

# God's Mission - Small Group Notes

## Welcome

Please use the start of your time together to welcome each other and share what God is doing in each person's life.

One idea as a starter may be to discuss the question - What do you think God's Mission is?

## Word

We need to know the whole story. We have often focused on a narrow part of the picture of God's love for us. God's Mission is much bigger than getting His people into Heaven.

## Read Genesis 1: 26-28 & Matthew 22:34-40

It is important we begin in the beginning (Genesis 1) and we finish at the end of the story (Revelation 21). God's Mission is a story of **CREATION, FALL, REDEMPTION & RESTORATION**.

## CREATION

When God created the heavens and the earth He place us in the garden, with a task to cultivate and build. God gave us 4 keys relationships - With God, Each Other, Ourselves and Creation.

**A love for God** - If God created us, it makes sense that our purpose in life is intimately connected to Him. Our highest call is to love the Lord our God (Matt 22:37).

**A love for each other** – It is not good for people to be alone. We see that God's handiwork is made to flourish in relationships, which is a reflection of his own relational being as he is three in one: Father, Son and Spirit.

**A love for ourselves** - We are to love ourselves by seeing ourselves the way God sees us and by becoming the person God wants us to become.

**A love for God's creation** – in the story of creation, God is asking us to change, and even enhance, the good creation God has given. The narrative tells us that God gives humanity stewardship over the whole of creation.

## FALL

Each of these four relationships was broken during the Fall when humanity chose to go against God's word. We can see this all around us in our world. **What are some areas you can think of together where the consequences of the Fall are evident?**

## **REDEMPTION**

At the centre of God's mission is the salvation of humanity, the creature made in the image and likeness of God. He does not simply save an individual. He rescues a people (1 Peter 2:9).

### **Reconciled to God**

When we accept Jesus, repent and accept the Father's forgiveness, we are restored to a relationship with God so that we can step into everlasting hope.

### **Redemption in our relationship with God and with others**

Jesus redefines our relationships with others (2 Corinthians 5:16). In the natural course of things, we see others in terms of our fallen nature - as competitors, as those beneath us, or as enemies. The cross flips this on its head, redefining the way we must see and interact with each other in God's love (Romans 13:8).

### **Redemption in our relationship with ourselves**

The cross makes us into a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). We are no longer corrupt sinners. The image of God in us is being restored to the original intention until we become like Christ – the perfect God-man or woman who reflects the goodness and glory of God.

### **Redemption in our relationship to the created order**

Making disciples of the nations is our first role in the Mission of God, bringing people to Christ and restoring humanity to God. As His image-bearers, we are also called to reflect him into whatever situation God places us into, glorifying Him in our relationships, work and rest.

## **RESTORATION**

Our part in the restoration of all things extends beyond personal salvation, encompassing all of life and all elements of human culture – relationships, family life, education, arts, sciences, entertainment etc.

Regardless of calling, God assigns us a responsibility in His Mission. Whether in our vocation, family, or other spheres of influence, God calls us to honour Him by reclaiming everything for His glory.

## **Worship and Reflection**

This is a time set aside for members of your small group to reflect on God's Mission with the Father. Invite people to get their journals out, or give them some paper and a pen to take note of their thoughts during this time of worship and reflection. Ask for the Holy Spirit to give revelation to each person about His mission and the part they have to play.

Some ideas for songs you may like to sing or listen to during this time:

Cornerstone - Hillsong Worship

King of Kings - Hillsong Worship

Way Maker - Leeland

## **Discussion**

Use these questions as a rough structure for discussion with your group:

1. Share some of the things you were thinking through, regarding God's Mission, during the Worship time.
2. Where are we placed to bring the good news of this complete picture to the world around us?
3. Take some time to imagine what your family and workplace would look like if you lived in the light of this big picture narrative. What if you were living with this deep call and purpose? What would you do?
4. What would happen if we didn't do this?

## **Prayer**

Get into groups of three. Pray over each person, for them to be released in their lives to live out the restoration and renewal of all things in the Love of God.