



## **Sent by God: His People on His Mission**

### **LESSON 6: We Will Share the Story of Jesus**

#### **What does God send us forth to do?**

Five concepts guide our mission. God sends his church forth in **Worship**, to **Grow**, **Share**, **Reach Out**, and **Care**.

#### **Life is a Story**

We experience and live life as a story. We remember and recount past events in story form. Our lives have drama and tension in the present because we have unanswered questions about how our unfolding story will be resolved. Will I decide to marry? Will I have fulfillment in my work? How will the children turn out? How will the children's children turn out? Will I have good health? When will I die? Will I be ready? We long for our stories to have significance—to have some kind of ultimate fulfillment. When we stop caring about the story of our life, life loses its meaning. Often our stories take unexpected turns: we get injured, we get sick, we get fired, someone leaves, someone dies, someone lets us down, or we let someone down. Years later, parts of our stories may still be broken or unresolved—in need of grace, healing, and redemption.

#### **Many Stories**

Our lives are impacted by many other stories, and we understand and interpret our own stories in their light. We are influenced by national stories, family stories, stories told in art and literature, stories shared by strangers and friends, and stories told and reflected in pop culture. We are aware of this influence and consequently we are (or should be) selective in the stories we allow our children to hear and view. But stories influence adults as well and we must give care to how we interpret these stories and how we live in relation to them.

#### **THE Story**

Christians subscribe to a particular story. It is, in broad strokes, the story of an all-powerful and loving God who creates, redeems, sustains, and brings our lives to fulfillment in relationship with Him. It is not a mythical story that need not have happened in order to serve its purpose; rather it is history that has occurred and continues to unfold in us and around us in the world today.

The pivotal dramatic focus of this Christian story is found in the life of Jesus the Christ, the Son of God and God incarnate. In Jesus Christ something decisive for the whole world's story has occurred and we are privileged to know this and live accordingly. In fact, in Jesus Christ our own life stories have found a radically and wonderfully new interpretation and promise.

One of the reasons the story of Jesus is called "good news" is because no matter where we have come from or where we are headed or how shattered our story, in Jesus we may always begin again. In Jesus our stories are healed and filled with holy significance. In Jesus our stories have hope, and a divine co-authorship that assures a joyous ending. In Jesus our stories may have redemptive influence on others whose stories we enter.

#### **Sharing the Story of Jesus**

As people sent by God, joining with Him in His mission to the world, we are sent with a story, the story of Jesus. As a congregation we have covenanted to share this story and so we must be careful to become knowledgeable of the story skilled and poetic in telling the story, and devoted to living out the story in our daily lives. We will also become passionately interested in the stories of others around us—it may be through us that Jesus comes into their story for the first time.

**Discussion Questions**

**Read Isaiah 9:1-7; and Micah 5:1-4**

Israel longed for the coming of the Messiah who would deliver the people and establish God's Kingdom. How have you longed for God to work in your life?

Do you observe any longing in today's world for a Messiah? How is that longing expressed?

How is the coming of the Messiah good news for people you know at work, in your neighborhood, or in your family?

**Read Luke 1:26-2:52**

How was the life of a person in this passage changed by the fact that God became and lived as a human being?

How has this fact changed your life?

Think of someone you know whose life would be changed by this story. Imagine a situation where you are sharing this story with that person.

**Read Mark 2:13-3:6 and John 4:1-42**

How did Jesus' life and ministry impact the people in these passages?

How has Jesus' life and ministry shaped your life story?

Why was the Samaritan woman so eager to tell others about Jesus?

**Read Luke 22:1-23:56**

How has the story of Jesus' suffering and death shaped your life?

How does the story of Jesus' suffering and death speak to our world today?

How might the story of Jesus' suffering and death be good news for someone that you know?

**Read Luke 24 and Ephesians 1:15-1:23**

When in your life has Jesus' resurrection had the greatest significance for you?

How is your life impacted on a daily basis by the resurrection?

In light of Paul's prayer for the Ephesians, what is your prayer for yourself and this church in regard to sharing the story of Jesus?

One of our goals during this series is to identify "mission words" to remind us of God's purpose as we go forth into our community and world.

In your opinion, which of the following words are most memorable or best communicate our commitment and desire to live in and share the story of Christ?

- \_\_\_\_\_ PROCLAIM
- \_\_\_\_\_ EVANGELISM
- \_\_\_\_\_ OUTREACH
- \_\_\_\_\_ MISSIONS
- \_\_\_\_\_ TELLING
- \_\_\_\_\_ TEACHING

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**Notes**

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