

(1) An Opening THOUGHT

"The church's mission is riveted to the loving character of the triune God. Mission is not in the first place something we do, simply one of the church's many assigned tasks. It is who we are. If God is a loving, sending, seeking God, then the church is by definition a missionary people."

Dean Flemming | Recovering the Full Mission of God

(3) Key POINTS

- Difference makers are hopeful, not negative or apathetic.
- Difference makers are welcoming and engaged, not withdrawn.
- Difference makers move towards real needs, not turning away.
- Difference makers tell great stories, not staying quiet or thumping a Bible.

(2) Read the TEXT Together

John 20:21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

Matt 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. -Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, -and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

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Do you have questions or comments about this resource?
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GROUPS RESOURCE

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO HELP GROUPS FOLLOW JESUS TOGETHER

(4) Looking to the WORD

Which Key Points challenge your GROUP the most? Read and discuss the passages connected to those Key Points.

- Difference makers are hopeful...: Luke 4:18-19; Isaiah 61:2-3
- Difference makers are welcoming and engaged...: Mat 5:13-16; Rom 12:13; Heb 13:2
- Difference makers move towards real needs...: Mat 9:12; Luke 10:29-37; Luke 6:30
- Difference makers tell great stories...: Mat 13:34; Rom 10:13-15; 2 Cor 5:20; Rom 1:16

(5) Looking at our WORLD

As seen in the Key Points, Jeremy shows that difference makers are not negative, apathetic, withdrawn, turning away, staying quiet or thumping a Bible.

- Discuss each unhealthy attitude/action. What might be the root causes? Are there contributing factors? Why are these so prevalent?
- How have you overcome these unhealthy attitudes/actions with God's help?

(6) Looking at our LIVES

GROUPS are a great place to practice growing in mission together.

- Take some quiet time to carry out the first two On-Ramps. Then, share with the GROUP what God has put on your heart.
- To jump start the final On-ramp, have some people in your GROUP share their story of faith (in the weeks ahead you could continue having people share their story of faith).

(7) Looking AHEAD and PRAYING Together

Here are this week's On-Ramps: (Pick one you want to go after, first)

- Assess your outlook towards others (positive, negative, hopeful, disheartened), and ask God to give you his heart.
- Prayerfully, write down your thoughts about your fit in Jesus' mission.
- Spend the week being the first to say, "Yes" to those who need help around you.
- Starting with people who will be nice to you, tell your story of faith as many times as you can.

In what ways might you take action on these? Include this in your prayer time.