

# Everyday Everywhere Missionaries Throughout History



## Big Idea:

Laying Down our fears can help us move forward as missionaries

## Opening Questions:

Share the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word “missionary”.

In this series we hope to reclaim the word “missionary” and help followers of Jesus to see their calling as living out the mission of Jesus; making disciples in their everyday community.

**Series verse:** *Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you. And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”* John 20:21

The resurrected Christ stood among his disciples and said that he was sending them. Sending them to continue his mission of making disciples. That same call lives on through all who follow Jesus.

1. Are you familiar with any famous missionaries? If so, who?

*“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”* Matthew 28:18-20

2. The verse above is often referred to as the great commission – or a co-mission between us and Jesus. How does it make you feel to be on co-mission with Jesus?

Because Jesus shares the great co-mission with broken, fallible human beings; sometimes our motives get distorted and the mission comes across as unloving or even hurtful. Some examples of mission gone awry are the Crusades in the Middle Ages that were mostly about land acquisition or political power, or modern-day people holding signs on the street corner that feel out of touch or impersonal.

3. What negative things have you seen done in the effort of living as missionaries and making disciples?

Many of us have reservations or even fears about living as missionaries. Here are three common fears:

- **Living as a missionary feels ick** - ick is defined as uncomfortable, awkward or weird
- **Living as a missionary feels wrong** – it is wrong to push our beliefs on others
- **Living as a missionary feels isolating** –losing our creditability with others

4. Which one of the above fears or reservations do you most relate to and why?

We can push through our fears in these ways:

### **Understand our Calling**

**READ** 1 Corinthians 3:5-7

5. What specifics can we learn about our calling as missionaries from this passage?

### **Right Size our Expectations**

**READ** Mark 4:3-8

6. What specifics do we learn about people from this passage? How does this learning impact our missionary living?

### **Make Love our Motive**

**READ**

*By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.* John 13:35

7. What motives (other than love) can get us on the wrong track when it comes to missionary living?

## **MICRO GROUP**

Get into smaller micro-groups of 3 or 4 for the remainder of this discussion guide. Keep these same micro groups throughout this series.

8. What negative feelings do you have about living as a missionary? What are your biggest fears?
9. On Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> we will have a commissioning service for those who have chosen to live as missionaries. Do you feel ready for commissioning? Why or why not?

Pray for each other and our calling as missionaries.

## **H2O – Habits to Outcome**

Spiritual habits (Bible engagement, prayer, community, journaling, serving, sabbath, silence and solitude, etc.) help us to encounter Jesus. Every encounter with Jesus has the potential for **Character Transformation\*** and **Calling Activation\***. This series will focus on the spiritual habit of **Prayer**.

### **Challenge:**

Pray this week, giving your biggest fears about living as a missionary to God

\***Character Transformation** means that your character is demonstrating the fruits of the Spirit as you become more like Jesus. (Galatians 5:22-23)

\***Calling Activation** means that you are living out your primary calling as a disciple maker. (Matthew 28:19-20)