

# **Mission's Sunday**

## *Mission's Sunday (October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020)*

### PREPARATION

- Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
- If you missed it, watch the sermon online [HERE](#).
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- You **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.
- Review the learning objective to focus the conversation, read the primary scriptures as a group, summarize the main points, ask the questions, and use supporting texts to enhance the concepts.

### DISCUSSION

#### **Opening Prayer:** (1-2 minutes)

*In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's a suggestion of how your group can invite God into your time together.*

Thank the Father for loving us so much that He came to us in the person of Jesus to sacrifice Himself on our behalf while we were still sinners! Pray that as we navigate the chaotic waters of our cultural moment that we would humbly listen and obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit as we seek to love one another, just as you have loved us! Pray that the Holy Spirit would give us the words to speak, show us opportunities to serve our neighbors, and continue to transform us into the likeness of Jesus so that we might lay down our lives for one another and experience abundant life as your kingdom representatives!

#### **Discussion:** (45-60 minutes)

#### What's Going on This Week

This Sunday, Pastor Vance and Pastor Mark led us into our *Missions Sunday*. Pastor Vance brought us a closer look into how you might be able to get involved in our local mission's outreach by sharing about his vision for the Neighborhood Resource Center! Pastor Mark built on this message and spoke about how our 3Crosses family is a Great Commission church after sharing how our support continues to extend into the countries of the world during this Coronavirus season! We as a church are challenged to pray about what God may have for us in this next season and continue to praise Him for the amazing ways the gospel continues to spread through the Holy Spirit

**“The Great Commission is the Great Adventure every soul longs for – and it leads to Great Joy!”**

**– Pastor Mark Teyler**

#### Suggested Questions



**Check-In:** *Icebreaker* – Share an experience where you have sensed the Lord’s calling in your life!

**Study Tip:** This week, Pastor Mark makes the claim that the Great Commission is the Great Adventure every soul longs for and leads to Great Joy! Here is a question: *How could anyone make this claim if tradition tells us that the Great Commission led to the [brutal deaths of many of the apostles](#)?* In order to answer this, we have to understand what it means to be human in this world! In the opening pages of Genesis, we learn that being human means being created in the image of God. Physically, we are molded into the likeness of God from the dust of the earth. Spiritually, we are also breathed into being by God (Gen. 2:7). Moreover, humans are given a purpose on this earth; to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, subdue it, and experience a relationship with God (Gen. 1:26-28)! These are the various ways humans are freely and consciously designed to reflect the image of God! *How does this make the Great Commission the one thing all of our souls long for?* When sin came into the world, everything changed. Physical death. Spiritual captivity. Fruitlessness. Pain in Multiplication. Relentless toil in labor. Abuse of power. A separation from God. However, we soon discover that we were physically molded in a way that would give us language to understand the incarnation of Jesus, who gave up his body in love. We discover that we were created spiritually to comprehend the Holy Spirit of God, who was creating things new in the beginning and continues to create things new until the end. We discover that Jesus’ ministry was fruitful, he multiplied the kingdom of God, he filled the earth with God’s glory, he truly subdued the earth marked by sin. Jesus freely and consciously obeyed the Father every step of the way! Jesus, the true image of God (Col. 1:15, 3:10, Heb. 1:3), shows us how humans were always designed to live and gives us the power of the Holy Spirit to do the same! As you read this study guide, consider how you are called to offer your physical body as a living sacrifice. Consider how the Holy Spirit is stirring you to spread His glory through your creative imagination. Consider how the gospel message is the kingdom way to freely and consciously be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth with God’s glory, subdue the curse of sin, and experience a relationship with God! This is who you were meant to be!

**Objective #1: Identify any personal calling God may be placing on your heart as you reflect on what’s next!**

*Primary Texts: Genesis 12:1-3; Leviticus 19:33-34; John 3:1-18*– Pastor Vance begins his portion of the sermon by reflecting on how before this COVID-19 season, he was continually asking God to reveal what is next for his life. In response, God led him to what is next for the church and how he could be included. **When you ask yourself what is next for you in this season, where do you believe God is leading you and why? How do you think the desires of your heart for what is next align with the rest of the church?**

**Objective #2: Identify your call to ministry in our East Bay community!**

*Primary Texts: Matthew 20:20-28; Acts 2:42-47; Ephesians 3:14-21; Proverbs 31:8-9* – Pastor Vance continues by sharing his passion for our neighbors in the East Bay Area. He challenges us to engage in what he calls servant evangelism so that others might be able to experience the love of Jesus through our words and our deeds! **What do you see in these texts of scripture that are beautiful and/or challenging to you? What is one way that you can adhere to these verses and seek to love the community inside and outside of the church?**

**Objective #3: Select key lessons from our overseas partners and reflect on how they inspire you to action!**

*Primary Texts: Mark 16:14-20; Hebrews 12:1-2; Revelation 7:9-17* – Finally, Pastor Mark concludes by sharing several stories about our overseas partners and how people have found great joy in the great adventure that is the Great Commission! **What were some of the stories from our overseas partners that inspired you the most? Why do you believe their story inspired you and what might that be saying about your own call towards this great adventure? How can we as a group continue to encourage you to step into the Great Commission?**

**Closing Prayer:** (5-10 minutes)

*In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's some suggestions of what your group could talk about with God in prayer.*

Thank our Heavenly Father for revealing His love through his selfless life and his sacrificial death on the cross! Ask that the Holy Spirit would continue to equip us to live, love, and forgive like Jesus in the various hardships and situations we face daily. Finally, pray that we as a church would unite as a people who are *known by* our love for one another as we humbly interact with the church and our surrounding community under the banner of One Kingdom!

### **THROUGHOUT THE WEEK**

**-Stay up to date with Coronavirus Ministry Opportunities:** Help us out by pointing the people in your Community Group to [3Crosses.org/coronavirus](https://3crosses.org/coronavirus). If you or anyone in your group is looking to serve food in our pantry, access spiritual care, or seek financial assistance, you can find all you need at [3Crosses.org/neighborhood](https://3crosses.org/neighborhood)

**- Find out how to pray for two people in your group this week!** Pray that the members of your group would find a way to bring God's kingdom to the place in which they live this week!

**-Community Group Fall 2020:** For more information about joining a group, leading a group, or general inquiries, contact AJ at [avanegas@3crosses.org](mailto:avanegas@3crosses.org)