

The Church Has Left The Building

4. Missional Presence

Key Point: Living incarnationally provides a missional presence in our community that encourages growth.

Connect Group Questions

This series is designed to get us thinking about what it means to be “on mission” with God.

We continue to look at some of the key factors that lie at the heart of the Great Commission. This week we look at the Lord’s command for us to “go and make disciples”. The emphasis here is on the church actually “going” out into the community, rubbing shoulders with those who have yet to meet Jesus.

Our aim is to be more like Jesus. He had a genuine missional presence because He physically moved into the neighbourhood in order to make disciples and see lives changed.

1. Begin by recalling what you remember from the sermon. Key words, ideas, thoughts, pictures etc.
2. What did you find most challenging, helpful or troubling about the sermon?
3. What did you make of the news clip about the church in Texas building a 170ft cross? What do you think this says to their community? Do you think it provides them with a missional presence? Would this work in our context?
4. Read Matthew 28:19-20. What does Jesus mean when He says, “Go”?
5. “Flee the Christian sub-culture!” – what does this mean?
6. Read 1Peter 2:11-12. According to Peter, where do we live?
7. What is the fruit of unbelievers seeing our good deeds?
8. How does the final sentence of Matthew’s Gospel encourage us to “go and make disciples”?
9. Using the list below (“*Habits & Practices For Developing A Missional Presence*”) discuss together practical ways in which you can begin to break out of the Christian bubble and rub shoulders with those in our community. What others can you think of? Pray for His strength to enable you to put some of this into action.

Habits & Practices For Developing A Missional Presence

- 1. Ask, “Where is God already at work in my community and how do I join in?”***
- 2. Look and Listen – observe.*** Who lives here? Where do people gather? What are they talking about?
- 3. Slow Down!*** Take your time walking around. Be deliberate.
- 4. Shop locally. Be a regular.*** Get to know the shop owners, other customers.
- 5. Identify local issues – engage.***
- 6. Walk the dog!***
- 7. Visit ‘third places’*** – coffee shops, pubs, the gym, sports clubs.
- 8. Leave the office.*** Have lunch with colleagues. Take your laptop to a coffee shop.
- 9. Ask for some divine encounters.*** Be willing to be used. Allow God to hook you up with people.
- 10. Offer to pray.***
- 11. Practice hospitality & generosity.***
- 12. Tell your story.***