



valley**vineyard**
C H U R C H

Sent Together

Leader's Guide

Part One: Introduction & Leader Foundations

Welcome

Welcome to Sent Together.

This guide is designed to form missionary disciples, not simply teach evangelism techniques. Jesus formed His followers by inviting them to be with Him, sending them into the world, and then gathering them to reflect on what they experienced. This curriculum follows the same rhythm.

Your role is not to be an expert with all the answers. Your role is to cultivate a safe environment where people learn to recognize God's activity, take faithful risks, and encourage one another.

How to Use This Guide

Each weekly gathering follows a consistent pattern:

- Welcome and meal (15–20 minutes)
- Worship and prayer (10 minutes)
- Debrief last week's practice (20 minutes)
- Scripture and teaching (30 minutes)
- Discussion (20–30 minutes)
- Community practice assignment (10 minutes)
- Closing prayer (5 minutes)

Keep the rhythm predictable so your CG can focus on formation instead of logistics.

The Heart of the Leader

Lead as a fellow disciple rather than a professional instructor.

Model curiosity.

Celebrate faithfulness instead of visible results.

Listen more than you lecture.

Create space for quieter voices.

Pray expectantly for the Holy Spirit to work.

Four Foundational Convictions

1. God is already at work before we arrive.

Read: John 5:17-20. Mission begins with joining God rather than initiating our own plans.

2. Every believer is sent.

Read: John 20:21. Mission belongs to the whole Church, not just specialists.

3. Love earns a hearing.

People are never projects. We love because Christ first loved us.

4. The Holy Spirit is the primary evangelist.

Our responsibility is faithful witness. God changes hearts.

Facilitating Healthy Discussion

Ask open-ended questions.

Draw participants back to Scripture.

Avoid rescuing every silence.

Invite stories before opinions.

Thank people for honest responses, even when they disagree.

Debriefing Community Practices

Always begin with stories:

- What happened?
- Where did you notice God?
- What surprised you?
- What challenged you?
- What would you do differently next time?

Avoid evaluating success by decisions or visible outcomes. Celebrate obedience, compassion, and growth.

Preparing Each Week

Spend time praying through the biblical text before preparing your notes.

Pray by name for each participant.

Complete the week's community practice yourself whenever possible.

Arrive early, welcome warmly, and leave enough margin for meaningful conversations.

Leader Prayer

Father, thank You for inviting ordinary people into Your mission.

Teach us to notice Your work, love our neighbors well, and rely on Your Spirit.

Make our connect group a community that reflects the character of Jesus.

Amen.

Leader Preparation Checklist

- Read the week's Scripture several times.
- Pray for participants by name.
- Review discussion questions.
- Gather any supplies needed.
- Complete the community practice yourself if possible.
- Leave time after the meeting for conversations and prayer.

Ten Week Outline of Sessions

Week 1: Why Mission?

Week 2: Seeing Like Jesus

Week 3: Becoming Good News

Week 4: Listening As Love

Week 5: Sharing Your Story

Week 6: Sharing The Story Of Jesus

Week 7: Hospitality As Mission

Week 8: Serving Your Neighborhood

Week 9: Following The Spirit

Week 10: Living As Sent Ones

Week 1: Why Mission?

These sessions are designed for 90–120 minute gatherings built around learning, practice, reflection, and prayer. Adapt examples to your neighborhood and group.

Leader Preparation

Prayerfully study Genesis 12:1-3; John 20:21; Matthew 28:18-20. Ask the Holy Spirit to apply the passage to your own life before leading others.

Big Idea

God's mission has always been to bless the world through His people.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the central biblical theme.
- Practice one concrete missionary habit.
- Encourage participants to take one faithful next step.

Icebreaker

Share about a neighbor who positively influenced your life.

Teaching Outline

Mission begins with God's heart, not human initiative.

The Church exists because God is sending people into the world.

Every Christian is invited to participate in God's mission.

Leader Notes

Keep teaching conversational. Invite group to share stories rather than providing all the answers yourself. Reinforce that success is measured by faithful obedience.

Discussion Questions

- What stood out in the Scripture?
- How does this challenge our assumptions?
- Where do you already spend time in your neighborhood?
- What fears keep you from engaging people?
- What is one step of obedience this week?

In-Meeting Practice

Pair participants together. Practice asking thoughtful questions, listening well, and praying briefly for one another.

Community Practice

Prayer walk your neighborhood in pairs for 30–45 minutes. Pray blessings, observe, and avoid rushing into conversations unless invited.

Debrief Guide for Next Week

- What happened?
- What surprised you?
- Where did you notice God?
- What felt uncomfortable?
- How can we pray for one another?

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, teach us to see our neighbors through Your eyes. Give us courage to love faithfully and wisdom to recognize where Your Spirit is already at work. Amen.

Week 2: Seeing Like Jesus

Leader Preparation

Prayerfully study Matthew 9:35-38; Luke 19:1-10. Ask the Holy Spirit to apply the passage to your own life before leading others.

Big Idea

Jesus notices people before He ministers to them.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the central biblical theme.
- Practice one concrete missionary habit.
- Encourage participants to take one faithful next step.

Icebreaker

Describe someone who made you feel truly seen. What was unique about them?

Teaching Outline

Compassion begins with paying attention.

Ask God to replace assumptions with curiosity.

Listening is often the first act of love.

Leader Notes

Keep teaching conversational. Invite group to share stories rather than providing all the answers yourself. Reinforce that success is measured by faithful obedience.

Discussion Questions

- What stood out in the Scripture?
- How does this challenge our assumptions?
- Where do you already spend time in your neighborhood?
- What fears keep you from engaging people?
- What is one step of obedience this week?

In-Meeting Practice

Pair participants together. Practice asking thoughtful questions, listening well, and praying briefly for one another.

Community Practice

Spend time in a public place. Observe, pray silently, and begin one natural conversation with genuine curiosity.

Debrief Guide for Next Week

- What happened?
- What surprised you?
- Where did you notice God?
- What felt uncomfortable?
- How can we pray for one another?

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, teach us to see our neighbors through Your eyes. Give us courage to love faithfully and wisdom to recognize where Your Spirit is already at work. Amen.

Week 3: Becoming Good News

Leader Preparation

Prayerfully study Matthew 5:13-16; 1 Peter 2:12. Ask the Holy Spirit to apply the passage to your own life before leading others.

Big Idea

Our character gives credibility to our message.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the central biblical theme.
- Practice one concrete missionary habit.
- Encourage participants to take one faithful next step.

Icebreaker

Share a small act of kindness that changed your day.

Teaching Outline

Jesus calls His followers salt and light.

Ordinary faithfulness points people toward Christ.

Kindness prepares the soil for spiritual conversations.

Leader Notes

Keep teaching conversational. Invite group to share stories rather than providing all the answers yourself. Reinforce that success is measured by faithful obedience.

Discussion Questions

- What stood out in the Scripture?
- How does this challenge our assumptions?
- Where do you already spend time in your neighborhood?
- What fears keep you from engaging people?
- What is one step of obedience this week?

In-Meeting Practice

Pair people together. Practice asking thoughtful questions, listening well, and praying briefly for one another.

Community Practice

Perform one intentional act of generosity or service without expecting recognition.

Debrief Guide for Next Week

- What happened?
- What surprised you?
- Where did you notice God?
- What felt uncomfortable?
- How can we pray for one another?

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, teach us to see our neighbors through Your eyes. Give us courage to love faithfully and wisdom to recognize where Your Spirit is already at work. Amen.

Participant Handout

Weekly Journal Prompts

- Where did I notice God this week?
- Who did I intentionally pray for?
- What conversation encouraged me?
- What challenged me?
- What is my next faithful step?

Week 4: Listening as Love

Leader Preparation

Read and pray through James 1:19; John 4:1-30. Reflect on how this passage has shaped your own life. Pray for discernment, humility, and love for your group.

Big Idea

Listening is one of the clearest expressions of Christlike love.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the biblical principle.
- Practice the skill during the meeting.
- Apply the skill in everyday life during the week.

Icebreaker

Talk about someone who made you feel heard. What did they do? How was their listening unique enough that you noticed it?

Teaching Outline

Jesus asked questions before giving answers.

Listening communicates dignity and creates trust.

Curiosity often opens doors that arguments cannot.

Close the teaching by emphasizing that spiritual growth comes through faithful practice empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Leader Coaching Notes

Model vulnerability. Share one of your own successes or failures related to this week's topic. Encourage honest conversation without embarrassment or pressure.

Discussion Questions

- What did you notice in today's Scripture?
- What challenged or encouraged you?
- Why is this practice difficult?
- What would faithfulness look like this week?
- How can the group pray for you?

In-Meeting Skill Practice

Break into pairs. Practice the week's skill for five minutes each, then switch roles. Invite brief feedback that focuses on encouragement and growth.

Community Practice

Meet someone for coffee and spend most of the conversation asking thoughtful questions and listening deeply.

Debrief Guide for Next Week

- What happened during your practice?
- Where did you sense God at work?
- What surprised you?
- What would you do differently next time?

Closing Prayer

Holy Spirit, teach us to love with our words and our listening. Give us courage to bear witness to Jesus with humility, wisdom, and grace. Amen.

Week 5: Sharing Your Story

Leader Preparation

Read and pray through John 9; Acts 26. Reflect on how this passage has shaped your own life. Pray for discernment, humility, and love for your group.

Big Idea

Your testimony is a witness to God's grace, not a performance.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the biblical principle.
- Practice the skill during the meeting.
- Apply the skill in everyday life during the week.

Icebreaker

Share one life experience that shaped who you are.

Teaching Manuscript Outline

Everyone has a story worth telling.

Keep your testimony centered on Jesus.

Practice a three-minute version that sounds natural.

Close the teaching by emphasizing that spiritual growth comes through faithful practice empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Leader Coaching Notes

Model vulnerability. Share one of your own successes or failures related to this week's topic. Encourage honest conversation without embarrassment or pressure.

Discussion Questions

- What did you notice in today's Scripture?
- What challenged or encouraged you?
- Why is this practice difficult?
- What would faithfulness look like this week?
- How can the group pray for you?

In-Meeting Skill Practice

Break into pairs. Practice the week's skill for five minutes each, then switch roles. Invite brief feedback that focuses on encouragement and growth.

Community Practice

Share your story with one trusted person if the opportunity arises naturally.

Debrief Guide for Next Week

- What happened during your practice?
- Where did you sense God at work?
- What surprised you?
- What would you do differently next time?

Closing Prayer

Holy Spirit, teach us to love with our words and our listening. Give us courage to bear witness to Jesus with humility, wisdom, and grace. Amen.

Week 6: Sharing the Story of Jesus

Leader Preparation

Read and pray through Luke 15; Mark 2:1-12. Reflect on how this passage has shaped your own life. Pray for discernment, humility, and love for your group.

Big Idea

The gospel is the good news that God's Kingdom has come through Jesus.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the biblical principle.
- Practice the skill during the meeting.
- Apply the skill in everyday life during the week.

Icebreaker

Describe a piece of good news you couldn't wait to tell someone.

Teaching Manuscript Outline

Explain creation, brokenness, redemption, and restoration.

Present Jesus as King and Savior.

Invite rather than pressure.

Close the teaching by emphasizing that spiritual growth comes through faithful practice empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Leader Coaching Notes

Model vulnerability. Share one of your own successes or failures related to this week's topic. Encourage honest conversation without embarrassment or pressure.

Discussion Questions

- What did you notice in today's Scripture?
- What challenged or encouraged you?
- Why is this practice difficult?
- What would faithfulness look like this week?
- How can the group pray for you?

In-Meeting Skill Practice

Break into pairs. Practice the week's skill for five minutes each, then switch roles. Invite brief feedback that focuses on encouragement and growth.

Community Practice

Initiate one spiritual conversation by asking about another person's spiritual journey.

Debrief Guide for Next Week

- What happened during your practice?
- Where did you sense God at work?
- What surprised you?
- What would you do differently next time?

Closing Prayer

Holy Spirit, teach us to love with our words and our listening. Give us courage to bear witness to Jesus with humility, wisdom, and grace. Amen.

Leader Resource

Simple Testimony Framework

1. What was life like before?
2. How did Jesus meet you?
3. How is He continuing to transform you?

Conversation Starters

- What's been giving you hope lately?
- Has faith ever been part of your story?
- How can I pray for you?
- What questions do you have about God?

Week 7: Hospitality as Mission

Leader Preparation

Spend time meditating on Luke 14:12-24; Acts 2:42-47. Pray for wisdom to lead with humility, and ask the Holy Spirit to prepare hearts before your group gathers.

Big Idea

The table is one of God's primary places for forming relationships and revealing His Kingdom.

Learning Objectives

- Explore the biblical theme together.
- Practice a concrete expression of mission.
- Develop sustainable rhythms for everyday discipleship.

Icebreaker

Describe a meal you'll never forget and why it mattered.

Teaching Outline

Throughout Scripture, meals become places of welcome, reconciliation, and transformation. Hospitality is making room for others before expecting anything in return. Simple invitations often create meaningful spiritual conversations.

Conclude by connecting the passage to the group's current neighborhood and encouraging practical obedience.

Leader Coaching Notes

Celebrate stories more than statistics. Encourage every participant to contribute. When challenges are shared, respond with prayer rather than quick solutions.

Discussion Questions

- What stood out most in today's Scripture?
- How does this reshape the way we see our neighbors?
- What opportunities might God already be providing?
- What practical step will you take this week?
- How can the group support you in prayer?

In-Meeting Practice

Break into pairs or triads to pray, role-play conversations, or brainstorm practical ways to apply the week's teaching.

Community Practice

Invite a neighbor, coworker, or friend to share a meal, coffee, or dessert. Focus on listening, enjoying one another, and praying beforehand.

Debrief Guide

- What happened?
- Where did you notice God's activity?
- What surprised you?
- What stretched your faith?
- What is your next faithful step?

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, help us remain rooted in You. Fill us with Your Spirit so that our lives, our homes, and our neighborhoods reflect Your love and Your Kingdom. Amen.

Week 8: Serving Your Neighborhood

Leader Preparation

Spend time meditating on Jeremiah 29:4-7; Matthew 25:31-40. Pray for wisdom to lead with humility, and ask the Holy Spirit to prepare hearts before your group gathers.

Big Idea

Seeking the good of the city is part of our witness to the Kingdom of God.

Learning Objectives

- Explore the biblical theme together.
- Practice a concrete expression of mission.
- Develop sustainable rhythms for everyday discipleship.

Icebreaker

Share a time someone served you when you needed it most.

Teaching Outline

God calls His people to bless the places where they live.

Serving demonstrates the gospel before it is explained.

Partnership with local organizations expands the Church's witness.

Conclude by connecting the passage to the group's current neighborhood and encouraging practical obedience.

Leader Coaching Notes

Celebrate stories more than statistics. Encourage every participant to contribute. When challenges are shared, respond with prayer rather than quick solutions.

Discussion Questions

- What stood out most in today's Scripture?
- How does this reshape the way we see our neighbors?
- What opportunities might God already be providing?
- What practical step will you take this week?
- How can the group support you in prayer?

In-Meeting Practice

Break into pairs or triads to pray, role-play conversations, or brainstorm practical ways to apply the week's teaching.

Community Practice

Serve together with a local school, food pantry, neighborhood cleanup, or community ministry.

Debrief Guide

- What happened?
- Where did you notice God's activity?
- What surprised you?
- What stretched your faith?
- What is your next faithful step?
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Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, help us remain rooted in You. Fill us with Your Spirit so that our lives, our homes, and our neighborhoods reflect Your love and Your Kingdom. Amen.

Week 9: Following the Spirit

Leader Preparation

Spend time meditating on Acts 8:26-40; Luke 10:1-9. Pray for wisdom to lead with humility, and ask the Holy Spirit to prepare hearts before your group gathers.

Big Idea

The Holy Spirit guides ordinary believers toward people He is already preparing.

Learning Objectives

- Explore the biblical theme together.
- Practice a concrete expression of mission.
- Develop sustainable rhythms for everyday discipleship.

Icebreaker

Tell about a time an unexpected opportunity changed your plans.

Teaching Outline

Prayer helps us recognize where God is already working.

Look for 'persons of peace' who welcome relationship.

Faith often grows through small acts of courageous obedience.

Conclude by connecting the passage to the group's current neighborhood and encouraging practical obedience.

Leader Coaching Notes

Celebrate stories more than statistics. Encourage every participant to contribute. When challenges are shared, respond with prayer rather than quick solutions.

Discussion Questions

- What stood out most in today's Scripture?
- How does this reshape the way we see our neighbors?
- What opportunities might God already be providing?
- What practical step will you take this week?
- How can the group support you in prayer?

In-Meeting Practice

Break into pairs or triads to pray, role-play conversations, or brainstorm practical ways to apply the week's teaching.

Community Practice

Pray daily for discernment and intentionally respond to one prompting to encourage or care for another person.

Debrief Guide

- What happened?
- Where did you notice God's activity?
- What surprised you?
- What stretched your faith?
- What is your next faithful step?

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, help us remain rooted in You. Fill us with Your Spirit so that our lives, our homes, and our neighborhoods reflect Your love and Your Kingdom. Amen.

Week 10: Living As Sent Ones

Leader Preparation

Spend time meditating on John 15:1-17; Acts 1:8. Pray for wisdom to lead with humility, and ask the Holy Spirit to prepare hearts before your group gathers.

Big Idea

Mission is not a program but a lifelong way of abiding in Christ and blessing others.

Learning Objectives

- Explore the biblical theme together.
- Practice a concrete expression of mission.
- Develop sustainable rhythms for everyday discipleship.

Icebreaker

What has changed most in you during these ten weeks?

Teaching Outline

Abiding in Christ sustains every act of mission.

Healthy rhythms are more sustainable than occasional events.

Celebrate God's faithfulness and commission one another to continue living sent.

Conclude by connecting the passage to the group's current neighborhood and encouraging practical obedience.

Leader Coaching Notes

Celebrate stories more than statistics. Encourage every participant to contribute. When challenges are shared, respond with prayer rather than quick solutions.

Discussion Questions

- What stood out most in today's Scripture?
- How does this reshape the way we see our neighbors?
- What opportunities might God already be providing?
- What practical step will you take this week?
- How can the group support you in prayer?

In-Meeting Practice

Break into pairs or triads to pray, role-play conversations, or brainstorm practical ways to apply the week's teaching.

Community Practice

Share a meal of celebration, tell stories of God's work, write a personal mission plan, and pray commissioning prayers over one another.

Debrief Guide

- What happened?
- Where did you notice God's activity?
- What surprised you?
- What stretched your faith?
- What is your next faithful step?

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, help us remain rooted in You. Fill us with Your Spirit so that our lives, our homes, and our neighborhoods reflect Your love and Your Kingdom. Amen.

Final Celebration & Commissioning

Conclude the ten-week journey with a shared meal. Invite group to tell stories of growth, pray for one another, and identify one ongoing missional rhythm they will continue. Consider commissioning the group by reading John 20:21 and praying over each participant.

Personal Rule of Life Worksheet

- Daily prayer for three neighbors by name.
- Practice one intentional act of hospitality each month.
- Serve regularly in the neighborhood or community.
- Look for opportunities to share your story naturally.

Consider meeting monthly with another believer for encouragement and prayer.

Appendices, Worksheets and Handouts

Session 1: Prayer Walk Guide

Before You Go

Pray for open eyes, compassionate hearts, and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit.

During the Walk

- Walk slowly.
- Observe without judging.
- Pray blessings over homes and businesses.
- Notice evidence of joy and struggle.
- If a conversation begins naturally, listen well.

After the Walk

Record what you noticed, what surprised you, and how God may be inviting you to respond.

Session 2: Noticing People & Asking Thoughtful Questions

Before You Begin

- Compassion begins with paying attention.
- Ask God to replace assumptions with curiosity.
- Listening is often the first act of love.
- Think of your conversation less like an opportunity to teach and more like a curious neighbor who genuinely wants to hear about their life

Easy Conversation Starters

- What has been the highlight of your week so far?
- How long have you lived around here? What do you enjoy most about it?
- What brought you to Los Angeles?
- How do you spend your weekends?
- What's something you're looking forward to this year?
- What's the best spot, restaurant, coffee shop, etc. that you've found recently?

Going Deeper

- What is something you are passionate about?
- What kind of work do you do and what do you enjoy about it?
- What has shaped you into the person you are today?
- What is bringing you the most joy lately?
- What is something that always makes you smile?
- What's the hardest part of this season of life for you?
- Is there anything you've been hoping would change?
- Has faith or spirituality played much of a role in your life?
- What do you think gives life meaning?
- If you could ask God one question, what would it be?

Session 3: Mission Journal

Use one page each week.

Scripture that shaped me this week:

Where did I notice God at work?

Who did I intentionally pray for?

Meaningful conversations:

What challenged me?

What is one step of obedience this week?

Prayer requests:

Session 4: Active Listening Practice

Purpose

One of the greatest gifts we can offer another person is our full attention. This exercise helps us slow down, become curious, and practice listening without trying to fix, teach, or re-direct the conversation.

The Five Minute Listening Challenge

Form groups of three people:

- A speaker
- A listener
- An observer

After each round, rotate roles until everyone has practiced each.

Round One (5 minutes)

Speaker

Choose one of the prompts below and speak for three minutes.

- Tell about a challenge you've overcome.
- Describe someone who has shaped your life.
- Share a place where you feel most at peace.
- What has brought you joy recently?
- What is something you're hoping for this year?

Listener

Your job is to understand.

Do:

- Maintain comfortable eye contact.
- Put away distractions.
- Ask open-ended follow-up questions.
- Reflect back what you heard.
- Allow silence.

Avoid:

- Giving advice.
- Sharing your own story.
- Correcting details.
- Interrupting.
- Thinking about what you'll say next.

Helpful phrases:

- “Tell me more about that.”
- “How did that make you feel?”
- “What happened next?”
- “What was that experience like for you?”
- “It sounds like...”
- “What I’m hearing is...”

Observer

Watch for these behaviors.

- The listener stayed engaged.
- The listener asked curious questions.
- The listener reflected feelings or meaning.
- The listener resisted giving advice.
- The speaker appeared heard and understood.

After three minutes, spend two minutes giving gentle feedback.

Debrief Questions

For the Speaker

- When did you feel most heard?
- What did the listener do that helped?
- Was there anything that interrupted your train of thought?

For the Listener

- What was difficult?
- When were you tempted to tell your own story?
- What helped you stay curious?

For the Observer

- What listening habits stood out?
- What could make the conversation even better?

Session 5: Sharing Your Testimony Worksheet

Develop a three-minute testimony.

Life before I understood Jesus:

How I encountered Jesus:

What has changed because of Jesus:

One sentence that summarizes the good news in my story:

Session 6: Gospel Conversation Guide

Helpful questions:

- What gives you hope?
- Has faith ever been meaningful in your life?
- What do you think Jesus is like?
- How can I pray for you?

Conversation Reminders

- Listen before speaking.
- Ask permission before sharing your perspective.
- Avoid arguments.
- Trust the Holy Spirit with outcomes.

Session 7: Hospitality Planner

Who could I invite this month?

Possible date:

Meal or activity:

How will I pray beforehand?

What follow-up might encourage this relationship?

Session 8: Neighborhood Prayer Map

Draw a simple map of your neighborhood. Mark homes, schools, parks, businesses, and places you visit regularly.

People I know by name:

People I hope to know:

Local leaders to pray for:

Places of brokenness:

Places of beauty and hope:

Session 9: Community Service Planner

Need in the neighborhood:

Potential partners:

Date of service:

Supplies needed:

How did we see God at work?

Session 10: Personal Rule of Life

Create sustainable rhythms for life on mission.

Daily:

Weekly:

Monthly:

Quarterly:

People I am praying for:

Accountability partner:

Leader Handout: Weekly Debrief

- What happened this week?
- What surprised you?
- Where did you experience joy?
- What felt difficult?
- What is God inviting you to do next?
- How can we pray for you today?

Leader Quick Reference

Every session should follow the same rhythm:

- 1) Welcome & fellowship
- 2) Worship & prayer
- 3) Debrief previous practice
- 4) Scripture & discussion
- 5) Skill practice
- 6) Community assignment
- 7) Prayer & blessing