

Living With a Mission Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What is something that you don't give up on easily?
2. Who is somebody you admire for his or her dedication?

Read the following passage: Luke 4:14-30.

Jesus articulated his mission when he read from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah in the synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth. Although the people seemed to receive him warmly, Jesus knew that they would eventually be offended by his actions and claims. Jesus' clear understanding of his mission enabled him to navigate the varying responses of the crowds and the inevitable obstacles that surfaced during his years of public ministry.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. What was Jesus' mission? How does Jesus' explanation of his mission in this passage connect with the important New Testament theme of the kingdom of God? (See, for example, Mark 1:14-15; Matthew 6:9-10.) Christians often equate the Gospel, or Good News, with the message that "Jesus died on the cross for our sins." This is certainly a fair description of the Gospel, but during Jesus' ministry, Jesus used the term Gospel more broadly to refer to the Good News of the kingdom of God (see again Mark 1:14-15). How are these two uses of the term "Gospel" connected?
2. What are some ways we, as followers of Jesus, can continue his mission?
3. Jesus was praised. Jesus was criticized. Jesus was constantly surrounded by people in great need. And Jesus cared deeply for his family. None of these influences, however, ultimately determined God's mission for his life. Explain how each of these influences can potentially misdirect us as we pursue God's will for our lives.
4. What are some ways you feel that God has worked (or desires to work) through you to bring the life of God's kingdom to other people?
5. As you think about the season of life you are presently in, what are some opportunities you have now (that may differ from those in the past or the future) to bring the life of Jesus Christ to others?
6. Have you ever experienced God speaking to you in a way that might bring direction to God's mission for your life? Explain.

7. Is there any particular place or sphere of influence that you think is an important part of God's mission for your life? Explain.
8. Are there any key people that you feel are to be an important part of God's mission for your life? Explain.
9. Write down one sentence that captures God's mission for you in this season of your life.

Pray