

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Basic // What is Mission?

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Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: Where's the best place to eat in Ann Arbor?

Reading: Matthew 28: 16-20

Outline:

- I. Believe Jesus is Lord (v. 18)
 - A. While the Great Commission points us to ministering to all people, including our neighbors, the mission isn't about our neighbors. It's about Jesus. God sends us to plant and water seeds in all people.
 - B. We minister to others and share God's word because of the work Jesus has started in us. How we love our neighbors is our response to God and is our spiritual act of worship.
Q: How do/can you minister to your neighbors?
- II. Be Real (v. 16-17)
 - A. When we minister to our neighbors, we need to be honest with them. We can be honest about our own doubts, our own sins, and honest about what we don't know.
 - B. When you're real, you're relatable. When you're relatable, you're given trust. When you're given trust, neighbors will trust you with their bad stories, which opens the door for you to share The good news of Jesus.
Q: How do you make sure you're "real" with others around you?
- III. Be Patient and Pray (v. 19-20)
 - A. Patience is extremely valuable and powerful to our neighbors whom we are ministering to. We can be patient by listening, identifying with where they are at, and asking other questions to help understand where they are coming from.
 - B. We can begin praying for our neighbors in the midst of their spiritual journeys by inserting their names into the Lord's Prayer. However, if we cultivate connections with our neighbors, what they truly need prayer for will be revealed to us.
Q: What are some ways you pray for your neighbors?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) How can we cultivate connections with our neighbors?
- 2) Why can it be difficult to be "real"/honest with our neighbors?
- 3) What are some challenges you face in ministering to your neighbors?
- 4) How can you be more intentional in your prayers for your neighbors?

Suggestions for further study:

- Hebrews 2:8 Q: How does this verse put into perspective the promise made in Matt. 28:18?
- Isaiah 41:10 Q: How does this verse remind us of God's faithfulness throughout history?

Closing Prayer:

God, thank you for sending Jesus as an example of how to minister to our neighbors. Please help us to cultivate connections around us so that we can better know your people and share your Word according to their needs. Continue to bless all those who share the Gospel, and bless and comfort those who are going through their spiritual journeys. Amen.