



I LOVE MY CONNECT

STUDY 2

Vision Sunday – On Mission

Ezra 9:8-9 (NKJV), Matthew 28:18-20, Colossians 1:16-20

When I was a kid in our little home church there was a mural on the wall that I used to get fascinated with. In every sermon for years I used to read this. It was pictures of wheat fields, and it just said “Pray. Give. Go. The fields are white for harvest.” This framed my initial thinking of missions. I would stare at it and ask myself, “What does that mean?” And I think it is still a question that a lot of people ask and don’t know the real answer to. I guess the word “go” is the deceptive word because automatically we think we have to go somewhere else. It is a great thing to be thinking, “I **do** go” and “What do I take with me when I go?” That is when we realise everyone **goes** somewhere and the cause of Christ is a perfect fit for wherever we go.

I think that the greatest invitation that has woven its way down through history is that of Christ entering our lives and then our lives entering his. “The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood” (*Jn 1:14 Msg*). We all have our individual neighbourhoods. I think that is the breadth of the mission – the church collective doing great things and us as individuals, sometimes with no audience, with no-one but Christ and the Holy Spirit, alongside us and in us, prompting us. That is really the mandate and mission of the church – that we make real and known to those around us this glimpse of heaven that we see.

Brian & Bobbie

CONNECTION AND ACTION Use these questions to promote conversation and connection.

- Q:** What have you done with your “Missio Dei” gift?
- Q:** What aspects of the Vision presentation stood out to you? How did it impact you?
- Q:** How is your story weaving into the story of God’s mission to a broken world?
- Q:** What is God’s mission in your life? How does it relate to his mission in the world?
- Q:** How do you think the idea of being “On Mission” can be applied to your life this year?
(**Hint:** It might be helpful to think of the things that make up our lives – family, church, giving, work, neighbours, friends, etc).
- Q:** How can your work, career or vocation be included in living “on mission”?
- Q:** “Everyone has something to give to planet earth that no-one else can.” What do you think of this quote from the presentation?

What do you think you can bring that no-one else can? What are you doing to cultivate and release that? (**Leaders Tip:** This is a good question to get people to do in pairs).

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BIBLE AND BELIEF Use these questions and scriptures to help believers develop a biblical worldview.

Read: Matt 28:18-20, Col 1:16-20

- Q.** We are used to the idea of us as people, or the church, having a mission. But what do you think of the idea that God himself has a mission?
- Q.** What does the Bible tell us God's mission is? (*Hint: God's outreach into a broken world*).
- Q.** "The Bible is fundamentally a story." What story is the Bible telling? What are its key moments, themes and characters?
- Q.** How does seeing God's mission as a story help us find meaning for our own lives? (*Hint: we see that our own story forms a part of his overarching, cosmic story*).
- Q.** "God's mission is much broader than evangelism" What do you think of this quote from the presentation? (*Hint: The mission of God extends from individual salvation, to solving the strife of nations, and ultimately the redemption of creation*).

GROWING LEADERSHIP Use these questions to help people in your group grow as leaders.

- Q:** What aspects of the Vision presentation stood out to you?
- Q:** How do the personal, vocational and church dimensions of our lives fit together as we live "on mission"?
- Q:** How can the story of God's mission fuel growth in your leadership this year?
- Q:** Consequently, what are your next steps as a leader?

Strategising

Spend time with your leaders coming up with plans for the following:

- Seeing people meet Jesus
- Raising and developing leaders
- Growing and multiplying connect groups
- Nation builders giving

PRAY TOGETHER

- A year of GROWTH & OVERFLOW in our lives and church
- People to find their place in our church in 2013
- Nation Builders Faith Goal