



APRIL 18

SIGNS

COME AND SEE

This weekend we continued in our series Signs and learned that Sharing Christ is our mission as Christ-followers. In this study, we will continue to look at that, as well as what it means to be a witness to others. As you begin the study, take a moment to set your heart on God and contemplate the following verse:

*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **1 Peter 2:9***



GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

Where would you travel to if you knew you had to stay there for up to a year, and why?



READ

What does the Word say about sharing Christ?

The following verses will help us develop a deeper understanding of our calling as believers to share Christ with others. As you read, write down any insights or words in your journal that stick out to you.

- John 4:35-38
- Matthew 9:35-39
- Matthew 28:18-20
- Matthew 9:27-31
- Matthew 5:14-16
- Romans 10:14-15



REFLECT

What do these passages teach us about sharing Christ?

1. In John 4:35 Jesus says, "...look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."

- What do you think Jesus means by *the fields are ripe for harvest*?

2. Reread Matthew 9:35-39. Picture the crowds following Jesus. What needs do you think they had that caused Jesus to have compassion for them?

- Jesus went out to serve those in all the towns and villages, and He sent His disciples to do the same. What implications does this have for our lives?

3. Matthew 28:18-20 is known as *the Great Commission*. In these verses, Jesus charges His followers to make disciples of all nations.

- The disciples likely felt fear and anxiety about being sent out. How do you think they felt after hearing Jesus' words, "*And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age*"?

4. In Matthew 9:27-31, the blind men have an encounter with Jesus. Reread these verses.

- Why do you think the men spread the news about Jesus and disregard His stern warning?

5. Reread Matt 5:14-16. How would you describe the light that shines within you?

6. Take a look again at Romans 10:14-15. The Apostle Paul is referencing two different "they" groups in these verses. Describe both groups.

- At the end of verse 15 it says, "*How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!*" Write out this phrase in your own words.



RESPOND

In light of these insights, how does God want me to respond?

1. This weekend, Dre made three points in his message:

- *Sharing Christ Is Your Mission*
- *Sharing Christ Is Being a Witness*
- *Sharing Christ Is For Others to Encounter Jesus.*

Of these three points, what impacted you in a new or fresh way?

2. In John 4, when the Samaritan woman encountered Jesus, it instantly changed her.

- Was there something that intrigued you about Jesus that led you to the Lord? Was it something in another person you saw that created a desire in your heart to receive Jesus? Explain.

3. After her encounter with Jesus, the Samaritan woman didn't hesitate to go back into her hometown (neighborhood) to share the good news. There was such a sense of urgency for her that she left her water jar behind.

- Have you ever considered your own neighborhood as a place to share the good news? Why or why not? Explain.
- What might it look like to practically share Christ with your neighbors? (e.g., Checking on an elderly neighbor, taking care of your neighbors' pets, engaging in a conversation, bringing your neighbor a meal, gardening, etc.)

4. Read the following quote from *Missional Renaissance* by Reggie McNeal:

"... as the church engages the world, it finds Jesus, whose home is in the streets or wherever He has to go to connect with the people He is pursuing, meaning everybody... A kingdom-oriented approach seeks to leverage the gospel into people's lives right where they live, work, and play. The church is wherever followers of Jesus are ... they bring the church to people."

- What would it look like for you to bring Jesus to your non-believing neighbor, co-worker, family member or friend?
- How does this idea sit with you emotionally?
- What one step could you take this week to begin the process of sharing the Gospel? (e.g., pray, serve someone, take a co-worker to lunch, bless your barista, share your story, etc.)

5. Dre highlighted the following verse in the message this weekend:

*But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. **1 Peter 3:15***

- In your own words, how would you describe the hope that you have in Christ?

6. In the message, Dre shared about having a One Life. A One Life could be a friend, co-worker, neighbor or family member who doesn't yet know Jesus, but is someone you are in relationship with. You might even have multiple One Lives.

- List your One Life/One Lives, then take a moment to pray for them and ask God for opportunities to impact their life/lives.

7. As Christ-followers, our stories began through an encounter with Jesus. Spend some time writing about the first encounter you had with Him, then try to encapsulate your encounter in just a few sentences. Have fun with it! You never know when God may give you an opportunity to share your story with someone.



TOPICAL PRAYER

Prayer is an important part of each Life Group. Often those who are new to a Life Group are intimidated by praying aloud if they have never done it before. Others are so comfortable with prayer that they can take over the prayer time without meaning to. For these reasons we suggest practicing topical prayer to help your group get comfortable praying together. Here are three basic guidelines:

1. Focus on a Single Topic/Request at a Time

Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request. Once a topic is introduced, one or two members pray for that request. Then the Life Group leader will direct the prayer time by sharing the next topic/request.

2. Pray Several Times Together

By focusing on one topic at a time, each member has an opportunity to pray at different times for the requests they are most passionate about.

3. Keep Requests/Prayers Short and Simple

By keeping both requests and prayers short and simple, everyone has a chance to share and pray. This helps those who are new to prayer feel more comfortable praying. It also helps everyone stay focused during your time of prayer together.