

# **Life Changing Community Group Questions**

**week of 6/28/26**

## **Summary**

This sermon centered on the powerful truth found in Matthew 10:40, where Jesus told His disciples that anyone who welcomed them welcomed Him, and anyone who welcomed Him welcomed the Father. Using the testimony of Pastor Jesse, who struggled with addiction for years before being invited to church by a bus driver named Charlie, Pastor Mark illustrated that when we reach out to others in Jesus' name, we are not acting alone. Jesus Himself is present in that invitation, and the person being invited is truly encountering Jesus through us. Pastor Mark challenged the congregation to embrace their identity as representatives of Christ in the world. Doing kingdom work is not about personal competence but about dependence on God. The call to action is simple and clear: invite one person to church this week. Just as Charlie's persistent, non-judgmental invitation led Jesse to the place where Jesus could find Him, our invitations can do the same. We are commissioned to go and make disciples, to be Jesus to those around us, and to trust that when people come through the doors of the church, Jesus will meet them there.

## **Intro Prayer**

Heavenly Father, we come before you today as a group of people who want to know you more deeply and love others more faithfully. As we open your Word and reflect on what we have heard, we ask that you quiet our hearts and open our minds. Holy Spirit, speak to each of us individually and as a group. Let this time not simply be about exchanging ideas, but about encountering you. Show us where you are calling us to step out in faith, and give us the courage to respond. We surrender our own agendas and ask that your purposes would be accomplished in and through us today. In Jesus' name, amen.

## **Ice Breaker**

Think of a time when someone unexpectedly showed you kindness or went out of their way for you. What did that mean to you, and do you still remember that person's name?

# Key Verses

- Matthew 10:40
- Matthew 4:25
- Philippians 2:6-11
- Matthew 28:19

# Questions

1. Charlie never told Jesse to stop using drugs or change his lifestyle. He simply kept inviting him to church. What does Charlie's approach teach us about how we can share our faith with others without being judgmental or pushy?
2. Pastor Mark suggested that when Charlie invited Jesse to church, that was the moment Jesus found Jesse, based on Matthew 10:40. How does this idea change the way you think about the simple act of inviting someone to church?
3. Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 10:40 (NIV), 'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.' What does it mean to you personally that when you act in Jesus' name, you are representing Him directly?
4. Pastor Mark said that doing kingdom work is not contingent on our competence but on our dependence on God. Where in your own life have you held back from serving or sharing your faith because you felt unqualified? How does this truth speak to that hesitation?
5. Jesus warned His disciples that proclaiming the Good News could lead to rejection and hardship, yet He still commissioned them. How do you personally navigate the fear of rejection when it comes to sharing your faith or inviting someone to church?
6. Jesse's story shows that persistent, loving presence over time can open a door that seemed firmly shut. Is there someone in your life right now who might need that kind of patient, consistent invitation? What has held you back from reaching out to them?

# Life Application

This week, take one concrete step to be Jesus to someone who does not yet know Him. Identify one person in your life, whether a neighbor, coworker, family member, or friend, and invite them to church. You do not need to have all the answers or present a full gospel presentation. Simply extend a warm, genuine invitation and trust that Jesus will meet them when they come. If you feel led, wear a cross or

another visible symbol of your faith as a conversation starter, and be ready to respond with kindness and grace when someone notices. Write that person's name down somewhere you will see it every day this week, and pray for them by name each morning.

## Key Takeaways

- When we act in Jesus' name, we carry His presence with us. According to Matthew 10:40 (NIV), 'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me,' which means our invitations and acts of love are encounters with Jesus Himself.
- Kingdom work depends not on our personal competence or spiritual maturity but on our willingness to be dependent on God. Even the earliest disciples were still learning when Jesus commissioned and trusted them.
- Sharing our faith does not have to be complicated or confrontational. Charlie's simple, repeated, non-judgmental invitation to church was the vehicle through which Jesus found Jesse.
- Followers of Jesus are called to go and make disciples, not simply to wait for people to come to them. We are commissioned to actively seek out those who do not yet know Jesus and bring them to a place where He can find them.
- The truth of Jesus Christ will ultimately be revealed to all, as Philippians 2:10-11 (NIV) promises that 'every knee should bow... and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord.' Living in that confidence frees us to share our faith without fear.

## Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for the reminder today that we are never alone when we step out in your name. You go before us, you walk beside us, and your Spirit speaks through us. We confess that we have sometimes been silent when we could have spoken, and we have stayed when you called us to go. Forgive us, and renew in us a holy boldness rooted in love. As we leave this time together, send us out as your hands and feet into our neighborhoods, our workplaces, and our families. Give us eyes to see the people around us the way you see them, and give us the courage to extend the simple invitation that could change everything. May we be like Charlie to someone who needs a Jesse moment. And may those we invite discover, just as Jesse did, that you were looking for them all along. We pray this together in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.