

The Call To Reach Out

Psalm 96:1-10, Matthew 28:16-20

Pastor Paul Springer

Personal Connection (25 minutes)

Icebreaker

When words are not enough, music can emote what we are unable to speak. Music is powerful in so many ways, and sometimes, our memories can be tied to certain songs.

Q. Think of a specific time in your life that you listened to a piece of music and it impacted you. What was the song? How did it make you feel? When you hear it now, does it bring back a particular memory?

Review Last Sunday's *What Now?*

Last week we discussed our need to break out of our spiritual bubble, and get out of our comfort zone.

Q. Were you able to experience the joy of sharing Christ with someone this week?

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

We often think of prayer when it comes to “preparing to share Christ” and leading people to pray to receive Christ.

Q. How could worship in song be used to prepare for and be a part of sharing Christ?

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 for growing in areas of vulnerability.

Digging Deeper (25 minutes)

This Week's Key Concept:

Worship is the ultimate goal of the church. Missions exist because worship doesn't.

Read Psalm 96:1-10

In this passage of the Psalms, the writer sings out his praises to God because he is overwhelmed by all that God has done. When we reflect on God's goodness in our lives, the natural response is to want to tell others about what he has done. The call is to create worshippers, not just “knowers” of Jesus Christ.

Q. When was the last time you viewed singing as evangelism?

Q. While singing, has your heart ever been overwhelmed by the Holy Spirit? Did the fruit of the Holy Spirit, present in worship, inspire you to share Christ with anyone?

Q. While in the state of worship, did you feel equipped to share Christ?

Read Matthew 28:16-20

We are all in different places in our faith due to our life circumstances, and our individual characteristics. But that division in faith is seen in two categories: worshippers and doubters. Regardless of whether you are a worshipper or a doubter, it is still the Lord's call to make us disciples.

Q. Have you ever had a situation in your life, where you saw God's hand at work in your life, but still had doubts?

Consider this: when someone is dying or leaving us, their last words are of great importance. Jesus left the disciples with one last set of instructions: they were under his authority, they were to make disciples of all nations, and they were to baptize and teach the new disciples to obey Jesus Christ. Their mission was worldwide. The forgiveness that comes from Christ's death can be offered to anyone, anywhere, anytime.

Q. Have you ever had the privilege of witnessing to someone, and seeing them accept Christ as their personal Savior? What happened after? Were you able to disciple them further into their walk with Christ?

Note: Evangelism is good; it is part of making disciples of Jesus Christ. Church planting is also good; it is a result of making disciples in Jesus Christ. But *making disciples* among all peoples, both locally and globally, is the ultimate goal. As people become saved in Christ, they become baptized and we can teach them what Jesus commands, written within the Word, and equip them to reach out and disciple others.

Impact Questions

Q. How do the scripture passages in Psalms and Matthew relate? In other words, what is the connection between worship and discipleship, between worshipers and disciples?

Q. How can you apply a worshipful heart to your daily life? How do you think this will impact those around you?

When we worship our Lord and Savior, our hearts and souls become overwhelmed by the Holy Spirit's presence. We feel as though our bodies cannot contain Him; His love oozes from our pores!! This state of being "overwhelmed by the Lord in worship" is the goal when we share Christ with others. You are to go and make disciples (followers of Jesus Christ). It is not an option, but a command to all who call Jesus, "Lord." You may not be an evangelist in a formal sense, but you have received gifts that can be used to help fulfill the great commission. As you obey, take comfort in the knowledge that Jesus is always with you!

What now? (20 minutes)

This week, pray that God would help you to have a more worshipful heart in everything: song, prayer, relationships with friends, family, and neighbors. God is glorious, just, holy, righteous, faithful, and worthy of praise!! Reach out to others with a worshipful heart!!

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.