

October 25/26, 2008
"I was made for more!"

Pastor Mark Burch

*John 20:21 "Jesus said... As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."
I Peter 4:10 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others...
Micah 6:8 ...act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God.*

We've come full-circle in our discussion. I don't think you can prioritize the order of importance of evangelism, worship, fellowship, discipleship, and service; they all happen to some degree simultaneously. However, there are two ends to this journey. God calls us "out" of the world and back to Himself. The word "ecclesia" literally means the "called out ones." At the other end of the spectrum, we have the missional and sending heart of the Father that pushes us back out into the world. As He sent Jesus – He sends us! What a privilege to live "on mission" with and for God Himself! That's a calling worth stepping in to!

Quest Group Discussion Questions

History (Making it Personal)

1. Share among yourselves the stories of people who were not content with the status quo life. People who have changed the world for the good. Who are some of your "heroes" in the world-changing field!
2. Talk about a time you were involved in a project or in a person's life where you knew that your contribution made a difference. Maybe just a kind act of service – or maybe a major social issue...
3. Why do you think we see movie stars, politicians, business people, and ordinary "Joes" getting involved in issues like global poverty, the reduction of AIDS/HIV or environmental issues? What is it that drives a person to contribute time and energy to a good cause?
4. How do you feel when you've given of yourself to help another? How can it be that you can be "dead-tired" and yet be so totally full?!

Digging Deeper (Looking to the Bible)

5. Scan the passages on spiritual gifts in I Corinthians 12:4-11; Romans 12:3-8; Ephesians 4:11-13 & I Peter 4:10-11. Do a quick debrief on these texts. What are the main points about our gifting? What purpose do they serve? Who has them? What are we to do with them? How can we fan them into flame?
6. Read Micah 6:6-8; Isaiah 58:6-11; Matthew 25:31-46 & James 1:26-27. Talk about the call to justice, to ministry to the poor. Talk about our personal responsibility – and talk about what we can be doing as a corporate church family.
7. Read John 20:21; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Mark 9:35 & 10:35-45 and talk about the call to serve. The Father sent the Son not only with a specific mission but also with a specific method. How should Jesus' "way" become our "way?"

Taking It Home (Application)

8. Spend some time talking this week about the practical applications of using our gifts – both inside the church – as well as in the community. Talk about how you are using your gifts inside the church? Talk honestly about our tendency to just "consume." How can we call out the serving gifts of more people without "guilting" them into ministry?
9. Share a story from your life of when you stepped into service and found yourself filled as a result.
10. Ask yourself some practical questions about our church's ministries. How much do we really believe in the mission of the church? Why are so few willing to serve? Why is a healthy "home-base" so critical if we are going to impact the world?
11. Talk about service ideas your group may want to tackle in the coming months. Perhaps you can serve as a team – see the handout for some suggested ministry ideas for your group!
12. Finally, how do you feel WPC is doing at raising the awareness to the larger global issues of poverty, injustice etc. Do you have ideas of how we can better educate and involve our people?

Will the world be a better place because I have been here?