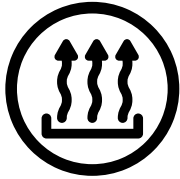




Mission & Values



WARM-UP

What is the best Mission Impossible movie? Or what is the best spy movie?



What does it mean to have a shared mission?

Possible Answers: To work together towards a common destination.

Mission Statement:

Unburdening

ordinary people

by pointing each other

to an extraordinary savior. [!!!]



What do you like best about this mission statement?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary.



In this statement, we are only responsible for pointing each other to Jesus. He is the one who does the unburdening. What might it look like to point each other to Jesus as a church? As a small group?

Possible Answers: humility to let others point you to Jesus- you never know how God will use people in your life. Pointing to Jesus instead of taking credit for ourselves. Being kind and gracious- letting others feel their feelings and instead of telling them its wrong point to Jesus who most likely felt something similar here on earth. Reminding people that Jesus is present with them in their darkness. etc.



How can you see yourself utilizing this mission statement within your spheres of life?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary.

Read out loud as a group

"As we trust in Jesus, the burden of sin and death is removed in an instant. The other burdens of life, those which are a result of living in a fallen and broken world, remain. We may wrestle with some of these burdens the rest of our lives. So don't get discouraged if you feel burdened. Sometimes unburdening is something we recognize only in hindsight – or something God is doing beneath the surface. Sometimes the unburdening is slower; it comes as a result of God working over the course of months or even years to bring freedom. And sometimes we need others to point out how God has been at work in our lives. So don't get discouraged! Keep looking to Jesus, our great burden-lifter!"

- Pastor Cor



Taking into consideration the black box above, how have you seen Jesus as the unburden-er in your life or the lives of those around you?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary.



As we grow closer to Christ, we never want the familiarity with Him to decrease the awe of Him. What helps remind you of the extraordinary nature of Jesus?

Possible Answers: creating Ebenezers in your life to reflect on what God has done in your life or the lives of those around you, giving yourself 5 minutes to try to write down as many things as possible about God himself, writing out your testimony, visiting new places or national parks that scream of the beauty and otherness of God, etc.

Read out loud as a group

ACTS 4:1-13 (NIV)

¹ The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. ² They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. ³ They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. ⁴ But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.

⁵ The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. ⁶ Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. ⁷ They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹ If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, ¹⁰ then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. ¹¹ Jesus is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone."

¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

¹³ When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.



What stood out to you?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary.



Where do you see the mission statement at work in this passage?

Possible Answers: The disciples point each other, the teachers of the law (some of the very people responsible for Jesus' death), and other people to Jesus. The disciples point to Jesus' extraordinaryness with his teaching, healings, and resurrection. The disciples use a miraculous healing that they accomplished to point to the true Healer. The disciples are described as ordinary.



The disciples pointed to Jesus in the midst of a very scary situation. Where does pointing to Jesus feel threatening in your life? How can we help each other point to Jesus in the midst of fear or other emotions?

Possible Answers: Situations may vary. Encourage each other to find small ways to showcase Jesus. It could be as simple as relying on Jesus for patience in the midst of a crazy workspace. Displaying the fruits of the Spirit points to Jesus! Could be as bold as giving credit to Christ with another coworker or giving a full explanation of the Gospel. etc.



God used ordinary men as disciples, but their courage is what made them stand out as having BEEN with Jesus. Why do you think courage was the quality that stood out?

Possible Answers: Jesus himself was courageous and didn't follow the rules of society or the Sanhedrin. Jesus and the Disciples had hope in things outside this world which meant dealing with things inside this world wasn't the final say.



In what ways are you tempted to seek salvation or security in things other than Jesus?

Possible Answers: being a good partner/significant other/spouse/parent/child/worker/etc. What others think of us, how much control we have, how much success we have, etc

Read out loud as a group

MATTHEW 11:28-30 (NIV)

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Optional Activity

Activity:

As a group call out 40 observations about the passage above. Have 1 person keep tally. This shouldn't take more than 7 minutes.

Read out loud as a group

Strong's definition:

1. a yoke

a. a yoke that is put on draught cattle

b. metaph., used of any burden or bondage

i. as that of slavery

ii. of troublesome laws imposed on one, esp. of the Mosaic law, hence the name is so transferred to the commands of Christ as to contrast them with the commands of the Pharisees which were a veritable 'yoke'; yet even Christ's commands must be submitted to, though easier to be kept



How does this passage support the mission statement?

Possible Answers: it shows Jesus doing the unburdening and the giving of rest. It shows us as simple cows being connected to Jesus. etc.



In Matthew, we still have a yoke yet we are yoked with Jesus who does the work we cannot do. How can we remind ourselves or help remind each other of the rest found in Christ?

Possible Answers: point to Jesus by, calling out when we see people clinging to something other than Christ, remind each other what Jesus says of us, remind each other that there is still a future hope and this life is not the end, put reminders in journals of what God has done, have art or poetry that remind us of Jesus' rest, etc.

DISCUSSION FOR ACCOUNTABILITY



- What is your response to being the "ordinary" part of the mission statement?
- What is one way you can point to Christ this week?