

The Need To Reach Out

Luke 9:57-10:3

Pastor Paul Springer

Personal Connection (25 minutes)

Icebreaker

Have you ever taken on something that seemed to be more than you can handle? The old saying goes, “When the going gets tough, the tough get going.” But if we’re honest, that’s usually easier said than done. Briefly discuss with the group some of your experiences.

Q. How did you overcome the challenge?

Q. Where did you find your source of strength?

Review Last Sunday’s *What Now?*

Last week we discussed missed opportunities that we had to reach our neighbors. We committed to reaching out to someone this past week and meeting a need for them.

Q. Were you able to make a connection last week by meeting a need for someone?

Q. In meeting that need, did you do it on your own strength, or did you prayerfully submit to God’s plan?

Ups and Downs

How did it go last week? Share with the group some of your highs and lows, and offer praise to God for the doors that he has opened.

Sharing Christ

Q. Did you have an opportunity to share Christ with someone this week?

Q. Could meeting a need for someone open up a door to share Christ with them? What might this look like, or how could we point them to Christ in our service to their need?

Praying for each other

Reflect on the questions above and share with the group. Take some time now and appoint someone in the group to pray for spiritual strength and guidance to grow in areas of vulnerability.

Digging Deeper (25 minutes)

This Week’s Key Concept:

The need for evangelism is not primarily about the lost, but rather the God that they are lost from.

Read Luke 9:57-10:3

Note: In Luke 9:60 and 62, Jesus talks about the kingdom of God. This involves Christ's authority and rule, the benefits his people experience under his rule, and is best displayed currently in his church.

Q. How does Jesus' focus on the kingdom of God help us understand our calling to reach out to love our neighbors? What changes do you think we might need to make to become more kingdom focused in our outreach?

Note: In Luke 9:59-61, Jesus hears a lot of excuses.

Q. What excuses have you used, to avoid God's call of sharing Christ with others? Remember, your LIFE Group members are not that different from you, and all share in making excuses.

Discuss: please re-read Luke 9:61-62. In your journey of faith, it is normal to look at your old life, and think, "I need to do this, or fix this." But truthfully, going forward **with** Christ, will not only fix the things you "look-back" on, but reach out to others, too. It accomplishes both!

Note: In Luke 10:1-3, Jesus tells his followers to go out in pairs ahead of him, and share the good news: "The harvest is huge, but there are few workers; pray for more workers to take part in the harvest. Remember, you will be considered as sheep amongst wolves."

Q. Have you ever witnessed to someone who has never heard about God?

Q. Have you ever felt like a lamb amongst a pack of wolves? Share your experience.

Q. We are to go out in pairs to collect the harvest. Who's your partner(s)? Prayerfully consider, who your partner(s) could be.

Impact Questions

Q. Did Sunday's sermon help you to better see why your participation is vital to the growth of God's kingdom?

Q. What was your favorite part of Sunday's sermon?

What now? (20 minutes)

This week, pray for God's placement in a harvest, and for a partner to share the harvest with you.

Q. Has God already revealed your harvest placement?

You are called to take up your cross and follow Christ, but that is not always easy. There are comforts you may need to part with, and excuses you may try to use, to avoid this calling. But, consider this: who has the greater comfort loss? The one who follows Christ and gives up some worldly needs, or the lost soul that leaves this world, never knowing Christ's love and sacrifice? This calling of yours to share Christ was never meant for you to do alone. You have your committed brothers and sisters in Christ, who are taking the same steps in evangelism. And, more importantly, you have the Holy Spirit, prompting you and using you as his messenger. Pray and Go!!

Closing Prayer (15 minutes)

Please share your prayer requests and praises, so that your LIFE Group may lift you up, in neighborly affection.

Please pray for expanding Christ's Kingdom through your relationships, in our congregation, to the community, and in distant places.