

## Week #7

### The Mission of Missional Community

• **PASSAGE:** EPH 3:14-21

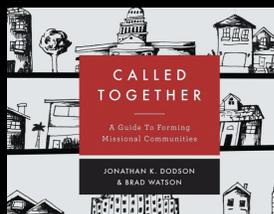
*14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

#### Become a Community - Share

- What one word (no cheating) best defines your life?
- What word do you want to define the next ten years of your life?
- Tell us your story.
- How can we pray for you this week?

#### Take a Group Photo - be creative

Close your time in prayer! Confess areas where Jesus has not been Lord. And share specific names of those who need Jesus.



### Lesson: The Mission of Missional Community

#### •BIG PICTURE

- Define and understand the mission of community
- Define and understand discipleship and evangelism

#### Defining Mission. Discuss.

What comes to mind when you think of the word "Mission"?

*"19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in[b] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." - Matt 28:19-20*

Parting words are a big deal. We get to overhear Jesus' parting words to his disciples. They would form the first "Missional Community"

Lots of things come to mind when we say "mission". Lots of worthwhile things, but ultimately the mission of the first disciples was to make more disciples. Mission is another word for purpose. Jesus give his disciples the life-long purpose of making more disciples of Jesus. It isn't a side-job or a hobby, it is the call of our whole lives.

#### Defining Discipleship. Discuss.

What comes to mind when you think of the word "Discipleship"?

If our mission is making disciples most people think that means 2 things:

- 1) Winning people to Jesus (Evangelism)
- 2) Helping people follow Him/obey Him (Discipleship)

We miss it if we don't have both pieces. Make disciples mean to both find/connect new followers of Jesus and to teach them to observe all He commands.

For the follower of Jesus we can see 3 Big Steps:

- 1) Being sent in power
- 2) Baptizing new believers
- 3) Teaching the commands of Jesus

When the gospel is the center of what we do (church and missional community) then both discipleship and evangelism will be reflected. Belief in Jesus will change what we believe, who we are, and where we live.

The gospel can most simply be stated that "Jesus is Lord". Disciples of Jesus are committed to sharing and showing this truth in every area of our lives, work, family, education, government, entertainment, etc. We want to see multiplying disciples of Jesus followers who's whole lives make more disciples of Jesus.

#### Discuss.

How does this definition of discipleship change the way we see and do mission?  
What part of making disciples is scary or intimidating?  
How are you growing as a disciple?  
How can we make disciples better as a community?

Reminder: **The hope of the gospel is that we don't have to be a perfect community because Jesus was perfect for us. When we inevitably let one another down, we point each other to Jesus who lifts us up.**