Water of Life Community Church
LIFE OF A JESUS FOLLOWER
WEEK SIX: SHARE—I HAVE A MISSION

Leader Notes

ROMANS 10:14; JOHN 6:38; 12:45-46; MATTHEW 5:14-16; 2 COR. 2:14-17

ICE BREAKER

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Who is the first person you remember sharing the gospel with you?

What are some obstacles you've experienced or hangups you have about sharing the gospel with other people?

So far in our time together we've seen that following Jesus isn't about you living for Jesus, but actually about Jesus living His life through you. If Jesus really is living through us, our lives will look increasingly like His. And Jesus loved people who didn't know God.

OPEN IN PRAYER

Father God, You are so good and gracious to love us so much that you include and entrust us with your kingdom purposes! We confess to you that we want to share the gospel but are often fearful or uncertain and fail to step boldly into spiritual conversations. Holy Spirit, impress on our hearts today the mission we have been given as God's children. We pray in Jesus's name. Amen.

WORSHIP

If you're looking for help with worship, head to https://vimeo.com/album/2977729 and choose a couple of the songs you find there. The password is wolsg. (We've also added a link to this page in the Leader Toolbox, Password: WOLLEADER.) Worship is also available at the beginning of each teaching video on our YouTube channel at mywolgroup.com.

INTRODUCTION

Think about the woman at the well or the Roman centurion who approached Jesus for help—Jesus stopped and cared for these people thoughtfully, intentionally, and without hurry. The Gospels are filled with accounts of Jesus taking time to minister to people who didn't know God. If Jesus valued these relationships, we must as well. God's plan is for the whole church to bring the whole gospel to the whole world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

1. WATCH THE VIDEO, "SESSION 6: SHARE— I HAVE A MISSION".

2. READ ROMANS 10:14.

a. What does this verse teach us about the necessity of Jesus followers telling other people about Jesus?

b. Vance said God's plan is the whole church taking the whole gospel to the whole world. Do you see this as your responsibility? Why or why not?

The world is filled with 7.7 billion people made in the image of God. Among that number are billions of people made in God's image who don't know and aren't following Jesus. Scripture teaches that each of us is called to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to these billions of people. Consider your own life. You believed the gospel because someone cared enough about you to share it with you.

3. READ JOHN 6:38; 12:45-46; MATTHEW 5:14-16.

a. What does it mean for Jesus to be "light"? How does Jesus reveal who God is?

b. What did Jesus come to earth to do? If we're sent by Jesus what does it look like for us to do His will?

c. How does Jesus living in us lead us to be lights in the world?

Jesus was sent to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). If His heart is our heart, we'll care about the same people Jesus cared about. Jesus was sent to bring light, and His light comes into the world through the lives and lips of His people. Every Jesus follower has been sent to share His love with the world.

4. READ 2 CORINTHIANS 2:14-17.

a. How might followers of Jesus be the "fragrance of Christ" (v. 14) to the world around us?

b. How is our desire to share Jesus with the world related to the work He is already doing in our lives?

c. Where are some places Jesus is or could be using you to spread His light?

The desire to share in the mission comes from our growing relationship with the Father. When we're investing in our relationship with God and growing in intimacy, we'll naturally want to share what God is doing in our lives with the people around us—both locally and globally.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Is having a heart for the world optional for Jesus followers? Why or why not?

Who in your circle of influence can you sense God working among? How might God use you to join in His activity in this person's life?

How can we apply these truths as a group and bring the whole gospel to the whole world?

Pray for a growing desire to share God's love with the world. Ask God to show you places where you can share Jesus locally. Ask God to use you to bring His light to your friends who have yet to believe.

GOING DEEPER

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MEMORY VERSE

Romans 10:14 English Standard Version (ESV)

"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?"

COMMENTARY

ROMANS 10:14

What must occur for someone to call on the name of the Lord? Someone must first be sent to proclaim the gospel message, and then listeners must pay attention and believe. In the absence of any one of these factors, no one can call on the name of the Lord. Paul quoted several OT passages to show that the conditions described in verses 14-15 had been met for Israel. The gospel message was proclaimed throughout the Roman Empire. The Jews listened and simply did not believe. The Gentiles heard too, and many embraced it. Paul's citations show that the Gentile conversion was predicted in the OT. Ultimately, all peoples are a disobedient and defiant people. Israel was singled out in this way due to their consistent rejection of God's message and messengers (see Ac 7:51-60).

JOHN 12:45-46

This section summarizes Jesus' message and conveys His final appeal, bringing closure to the first major section of John's Gospel. Sent Me presupposes the Jewish idea of representation, according

to which a messenger's identity is indistinct from that of the one who sent him. Verses 48-50 echo Deuteronomy (Dt 18:19; 31:19,26).

MATTHEW 5:14-16

In Matthew 5:13-16, before embarking on the body of the sermon, Jesus explained in two word pictures the impact that a truly righteous person will have on his or her world. The entire sermon, including the Beatitudes before and the many teachings after, shows us how to live as "salt and light" in the world as representatives of another kingdom. These word pictures also serve Matthew's purpose—to encourage believers to change their world (Matt. 28:18-20).

The function of light is to make reality or truth visible, thereby giving direction and guidance by what is seen. Jesus used the emphatic "you," and clearly stated that this is already what a believer is, not something he might become. It is the nature of a kingdom servant to be light in the world. Any believer who fails to function as light is going against his nature as God's new creation. The believer has no light inherent in himself. The believer's light is a reflected light. Believers are to make certain that nothing comes between them and their source of light (2 Cor. 3:18; Phil. 2:13-16).

Both a city on a hill (v. 14) and the lamp on its stand (v. 15) fulfill their function by being elevated, so their light can be seen by many people over a broad area. Jesus Himself explained the application of this principle in 5:16. The light represents our good works, which must be done with such integrity that all who see have no choice but to credit our Father in heaven. The Christian's life and influence are to be visible and obvious, not secret or hidden. We must not camouflage our devotion to Christ, but humbly do all we can to allow its truest colors to be seen where we live. The term translated give glory to means "to make manifest or visible." When we shine our light before others by living righteously, we are making visible the character of the Father. It is the Christian's commission to live in such a way as to make God visible in a world that is blind to Him.

2 CORINTHIANS 2:14-17

2:14a. Paul had been disappointed in Troas and Macedonia, but through it all God had been good to him. He began this acknowledgment of divine goodness with thanksgiving: But thanks be to God.

2:14b–16a. Paul delighted in God's care for him. He expressed this joy with the metaphor of a victory parade. Paul was convinced that God always leads believers in triumphal procession in Christ. Paul drew upon the triumphal parades that were known throughout the Roman world. Prisoners of war were marched through the streets as fragrant perfumes filled the air. At the end of each parade, many prisoners were executed. For this reason, the smells of the parade were sweet to the victors, but they were the smell of death to the defeated.

Paul saw several similarities between these victory parades and his own ministry. (1) He and those with him were members of the victorious army led by Christ, as were the rest of the apostles. (2) Their gospel preaching spread everywhere … the knowledge or acknowledgment of God as the victor. Similarly, Roman victory parades spread knowledge about victories and caused people to acknowledge the victors. (3) Paul said that he and the apostles were like the perfumes of the victory parades. They became to (the honor of) God like the aroma of Christ, or more specifically, like the aroma accompanying Christ's victory. Both the victors of this spiritual gospel war (those who are being saved) and the defeated (those who are perishing) smelled their aroma. (4) This aroma of Christ, however, affected each group differently. To Christ's enemies, Paul and those with him were the smell of death, but to those following Christ they were the fragrance of life.

This metaphor contrasted Christian and non-Christian reactions to evangelists. To Christians, Paul and his company presented reminders of the wonders of salvation. For non-Christians, they raised the terror of divine judgment. No one could ignore them because their fragrance was spreading throughout the world.

2:16b. As Paul contemplated his analogy between Roman victory parades and his gospel ministry, he was overwhelmed. He exclaimed, Who is equal to such a task? The answer he implied was that no one was worthy of playing such an important role in human history and in the kingdom of God. It was astounding that God appointed humans to this role.

2:17. Paul wanted the Corinthians to know that he did not view his ministry as an ordinary job. He did not peddle the word of God for profit. He distinguished himself and those who worked with him from so many others who had reduced their ministries to mere occupations. Unlike the gospel peddlers, Paul and his company spoke before God with sincerity. Paul still lingered on the accusation of insincerity and duplicity he had addressed in the preceding section. He could not have been insincere because he looked upon his ministry so highly. Instead, he served as one sent from God, considering his task a sacred privilege. The fact that he did not accept payment for his preaching further demonstrated his sincerity.