

LIFE Group Discussion Questions

John 20:19-22; Acts 1:8

Week of February 14-20, 2010

Summary: We are missionaries. All of us. Really. Christ's first message to his disciples after his resurrection (John 20:19-22), and his last words to them at his departure (Acts 1:8) make it clear that our identity and role are both defined by our "sentness." We go with the Gospel *wherever we are*, here in Cincinnati and to the ends of the earth. So many times, though, the everyday Christian relegates mission work to the so-called "professional in the field." Rubbish. We must adopt the missionary mentality individually and corporately. Thus, the church becomes an equipping and sending agency. This does not devalue the role of the traditional "missionary," but rather enhances our appreciation and desire to support them and to learn from them by applying the lessons they learn in our own context.

Discussion Questions

These questions do not to be covered exhaustively; rather, they are meant as a guide to further exploration on the various applications and observations from the text, so use what is most helpful for your group context.

1. Read John 20:19-22 and Acts 1:8. Recap what they say about our identity *and* our power source for accomplishing the mission. What does it look like to rely on the Spirit's power as we *go*?
2. On a scale of 0 to 10, rate your missionary mentality. 0 means you have no thoughts of your "sentness" to your sphere of influence; 10 means you think of it and behave accordingly all the time. What would it look like for you to push that number up significantly? Brainstorm as a group.
3. Continuing on question 2, endeavor to change one thing this next week – one thought or behavior – that would encourage you to live out your missionary calling. Here are some ideas:
 - Ask questions and take an interest in people and their stories
 - Listen/seek to understand before I speak
 - Expect God to give me opportunities for sharing my hope and boldly seize them
 - Pray specifically for individuals in my sphere of influence
 - Ask someone how I can pray for them
 - _____ (you fill in the blank)
4. In what specific ways has NCCC or another church served as an equipping or sending agency for you? How can that be improved upon?
5. How does viewing ourselves as missionaries devalue OR elevate our appreciation of *vocational* missionaries (the people on our display board)?
6. Faith Promise is upon us! We'll be collecting cards on Feb. 28 and March 7. Spend some time praying for our goal of 50K to be given in "pledges," understanding this is giving above and beyond our General Fund commitments. Does anyone have a story to share of God's provision either in a previous Faith Promise campaign, or at any point when you've trusted God with finances?

Rabbit Trail of the Week: Are short-term mission trips beneficial or harmful? Why spend all the money getting overseas when it could be invested in other ways, and perhaps just gifted to indigenous leaders?