

Welcome to our last week of ON MISSION midweek studies. We've looked at upgrading our wardrobe to something that looks good on us, to ensuring people now where we got that by being able to share our story. Last week we talked about the epic power of prayer, not as a part of this process, but as a foundation for it.

So today, we come to the final pin in the design that God's word articulates. It is INVITE.

Matthew 28:19-20 is all about the GO. Go into all the world. God is a sending God, indeed, He is a sent God. Missio Dei is the mission of God, but also is the missional God. God's emphasis is all about the GO. Go into all the world.

But GO is not mutually exclusive with COME. COME is also the undercurrent of scripture. One of the very last verses of scripture is Revelations 22:17

The Spirit and the Bride say COME. Let anyone who hears this say COME. Let anyone who is thirsty COME. Let anyone who desires drink freely from the water of life.

Psalm 34:8 *O taste and see that the LORD is good. Blessed is the man who trust in Him.*

Try this out! Check it out! It's good!

There is an invitation to go out. This invitation is not to a platform or a program but to a person: Jesus. If it is to the platform or the program, we'll make a decision about or invitation based on the speaker or the content. If it is to a person, we trust that as long as He is on display, He will do His work.

Psalm 66:5

Come and see what our God has done, what awesome miracles He performs for people!

Philip, one of Jesus' disciples went and found his friend Nathanael and said Nathanael! What we've been looking for – we've found Him! He's from Nazareth.

Nazareth! Exclaimed Nathanael. Can anything good come from Nazareth? Come and see for yourself. Philip replied.

The woman at the well make this invitation to her whole village. Come and see a man who told me..! John 4:29. She didn't give a theology lesson, or an apologetic – she gave an invitation.

Jesus Himself gave this invitation to 2 of His disciples. They asked where He was staying, John 1:39

Come and see. *It was about 4 o'clock in the afternoon when they went with him to the place where he was staying, and they remained with him the rest of the day.*

So Jesus says, come spend time with me in the place I'm hanging out in, which would have created opportunity for conversation, maybe for introducing them to other people He knew.

And then, the women at the empty tomb when Jesus had risen from the grave. They themselves received the news, and they went back to invite the other disciples to see for themselves.

So let's bring all this together with some TIPS on living on mission. T-I-P-S.

T- Tell. People need to be able to connect what is different about you with the source. It needs to go beyond you being a really great bloke, or you being such a nice lady. It needs to be the teaching of Christ that is attractive. If you think "but I don't know what to say", remember the most powerful thing you have to talk about is your story. Just like Paul before King Agrippa. What was life like

before Jesus? Miserable? Great, but empty? Good on every front, but you couldn't shake that something was missing? Then, how did you encounter Jesus? Did you pray a prayer? Did something shift when you surrendered? Just be honest. And what has changed. Let's learn from the man who was healed of blindness. The authorities keep questioning him about who Jesus is, and they pull out all stops to manipulate him into saying something bad about his faith; you know people may try to do this with you too. They keep pressing him, and in John 9:35, he says – *look, all I know is this: I used to be blind, and now I can see.* Your story doesn't need to be any more fancy than that. I was lost, and now I'm found. I was... and now I'm...

If you feel confident you can tell people the gospel, and there some links and some points in the notes to help you. However, if you don't feel confident to invite people to the person of Jesus Himself, we DO have the platform and the program to communicate the gospel for you. Invite them to church, to connect group, to Alpha. I is for INVITE. T- Tell, I- Invite. 2 things to remember about inviting.

1. Make it specific. Not – you should come to church some day! But, would you like to come to this thing with me on this date at this time? When someone says “feel free to drop in for a cuppa at any time”, you may, if you really truly want the company, however, if they say “do you guys want to come for dinner next Wednesday night at 6?” likelihood increases. Be specific.
2. Remember that the invite is on you, the answer is not. The answer is up to them.

T-Tell. I-Invite. P-Pray. And we covered that last week. 3 ways of praying:

1. Commit to praying every day for one year for 5 people.
2. Pray for workers into the harvest.
3. Pray everyday: Lord, please show me who needs the gospel today.

T-Tell. I-Invite. P-Pray. S-Show. Let your conduct line up with your words. Make sure you're smoking what you're selling. Philippians 1:27

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel.

Discussion Questions:

When was the last time you gave an invitation for someone to give their lives to Jesus? If you have one, share your experience with the group?

What is it that stops you inviting people to take that step?

When was the last time you invited someone to a spiritual activity (e.g. church, connect, ALPHA)? How did that make you feel?

What stops you from inviting people to church?

Do you find that you give vague invitations (you should come along one day) or explicit ones (with a date and a time)?

Which of these TIPS (Tell, Invite, Pray, Show) do you find the easiest? Which of them do you find the hardest?

Discuss as a group what your goals are as it relates to living on mission, and think of ways that you can be accountable with each other.