust your expectations?
- How do you handle interruptions to your routines?

3. Jesus is intentional.

Reference: John 4:3-7 (NKJV)

Pastor Mark pointed out that culturally, Jews would avoid Samaria altogether and go OUT OF THEIR WAY to stay far away from Samaritans. These verses tell us that Jesus “needed” to go to Samaria. His disciples had to have thought it was odd that He felt compelled to go there. He knew that He was going to encounter the woman at the well, and He also knew what He would say to her. Jesus’ desire to see people walk in fullness of life superseded the cultural norms.

Discuss:

- What are some ways that you feel compelled to be different from our cultural norms?
- Where are YOU needed?

4. Jesus treats people according to their true identity.

Reference: Matthew 8:1-3

Jesus sees each of us as we truly are. Better said, He sees us for WHOM He created us to be. Our true identity lies in Him. He doesn’t judge us based on our appearance or our behavior as much as He weighs our hearts and the intent therein. Jesus knows our hearts. We can be confident or convicted by that knowledge!

Discuss:

- Think about your True Identity?
 - What words do you think Jesus would use to describe you?
- Think of a person you really don’t like very much.
 - Put some words around how you think Jesus might see them.

Application

Pastor Mark gave us some wonderful application tools for being focused on our own mission in this world. We may not be called to Thailand or Africa, but we are called to SOMEONE today.

1. Today I can ask God to send more workers into the harvest.

Reference: Matthew 9:36-38

Pray that God would send more people to those that are unreached. And ask God to show you whom you can minister to today.

2. Today, I can hear His voice and obey.

Reference: Hebrews 4:7

Ask God to help you hear His voice. Sometimes, a thought will come to you...one that you likely wouldn’t have thought of yourself...that may very well be God’s voice. When you experience that, or when you think God has spoken to you, ask Him for the wisdom of discernment and then the courage to carry out what He has said.