

LIFE GROUP LESSON

Don't Forget to Remember • Week of August 6

Introduction

Very few things matter. Life is not about things but about people. Think about it: on our death beds, we will probably *not* say, “I wish I had spent more time in the office or at work.” We will recall the precious time spent with family, loved ones, and friends. If there is any regret, it will more likely be, “I wish I had loved my spouse, my family just a little more.” What *really* matters in this life? What really matters to you? Where do you spend your time, your energies each day? Our Mission Statement at Christ Church is our barometer for keeping first things first. As Christ-followers we are —

To reach millions of unchurched persons by developing thousands of fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Our Mission Statement is about reaching and developing, and reminds us that as Christ-followers, our priority is to connect with the people God has put around us. Who are the people around you each day? Family, neighbors, people at work, in the marketplace, the voice on the other end of the phone, the gal in the drive-through window – What about in your own home, like your spouse? God loved the world so much, that He sent His Son to die for these persons. God loves people. Because God loves people, they matter to God. All of the people in your day-to-day world—the individuals God puts in our path—should matter to you. Do they?

Background

Once Saul of Tarsus met the risen Christ (Acts 9) his entire trajectory changed. He became Paul, the apostle, and his mission turned from persecuting to reaching people for Christ. He survived hardships, challenges, beatings, shipwreck, imprisonment, slander, accusation, betrayal by his own people; Paul never gave up. Paul knew his *why*. His goal was to share the Good News of Christ with as many people as he possibly could. When Paul first came to Corinth, the Lord spoke to him one night and said: “Don't be afraid! Speak out! Don't be silent! For I am with you,

and no one will attack and harm you, for many people in this city belong to me” (Acts 18:9). As a result, Paul stayed in Corinth for eighteen months teaching the word of God.

In the epistle (book) we know as the first letter to the church in Corinth, Paul wants to make certain that believers in Corinth understand the call of Christ over their lives and over their multiethnic church. He wanted the Corinthian believers to be certain of the hope (reality) of resurrection; because of that, Paul urges them to remain on-mission reaching their city for the Lord Jesus. The city of Corinth was filled with corruption; it was a godless culture. Yet, Paul says: “I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said” (1 Corinthians 15:3). Similarly, we as a church today, exist to reach the lost, angry, indifferent, skeptical, disconnected souls around us. Ask the Lord to open your eyes to the people around you who desperately need to know that Christ loves them.

Read I Corinthians 15:1-22

1. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

Paul describes in v6 how the risen Christ ‘was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time.’ It's as Paul is saying, “If you don't believe me, you can go ask one of them!” (see also Acts 10:39-43). Christ's resurrection is fact. Obviously, most of us have never seen Christ alive physically as these early followers had, but we do see the undeniable evidence of Christ alive in a life transformed by his love and grace. Christ alone has the power to forgive sin; Christ alone has the power to *one day* call us by name up and out of the grave! Resurrection is real in the present and future.

2. What are you going to do about it?

The best way to share the message of Christ's resurrection is to allow our lives to express on the outside what has happened on the inside. Love others with the real, incarnational love of Christ. Be willing to (first pray) then step out of your areas of comfort and meet the people around you. Don't overthink it, just meet the individual where they are. God's Spirit will give you the words if you trust Him. Listen to their story and step into their world. That is what God did for us. Christ stepped out of heaven's

glory and met us in our pain and brokenness. When did you go out of your way to talk with someone you didn't know? Do you go around every day guarded or afraid that someone is going to speak to you? Live into a mission of reaching others for Christ by simply smiling, being kind, and extending a warm and honest demeanor. What is it like being on the other side of you? Are you approachable?

3. How can we help you?

Let's stop chasing dreams that twenty-five years from now won't matter. Ask the Lord to show you where He is already at work, then take a risk. Join Jesus where He is working. If you really love the Lord, you will want to be where He is. We have heaven to look forward to and we want to take as many people to heaven as we can. That is why Christ Church is all about reaching and developing. Because eternal life with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is what ultimately matters! Paul says, "But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies" (1 Corinthians 15:51-53).

In Closing

Pray and ask the Lord to give us courage individually and as a church to live into our Mission Statement. Let's thank the Lord for bringing us through hardship and challenges; resolve to be there for one another; love and press forward keeping the things that truly matter before us.

"So my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

One Year Bible Reading

August 6: Ezra 3:1-4:23, 1 Corinthians 2:6-3:4, Psalm 28:1-9, Proverbs 20:24-25
August 7: Ezra 4:24-6:22, 1 Corinthians 3:5-23, Psalm 29:1-11, Proverbs 20:26-27
August 8: Ezra 7:1-8:20, 1 Corinthians 4:1-21, Psalm 30:1-12, Proverbs 20:28-30
August 9: Ezra 8:21-9:15, 1 Corinthians 5:1-13, Psalm 31:1-8, Proverbs 21:1-2
August 10: Ezra 10:1-44, 1 Corinthians 6:1-20, Psalm 31:9-18, Proverbs 21:3
August 11: Nehemiah 1:1-3:14, 1 Corinthians 7:1-24, Psalm 31:19-24, Prov. 21:4
August 12: Nehemiah 3:15-5:13, 1 Corinthians 7:25-40, Ps. 32:1-11, Prov. 21:5-7

DON'T FORGET TO REMEMBER

Text: I Corinthians 15:1-22

PLAIN TRUTH

Reaching _____ because people's
_____ destinies _____.

1. _____: Reaching _____
because God _____ for us in Jesus'
_____.
2. _____: Reaching into our
_____ Jesus' light _____ lives.
3. _____: Reaching is _____
_____ Jesus' _____ Story and never
having to live another day _____ the _____
of Christ.

August 6, 2023