
Faith in Action — No One Invisible

*“Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! as the Father has sent me, I am sending you.’”
— John 20:21*

Theme Statement:

Centred on the gospel and led by the Holy Spirit, we commit to going into our communities to minister in Jesus’ name to the needy, the disenfranchised, the “invisible” of our world. In so doing we will tangibly display the true heart of Christianity, show forth the extraordinary love of Jesus, and do it with a passion for the glory of our Heavenly Father.

Study Questions

1. Read the following quote and discuss what you think it means.

“All Christians everywhere, whatever their cultural background or theological persuasion, must think at some time or other about the relation between the church and the world. What is a Christians responsibility toward non-Christian relatives, friends and neighbours, and indeed the whole non-Christian community?” — John Stott Christian Mission in the World

2. Define in your own words, “mission”. In what ways do we generally understand this word as the world uses it? What about within the church? What makes the difference between the two?
3. In the message Pastor Les gave a simple, working definition of “mission”. What are the four components of this definition? (See John 3:17).
4. All of the gospels (and Acts) have something of a “great commission” statement. Take a look at each of these and comment on the focus of each one;
 - Matthew 28:18-19
 - Mark 13:9-11 (you also have Mark 16:16 but the earliest manuscripts do not contain this section. However note the relevance to the other texts).
 - Luke 24:46-47
 - Acts 1:8

5. Read John 20:30-31. According to John, what is the purpose of his gospel?
6. In our text (John 20:21) we learn a key component to understanding our mission to the world. What is it?
7. What is the relationship between evangelism (sharing the gospel) and caring for the needs of the community (poor, needy, etc)? Does one have a priority in this relationship? If so, which one and why?
8. What do the following texts have to say about the point of being sent?
 - John 17:3,4,18
 - 1 John 4:9,10,14
9. In 1 John 3:16-18 John makes a very penetrating statement concerning the relationship between our love for God and our concern for others. Just what is he saying here?
10. Now walk through our theme statement that was shared at the beginning and discuss what each part means and how we might begin to put this into practice. Use the space below to write down your thoughts and ideas.