

Outreach in Small Flock Groups

As an extension of the public ministry of our church, we are encouraged to fulfill the mission of our church, "To glorify God by making disciples through teaching, worship, fellowship, evangelism, and compassion." Within our small flock groups we are encouraged to impact the world for Christ in our sphere of influence (i.e., at home, at work, and in the neighborhoods in which we live. etc.).

Evangelizing the world for Christ and compassionately reaching out to other in acts of service is embodied in our fourth pillar, which is called Outreach. It is well documented by the writers of the New Testament that sharing our faith and making disciples is an imperative, not an option. And having compassion for and reaching out to others in their time of need becomes a natural extension of our ministry of loving one another, as Jesus loved us.

The Command

Jesus commanded his disciples, and through application to all who follow him, to...

Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Mark 16:15

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. Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus did not ask us to make ourselves available to him and share our faith with those he brings across our path, but to go...get up and do it...be proactive.

The Reason

We are in a spiritual battle and it grieves our Lord when he sees how those who are disconnected from God are harassed and helpless in their defense against such powerful forces.

When he saw the crowds, he had *compassion* on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Matthew 9:36-38

The Greek word *splagchnizomai*, translated compassion, describes being moved as to one's bowels, hence to be moved with compassion, have compassion (for the bowels were thought to be the seat of love and pity).

In short, Jesus was sick to his stomach and felt an intense pain as he looked out over the crowd, and perhaps visibly saw the battle that was being waged.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 6:12

The Seed

Our task in reaching others for Christ is to sow the seed.

As Mark recorded Jesus telling the crowds in the parable of the sower...

The sower soweth the word. Mark 4:14 (KJV)

The Promise

As we share our faith and sow our seeds, the power of the Holy Spirit uses our seeds to accomplish God's purpose and plan for those that hear.

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:10-11

As Jesus concluded his parable of the sower,

Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop--thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown." Mark 4:20

The Personal Benefit

Those who share their faith also share in the rich reward of receiving a personal benefit from doing so.

I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. Philemon 1:6

The Warning

Correspondingly Jesus warned that...

He who is not with me is against me, and **he who does not gather with me scatters.** Matthew 12:30 [Emphasis added].

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost. Luke 19:10

Outreach Discussion

During the training program an opportunity will be given to discuss outreach opportunities using the discussion guide located in Appendix F of the Flock Group Ministry Manual.