

## JOINING JESUS ON HIS MISSION

### SESSION 1: Chapters 1-2

**Warm Up: Recall you best family vacation. What made it so special?**

Consider and reflect on these scripture passages:

**THE OLD COMMISSION:** *5 And now the Lord says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him — for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord, and my God has become my strength — 6 he says: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.” (Isaiah 49:5-6 NRSV)*

**THE GREAT COMMISSION:** *16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28.16-20 NRSV)*

**THE “GET AFTER IT” COMMISSION:** *6 So when they [the disciples] had come together, they asked him [Jesus], “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” 9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. (Acts 1.6-9 NRSV)*

#### DISCUSSION GUIDE : : What’s Jesus Up To? Joining Jesus Chapters 1 & 2

*“Lord, take me where you want me to go; let me meet who you want me to meet; tell me what you want me to say and keep me out of your way. Amen.” – The daily prayer of Father Mychal Judge, NYFD chaplain, killed in the 9/11 attacks at the World Trade Center*

*Jesus is on a mission He has been sent by his Father on a grand adventure to redeem and restore human lives to his kingdom. Jesus is already on the loose out there in our neighborhoods, workplaces and schools. He is already doing the heavy lifting of working in the lives of every human being we see. And he invites us to join him. “Come follow me” (Mark 1:17).*

Definitions:

- “**Missional Living**” is joining Jesus on his redemptive mission and living each day as if it were a mission trip into our own community. We are Neighborhood Missionaries.
- “**Missional Community**” is a smaller group of local neighborhood missionaries who gather regularly in order to support each other as we learn to join Jesus on his mission.
- “**Neighborhood**” is any network of people to which we have regular access. Who are the people who live near us, work near us, play near us, etc.?
- “**Neighboring**” is any interaction that helps foster friendship between neighbors. Neighboring puts us into the position of finding out what Jesus is already up to in the lives of people near us.

1. The premise of this book is that Jesus is already on the loose in our community doing the heavy lifting of pursuing his Father's mission in people's lives. All we have to do is join him. What is the difference in joining *with* Jesus on mission and doing mission *for* Jesus?
2. What was one idea, phrase or story that stood out the most to you moment you in the first chapters?
3. Which definition(s) discussed do you still have questions about?
4. What have you learned about being an everyday missionary so far?
5. What are some of the "new things" Jesus is asking you to notice, believe or wrestle with?
6. What is Jesus inviting you to do in response to today's discussion?

Read again the three "Commission" passages from the beginning of this lesson. How are these three commissions similar? How are they different, what is unique about each? What is God calling his people to do in each commission? What are the challenges we face in following God's call as a church? What about you personally?