

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. ***Enjoy discovering more about Him!***

"CM MISSION: OUR SHARED AIM" | JOHN 15: 4-5, 12 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

- What is something you intentionally do or plan each week?

"Love God Completely" John 15: 4-5

Our love of God as believers is evident by the fruit it produces. This doesn't happen from trying harder but from being close to Him.

- What does it mean to have God at the center of our lives instead of just a part of our lives?
- What kind of fruit is produced by centering on God?

"Love People Authentically" John 15: 12

Jesus calls His followers to love one another as He loved them.

- How would you describe the way Christ loved people?
- Who is someone in your life that seems to love like Christ loves?

"Make Disciples Globally" Acts 1:8

Jesus promises His followers will receive power from the Holy Spirit to be His witnesses both locally and globally.

- How is testifying to what Jesus has done in your life different than trying to have all the answers?
- What relationships in your life helped you mature in your faith in Jesus?

"One Mission, Not Three Unrelated Programs"

The mission moves outward: God transforms hearts, His love flows into relationships, and these become paths for disciple-making.

- What are barriers for people that keep them from embracing this mission for our church?

REFLECTION AND APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

Our mission from Jesus is become wholehearted lovers of God who genuinely love people and intentionally help make disciples everywhere. This mission gives our church direction, and we each have a part to play in it.

- How are you intentionally drawing near to God each week?
- Who are you intentionally loving each week?
- Who are you intentionally helping to follow Jesus each week?
- Ask God to fill you with His love so you may love others in a way that brings Him glory.

2 Mission: Our Shared Aim

9-13-26

One Mission, Every Disciple

I. Announce:

- A. Welcome to those watching online.
- B. Slide1-6 AP: Men's. FHC. At Risk. Baptism. Food Drive. Fraud/Scam Prevention Seminar.
- C. Slide7 Memorial for Paul Ryan (Micah/usher Father). This Sat, Sept 19th, 11 AM.
- D. Slide8 Prayer: Draw our hearts close to You and uncover every area we have *withheld* from Your loving rule in our lives. May we offer our whole lives as worship.

II. Slide9 Intro: One Mission, Every Disciple [pick up a brochure in foyer on tables]

- A. Big idea: Our mission is to become: wholehearted lovers of God who genuinely love people and intentionally help make disciples everywhere.
- B. Sermon purpose: To move us from just agreeing with its *biblical mandate*, to actively embracing *its shared mission*. [To Live the Great commandment & Fulfill the Great Commission]
- C. Slide10 Activity is not the same as mission
- D. Churches can be very busy: We hold services, conduct meetings, organize events, teach classes, maintain buildings, and fill calendars. Many of these activities are valuable, but activity alone does not mean we are accomplishing our mission.
 1. See a person can run very hard ... *in the wrong direction*.
 2. *So a Mission gives our activity Direction! It helps us decide: What deserves our attention. How we invest our resources. What kinds of ministries we develop. What we celebrate. What we are willing to change. What fruit we hope to see.
- E. Last week, we considered our biblical mandate: To live the Great Commandment and fulfill the Great Commission. [That is what Jesus has commanded]
- F. Our mission now describes the shared aim that grows from those commands:
 1. To love God completely. To love people authentically. To make disciples globally.

2. This mission is not merely *an organizational statement*. It describes the life of a disciple. It is not only what our church does when we gather. It is what we are called to pursue *wherever God sends us*.

III. Slide 11a 1. LOVE GOD COMPLETELY

A. **John 15:4-5**. 4 Abide/remain in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

B. The Christian life begins and continues through *a living relationship* with Jesus.

1. Before Jesus calls us to accomplish anything **for Him**, He calls us to remain **in Him**.

C. **Mission Begins with Relationship**

1. Our mission **does not begin** with *loving people better or working harder*. It begins with God.
2. I am not a dendrologist, but I know a branch **does not** produce fruit **by trying harder**. It bears fruit by **remaining connected** to its source of life.
3. Loving God completely means that Jesus is not simply *attached* to our lives. **He becomes the center of our lives**.

D. **What does “completely” mean?**

E. **To love God completely** means bringing every part of life under His loving rule:
Our thoughts. Our affections. Our relationships. Our bodies. Our work.
Our recreation. Our finances. Our ambitions. Our time. Our private decisions.
Our public behavior.

1. We sometimes divide life into sacred and secular categories. **But Jesus** does not ask for one section of our lives. **He** calls us to follow Him with the whole of our lives.

F. **Slide 11b Romans 12:1** Paul says to, **present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.**

1. **Worship** is more than singing. Worship is the offering of our whole selves to God. Like when we: *Tell the truth at work. Forgive someone who has hurt us. Use our resources generously. Refuse temptation. Care for our families. Serve when no one notices. Make decisions that honor Christ. Sing to God with sincere affection.*

a) **Loving God completely** means that **worship** becomes a way of life.

G. A necessary clarification

H. **Loving God completely** does not mean that every believer will love Him *perfectly*.

1. Our love will continue to mature. We will experience *distractions, struggles, and divided affections*. **Complete** love describes the **direction and surrender** of our lives, not a claim of *sinless perfection*.

2. When we **fail**, we do not run *away from Christ*. We return **to Him**.

I. When we **remain in Christ**, His life begins to produce visible fruit in us. One of the clearest expressions of that fruit is ... *the way we love people* ...

IV. Slide12a **2. LOVE PEOPLE AUTHENTICALLY**

A. **John 15:12**. Jesus said, *This is my command: Love one another as I have loved you.*

1. Jesus does not leave us to define love according to our preferences. **He** gives us a pattern: *As I have loved you.*

a) We understand authentic love by looking at **Jesus**.

B. Slide12b **The pattern of Christ's love**

1. **Jesus loved people:** *Personally. Compassionately. Truthfully. Patiently. Sacrificially. Graciously. Intentionally.*

a) He **welcomed people** others *ignored*. He **touched people** others *avoided*. He **listened to people** others *dismissed*.

2. **He also spoke truth, confronted sin, called people to repentance, and invited them to follow Him.**

C. **What does “authentically” mean?**

1. Authentic love is more than politeness or the appearance of kindness.
 Slide12c *Authentic love is genuine love that seeks another person's good
 2. It moves beyond: "How are you?" w/o wanting an honest answer.
 "I'll pray for you" w/o ever praying. Friendly conversation w/o meaningful relationship. Knowing about someone w/o truly knowing them. Offering advice w/o first listening. Saying we care w/o becoming involved.
- a) Authentic love is willing to **be present**.

D. Authentic love is visible

- E. 1 John 3:18 says, Let us not love in word or talk but in **deed** and in **truth**.
1. Words matter, **but** love must eventually become **visible**.
 2. Authentic love might look like: *Listening without rushing. Sharing a meal. Bearing someone's burden. Giving generously. Offering practical help. Grieving with someone. Celebrating another person's joy. Or extending forgiveness.*

F. Authentic love is not mere agreement

1. Loving someone **does not** require affirming every belief, decision, or behavior. **Jesus** loved people enough **to receive them with grace and call them toward truth**.
2. **Truth** without **love** can become harsh - **Love** without **truth** can become sentimental. Authentic Christian love holds **grace** and **truth** together **because** it wants what is genuinely good for the other person.

G. Authentic love crosses barriers

1. It is relatively easy to love people who: Think like us. Look like us. Appreciate us. Agree with us. Make us comfortable. Can offer something in return. - **But** the love of **Christ** **moves beyond** those boundaries.
2. Authentic love reaches toward: *The lonely. The overlooked. The difficult. The hurting. The poor. The powerful. The outsider. The person from another culture. The person with whom we disagree.*

- a) **The church** should be one of the few communities in which people who would **not** naturally be together - **become Family** because of **Jesus!**

H. **Slide12d John 13:35**. Jesus says, **By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.**

1. The way we love one another gives **credibility** to what we **say** about **Jesus**. - The church's witness is not limited to what happens from a pulpit. **Our life together** preaches a message.
2. When people see **forgiveness** where *bitterness* would be expected, **generosity** where *selfishness* is normal, **and unity** across natural *divisions*, they receive a picture of the gospel.

I. Authentic love does not merely *express concern*; it **enters** another person's life with grace and truth.

J. **So far** if we **remain in Christ**, His life begins to produce visible fruit in us. If we love people authentically, we will care about their entire lives - *including their relationship with God*.

1. We **do not** make disciples because people are **projects**. We make disciples because people are **precious to God**.

V. **Slide13a 3. MAKE DISCIPLES GLOBALLY**

A. **Acts 1:8**. Before His ascension, Jesus tells His disciples: **But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**

1. **Jesus** gives His people a mission larger than *their natural ability*. Therefore, **He** gives them **the power of the Holy Spirit**.
2. This is **Jesus's last command**. W/o another word. W/o further discussion. **He** ascended into heaven to await his followers **complete obedience** to it
3. **Jesus** left us to be His **witnesses**: **So if the gospel fits: wear it, own it, live it, give it, share it.*

B. **Slide13b We are Witnesses**

1. A witness tells what he or she has seen and knows.
2. Christians are not called to pretend that we have every answer. We are called to testify faithfully about Jesus: Who He is. What He has done. How He saves. How His grace has changed us. What He has promised.
 - a) Our personal stories are valuable, but the center of our witness is Jesus, not ourselves. We are not the good news, Jesus is.

C. What does it mean to make disciples?

1. Disciple-making is more than securing a decision or invitation response.
2. It involves helping people: **Hear the good news of Jesus. Repent and believe. Publicly identify with Christ. Learn His Word. Obey His commands. Grow in His character. Participate in His church. Use their gifts in ministry. Help others follow Jesus.**
3. We are not simply trying to produce more church attendees. We are praying and working for mature followers of Jesus.

D. Disciple-making is relational

1. Most disciples are formed through **ordinary, repeated relationships.**
2. Disciple-making can happen: Across a kitchen table. During a lunch break. In a small group. Between a parent and child. Through a mentoring relationship. In a Bible study. During a hospital visit. In a conversation with a neighbor. On a mission trip. Through the planting of a local church.
3. Programs can support disciple-making, but programs cannot replace personal investment.

E. Slide 13c **2 Timothy 2:2**. Paul tells Timothy, What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

1. 4 generations appear in this verse: Paul>Timothy>Faithful people>others whom they will teach. [Biblical disciple-making is reproductive].
 - a) We have not fully taught someone to follow Jesus until we are also helping that person help someone else follow Jesus.

F. Why “globally”?

1. Acts 1:8 describes an expanding witness: *Jerusalem. Judea. Samaria. The ends of the earth.*
2. The mission begins where the disciples are, *but it does not end there.*
3. **Globally** means that we care about *every person and every people group because Jesus* is worthy of *worship* from **every nation**.
4. Our impact, no matter where we live in this world, is to be **both Local** (where you are) & **International** (*to the end of the earth*).
 - a) My fear is that if we see *Murrieta* as our *Jerusalem*, there will always be people that need salvation here, *and* will never get outside of our city.
 - b) *We can become so globally minded that were of no locally good.*
We can become so locally minded that we are no globally good.

G. *Slide 13d* **Revelation 7:9** gives us a picture of the future: *a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.*

1. God's global **mission** leads to *God's global worship.*

H. Every disciple is called to participate in making disciples, *from our nearest relationships to the nations of the world.*

VI. *Slide 14a* **4. ONE MISSION, NOT THREE UNRELATED PROGRAMS**

A. Our mission contains **3 statements**, *but* it describes **1 integrated life**.

1. **Loving God is the source** - We remain in *Christ*, receive *His* love, and surrender every part of our lives to *Him*.
2. **Loving people is the evidence** - Christ's love becomes visible through *genuine relationships, sacrificial service, grace, and truth.*
3. **Making disciples is the multiplication** - We help people trust, follow and get 1 step closer to *Jesus*, & equipping them to help others do the same.

- B. **The mission moves outward:** **God** transforms our hearts. His love flows through **our relationships**. Those relationships become pathways for **disciple-making**. Disciples **multiply** locally and globally.
- C. **We can use 3 simple questions each week:** [a practical weekly rhythm]
Sermon Cliff Notes:
1. **Slide14b Abide** - How am I intentionally drawing near to God?
 2. **Love** - Whom am I intentionally loving?
 3. **Multiply** - Whom am I intentionally helping follow Jesus?
- D. **Slide14c Our mission is ambitious:** To love **God** completely. To love **people** authentically. To make **disciples** globally.
1. The question is **not** simply: **Does our church have a good mission statement?** The question **is**: **Will this mission increasingly **describe us**?**
 - a) Will it describe our homes? Will it shape our calendars? Will it guide our spending? Will it affect our relationships? Will it reach our neighborhoods? Will it take us to the nations?
- E. **CM, Let's Love God** with our whole life. **Let's Love someone** in a genuine and visible way. **Let's Help someone** take a step toward Jesus.
- F. **Prayer:** Lord, may we offer **our whole lives** as **worship**. Please fill us with **genuine love** for the people around us. **Help us listen carefully, serve sacrificially, speak truth graciously, **and** cross the barriers that separate us.**
- G. Keywords: Love, Mission, Disciple.