

BIG IDEA SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Small groups that focus on the Big Idea for the week can use this guide to apply the message to life and take action. Feel free to use whatever parts of this guide best fit your group personality and time frame. All verses, unless otherwise noted, are from the New International Version (NIV).

3.28/29.09 // WHY DO WE DO THAT? OUTREACH

BiG iDEA: God sends us to reach out to others with the Good News of Christ because of His desire to save them and to use us.

// Ice Breaker _____

Option 1: As a child, how easy was it for you to make friends? What about now as an adult?

Option 2: What kinds of things excite you enough to call your friends and family and tell them?

// Questions for Discussion _____

1 How did you come to faith in Christ? Who shared their faith with you?

2 What words and images come to mind when you hear the word “evangelist” or “missionary”?

3 How does it make you feel to know that you are called to be an evangelist/missionary—sharing the Good News of Christ with people who need salvation?

Mark 16:15

He [Jesus] said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

4 What are some implications for evangelism in the parable of the lost sheep? What does it say about the Lord's values?

Luke 15:3-7

³Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

5 Jesus spoke about witnessing in Jerusalem (home area), Judea and Samaria (neighboring regions) and to the ends of the earth. Whom are you most comfortable talking and sharing with: family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, people you're not close to, strangers, people over the internet?

Acts 1:8

"You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

6 What are some of the roles of political ambassadors? How does this relate to our roles as Christ's ambassadors?

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 (NLT)

And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. ...And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"

7 Most of our life experiences are not so unique that others cannot relate. What events in your life could you use to reach out to others? Without being phony, how can you relate to people who are different than you?

1 Corinthians 9:23

Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings.

8 It's usually easy to speak to people about things within our comfort zone—job, hobbies, sports, TV, etc.—why do you think it's awkward to talk about spiritual things? Why do you think only 1% of Christians are said to be evangelizing? What fears and apprehensions do people have about sharing their faith?

9 How do we get past those fears and apprehensions?

10 What are some ways that we can make the most of opportunities to be a witness?

Colossians 4:5

"Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders. Make the most of every opportunity.

11 Outreach is anything we do that leads people to Jesus. But there's sometimes a debate between doing good deeds and sharing the Good News. Some think the emphasis should be on helping people with physical needs. Others emphasize dealing with their spiritual needs. Is one more important than the other? How do you think these two things work hand-in-hand? What is the relationship between "show and tell"?

12 How would you answer somebody that asks you about your faith? How can you be ready?

1 Peter 3:15

"Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you."

13 Who can you tell about what Jesus has done for you so that they may want to go to heaven too?

// Application_____

Read and commit to memory Mark 16:15

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.."

Can you tell your story? A simple way to think of your "story" is to split it into 3 sections:

BC – What my life was like Before Christ.

How – How you came to faith in Christ.

Now – What difference Christ has made in my life.

Grab some business card sized invitations from Connection Point and hand them out.

Download and print Missing Jesus flyers from www.MissingJesus.us and post them in businesses and utility poles or in imaginative places. (Make sure you get permission if a private business)

Write down several names of people you would like to invite and pray for them prior to inviting them to Southpoint.

// Prayer_____

Pray that you will have the boldness to invite several people to Southpoint.

Pray that you will have wisdom to answer questions about your salvation.

Pray for the people in your lives that need Jesus.