

1. REACH THE LOST. (PARTICIPATE IN GOD'S MISSION)

For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

Luke 19:10 (NLT)

³ For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."^[g]

¹⁴ But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? ¹⁵ And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!"^[h]

¹⁶ But not everyone welcomes the Good News, for Isaiah the prophet said, "LORD, who has believed our message?"^[i] ¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.

Romans 10:3-17 (NLT)

Church is not the only place to reach the lost but if we glorify God and are maturing as believers, the gospel is preached, and the Holy Spirit draws them in.

We have worked hard to be a trustworthy church. We start on time and finish on time, we don't teach niche, weird theology, we are loving and generous, and all imperfect people saved by a loving God.

All of this builds to something powerful happening during our Sunday gatherings.

Salvation comes by hearing the word of God, and we open it every Sunday in church.

But if all of you are prophesying, and unbelievers or people who don't understand these things come into your meeting, they will be convicted of sin and judged by what you say. ²⁵ As they listen, their secret thoughts will be exposed, and they will fall to their knees and worship God, declaring, "God is truly here among you."

1 Corinthians 14:24-25 (NLT)

You may build the relationship, invite them to church, and see what God does.

Fellowship is one thing, but evangelism is the proclamation of the gospel, and open hearts drawn by the Holy Spirit respond.

I love the church because it is Jesus' church.

I love the church because imperfect people are being transformed by the grace of God.

I love the church because we get to gather together and worship the God who created us, redeemed us, and deserves our praise.

I love the church because we get to equip people to grow in faith, develop their gifts, and become more like Jesus.

And I love the church because we get to participate in the mission of God, sharing the good news of Jesus with people who desperately need hope.

These three things belong together.

Worship God. Equip the saints. Reach the lost. That is not simply a strategy for running a church. It reflects what God has called His people to be.

And when we understand this, it changes the way we approach church.

We stop asking only, "What can I get out of church?"

And we begin asking, "How can I worship God, how can I grow as a disciple, and how can I help someone else encounter Jesus?"

CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS

What do Luke 19:10 and Romans 10:14–17 teach us about God’s heart for people who don’t yet know Jesus, and who has God placed in your life that you could help encounter Him?

2. How can we, as individuals and as a church, help people feel welcomed, hear the gospel, and encounter God?

3. How does our understanding of church change when we ask, “How can I help someone else encounter Jesus?” rather than only, “What can I get out of church?” What is one practical step you could take this week to help someone move closer to Jesus?