

LIFE GROUP LESSON

Don't Forget to Remember • Week of September 3

Introduction

Don't forget to remember that lost people matter to God. Our Heavenly Father gave His one and only Son so that whoever believes in Him does not have to perish in their sin, but can have everlasting life! God desires all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of truth. Jesus said, I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.* He is the way to know the Father. God is calling Christ Church to love Him *by* loving people and reaching lost people for Christ. Our third and sixth core value at Christ Church is R – Reaching lost people because lost people matter to God; thus, we do this (live into this value of 'Reaching') by T – Training worshipers to be outward-focused and by giving away 25% of our income to plant a new church every three years.

For many years Christ Church has had the 'empty chair' as a metaphor reminding us that we exist for one purpose: to welcome home the person yet -to-belong. God has always wanted the person that no one else wants. Every living person on the planet has this in common: God loves them. Jesus died for all people; all sin is atoned for (paid for) through Christ's death on the cross. Once we – as individuals, then collectively as a church family – have received God's free gift of salvation through Jesus, our job is to share this Good News with other people around us. There are all kinds of people God puts in your path in a given day. Think about it. And let's be clear: our job is not to be 'savior' but to introduce people to *the* Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ!

Background

According to evangelist D.T. Niles: Evangelism is simply one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread. Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life" (John 6:48). Thus, throughout the gospels, we see how Jesus is compassionate towards lost people. Many times, Scripture describes how Jesus sees the crowd 'confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd' (Matthew 9:36). In Luke, chapter fifteen, 'tax collectors and other notorious sinners' would come to listen to Jesus teach. What caused these

people to make their way to Jesus, to drop everything and bring their families, friends and loved ones? Why did they feel welcomed in Jesus' presence? Jesus, the Son of God, didn't push people away, but He met them just where they were. He spoke truth – not necessarily what they wanted to hear – but words of life and hope. Jesus was outward-focused and He trained His disciples to be outward-focused.

As the text is read think of these three questions:

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?
- What are you going to do about it?
- How can we help you?

Listen to these passages with fresh ears. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your senses to God's Word and *listen* as a fully- devoted disciple.

Read

Luke 15:1-24

2 Corinthians 5:15-21

Ephesians 4:1-13

Christ Church Mission Statement—

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

Closing:

Our Mission Statement at Christ Church is about reaching and developing; two key components that come directly from the Great Commission. Jesus told His disciples:

"I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20).

Compassion is always our motivation for *Reaching* and being outward-focused. Jesus sees people differently than this world sees people. Are you willing to love people the way Jesus loves people? He can help us re-

ally love people, if we ask Him; Christ will help us be wise and compassionate in our dealings with the individuals around us, and begin to see each person through the eyes of Christ. Are you willing to be trained and equipped, to learn how to authentically share your faith and simply start introducing people to Jesus, much like you would another friend? Salvation is about a love relationship; the wonder (and adventure) of knowing Jesus personally is a gift to be shared. Don't forget to remember that there will be "more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and turns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away!" (Luke 15:7).

*Opening Scripture references taken from John 3:16, 1 Timothy 2:4, John 14:6

DON'T FORGET TO REMEMBER

Text: 2 Corinthians 5:11-21, Luke 15:1-10

PLAIN TRUTH

Reaching the lost by _____ and _____ people to be outward focused gives us a stronger _____.

1. _____ is our motivation for _____.
2. God _____ it, for you to _____ it.

One Year Bible Reading

Sept. 3: Ecclesiastes 4:1-6:12, 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:7, Psalm 47:1-9, Proverbs 22:16
Sept. 4: Ecclesiastes 7:1-9:18, 2 Corinthians 7:8-16, Psalm 48:1-14, Prov. 22:17-19
Sept. 5: Ecclesiastes 10:1-12:14, 2 Corinthians 8:1-15, Ps. 49:1-20, Prov. 22:20-21
Sept. 6: Song of Solomon 1:1-4:16, 2 Cor. 8:16-24, Ps.50:1-23, Prov. 22:22-23
Sept. 7: Song of Solomon 5:1-8:14, 2 Cor. 9:1-15, Ps. 51:1-19, Prov. 22:24-25
Sept. 8: Isaiah 1:1-2:22, 2 Corinthians 10:1-18, Psalm 52:1-9, Proverbs 22:26-27
Sept. 9: Isaiah 3:1-5:30, 2 Corinthians 11:1-15, Psalm 53:1-6, Proverbs 22:28-29

September 3, 2023