



Made For More Community Sep 16: One with His Mission

Series Summary: Groups begin with time to connect. We're not just here to sit in a circle. We're here to know others and be known by others. Second, we open our Bibles together. We don't just study information. We want to know and live the Word of God. Third, we open our hands to serve and care for one another. In a small group, everyone matters, and everyone contributes. There is no such thing as a spectator.

Big Idea: We are called to take what we discuss and implement in our groups, and take those practices outside of church walls.

Schedule:

- Live teaching
- Small group

LIVE TEACHING

Series Lead in: We have been discussing several aspects of church community over the first 3 weeks. What we fail to understand most times, is that community is also an aspect of going on mission.

Opening:

- Where do you spend most of your time each week (work, school, home, activities)?
- When you think about those places, do you see them more as routine or a mission field?

REMEMBER THE MISSION

Context Reminder: Jesus is hours from the cross. What does He do? He prays. He prays for himself. He prays for the disciples to know God and for future believers to be united as one. Now, He prays for believers to be one with His mission in the world.

John 17:15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one...

- Jesus doesn't pray for removal. He prays for protection.

Protection from two things:

1. "World" (Greek: kosmos)
 - Sin; the broken system that is opposed to God.
 - Purpose of the Gospel: We live in a world that was broken by sin.
2. "Evil One"
 - Satan: enemy of God and the church (steal, kill, and destroy)
 - We live in a broken world in the midst of spiritual battles.

Jesus knows the disciples are entering a hostile world and that they will face attacks from two "formidable foes": the world and the devil.

- Students face the same thing every day...
- Spiritual warfare: I think it's irresponsible to blame every single thing on the devil, but spiritual warfare is a very real thing.
- The world: Students face social pressures, temptations, lies sold as truth, every single day.

Get This: God's plan is not escape from culture, but endurance within it. His plan is for us to have an impact despite the brokenness of the world.

John 17:16-17 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. 17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

- Our reality has changed for the better! Once we were both in the world and a part of the world.
- Before Jesus, we were contributors to and consumers of the brokenness of the world. But in Christ, things have changed.
- We now live IN the world, but we aren't OF the world. That's why Jesus prays that we would be sanctified - changed by the truth to be made more like Him.

As we grow in our knowledge and application of God's word, He cleans up our lives so that we look and think less and less like the world. He sets us apart from the world and prepares us for ministry to the world.

Game Changer: If you want to be a difference maker in the broken world, it starts with your commitment to know and love the Word of God.

- God will transform your life through His Word by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- You won't subtly drift into holiness, so commit yourself wholly to the Word of God.

Transition: We need to be strengthened and changed by God's Word. Set apart for His work because Jesus doesn't just protect us in the world. He sends us into the world.

SENT OUT INTO THE WORLD

John 17:18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.

- This is when Jesus' mission becomes our mission. We have been both saved by grace, and sent to share God's grace.

I've heard people ask why Jesus doesn't just take us to heaven the moment that we believe? Why doesn't God just "remove us" from this broken world?

- He doesn't remove us because we have work to do.
- He doesn't remove us because the broken world needs us.

Live and Share the Gospel - Together

See Needs and Meet Needs in the Name of Jesus - Together

Can you imagine the difference this group could make together?

- Pray for our lost friends.
- Serve the community to share the Gospel.
- Encourage one another to live as every day missionaries.

Challenge: So often in the gospels we see Jesus go after the unlikeliest of people:

- Tax collectors
- Lepers
- Those caught in sexual sin
- People at the bottom of society
- Outcasts
- My challenge for you...TALK TO, AND INVITE THE "UNLIKELY"

Transition to Groups: This is what Jesus is praying for. He is praying that His people would be one with each other and one with His mission to reach the world. In small groups, we will discuss how we reach the world as a community.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

READ: JOHN 17:15-18 TOGETHER AS A GROUP

1. **Lead-in: Vs 15.** Jesus' prayer was not that we would be taken out of the world, rather quite the opposite. His prayer was that God the Father would protect us from the evil one (satan) while we are in the world.

What then does it look like to be “in the world but not of the world”?

2. **What parts of life are the easiest to blend in with the world instead of living set apart? What do you think it takes to stand out instead of blending in?**

Leader Note: Another way of phrasing this question is “What could you change to stand out when you are tempted to blend in?”

3. **Why would Jesus pray for us to share his mission as one of his 3 main prayers?**

Leader Note: This goes in line with our passage from the message. Feel free to revisit John 17:15-18 for question number 3.

4. **What fears or obstacles tend to keep Christians from living on everyday mission?**

Leader Note: Let the answers come in, and then challenge them with this follow up- “Which of these fears or excuses do you relate to the most and why? Also, feel free to make this part of the prayer time over the group at the end– prayer that students would overcome these fears and obstacles, and to live their faith out boldly.

5. What would it look like for our group to live on mission together? What can we do weekly to support each other in this goal?

Leader Note: Everyone in your group needs to know that it is not only okay but a great idea to bring their lost friends to this small group. Also, this small group can and should be the place where we regularly encourage one another to live out our faith with boldness (Hebrews 10:24).

Pray Out: If there was a student who confessed a fear or obstacle as to why they’re hesitant to live out their faith, then challenge another student to pair up with them and pray with them individually apart from group prayer. Do this with as many students as needed.

- Also pray for an empty spot you see in your room. Pray that students would be bold in inviting lost friends, and that any empty spot would be filled soon.