

Sermon Discussion Questions | Pastor Ron "Living our Mission Together"

Scripture passages: Matthew 22:37-38, Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 2:41-47, I Corinthians 16:8-9

Have members of your small group read the Scripture above aloud prior to beginning discussion.

Icebreaker option: Almost all of the 8 billion people in the world are connected by technology of some sort. What is the difference between connectivity and community?

1. Discuss what we learn about the character and nature of God from these passages and/or this sermon. What words/phrases stand out, what themes do you see repeatedly?
2. In Acts 2:41, those who received God's Word responded through baptism as an outward act of obedience and displaying an inward change of heart. What does it look like for you to continue receiving, believing and responding to God's Word today?
3. Discuss Acts 2:42-46. Which of these practices do you find easiest/most life-giving, and which one might God be inviting you to pursue more intentionally?
4. Jesus commands us in Matthew 22:37-38 to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind. What areas of your life currently reflect wholehearted devotion to God, and what area(s) still need to be surrendered to Him?
5. In Matthew 28:19-20 and Acts 1:8, Jesus commissions His followers to make disciples locally and globally. When you hear stories about missions and serving vulnerable communities, what stirs your heart, and how might God be calling you to participate in His mission to reach the whole world with the good news of Christ?
6. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 16:8-9 that "a wide door for effective work has opened." Looking at the vision - evangelism, church planting, housing, community gardens, and caring for families in need—where do you see an invitation, and where might God be opening a door for you to move from [Believe → Belong → Become → Beyond?](#)
7. The early church saw themselves as a single family. Just as a biological family would share shelter, food and money, so did the early church. In what ways can we share all with other believers, materially and otherwise? What are some things you may not have yet considered sharing that you have at this time (i.e. gift of hospitality, an open bedroom, financial wisdom, words of encouragement, time to disciple/mentor, volunteer, etc.)

For next steps:

- Prayerfully consider the [4B's Believe, Belong, Become & Beyond](#). Which word best describes where you are in their faith journey right now? Why did you choose that word? What is one step you sense God may be inviting you to take next?
- Many believers can feel disconnected, uncared for and unloved. Many see church as a once a week thing (more like an event than a family). What steps can you take to push against this?

"So between the death of Christ and the Last Day it is only by a gracious anticipation of the last things that Christians are privileged to live in visible fellowship with other Christians. It is by the grace of God that a congregation is permitted to gather visibly in this world to share God's word and sacrament. Not all Christians receive this blessing. The imprisoned, the sick, the scattered lonely, the proclaimers of the gospel in heathen lands stand alone. They know that visible fellowship is a blessing... It is true, that of course, that what is an unspeakable gift of God for the lonely individual, is easily disregarded and trodden under foot by those who have the gift every day. It is easily forgotten that the fellowship of Christian brethren is a gift of grace, a gift of the Kingdom of God that any day may be taken from us, that the time that still separates us from the utter loneliness may be brief indeed. Therefore, let him who until now has had the privilege of living a common Christian life with other Christians praise God's grace from his heart. Let him thank God on his knees and declare: it is a grace, nothing but grace, that we are allowed to live in community with Christian brethren."

Dietrich Bohhoeffer, Life Together