

JOINING JESUS ON HIS MISSION

SESSION 5: Chapters 11-13

Warm Up: Share with the group what it was like where you grew up. What did you like about it? What did you not like it?

Dear Friends,

Last session we completed Part 1 of Finke's book by considering what is already happening in people's lives considering that God's Kingdom and Mission are at work around them. This week we start Part 2 of the book or "how we join Jesus" by engaging the first two of five missional living practices:

- Seeking the Kingdom
- Hearing from Jesus

As we've done in previous weeks, let's begin by considering a few Bible passages:

Being Prepared and in Position

13 Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? 14 But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." 15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have; but do this with gentleness and respect. (1 Peter 3:13-15 NIV)

Seeking What is There

27 To this John replied, "A person can receive only what is given them from heaven. 28 You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.' 29 The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. 30 He must become greater; I must become less." (John 3:27-30 NIV)

"So I say to you: ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." (Luke 11:9-10)

Opening Up the Gospels

1 Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, 2 just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. 3 With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, 4 so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught. (Luke 1:1-4 NIV)

24 This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true. 25 Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written. (John 21:24-25)

30 Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:30-31)

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Chapters 11-13

1. Consider the following two quotes from page 97: "Wherever you go, there you are." – Winnie the Pooh
"And wherever you are, Jesus is already working redemptively." – Greg Finke
What does it mean to you as a Jesus follower that Jesus has placed you exactly where he is already at work?

2. List the five missional practices that Finke identifies in Chapter 11:

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.

Which of these is the most challenging for you?

3. Finke is advocating, "Living life as if we are on a mission trip every day."

Missional living is about a lifestyle!

a. Why is this different from a congregational mission or outreach program?

b. Which approach do you find more appealing personally, and why?

4. The Kingdom of God has a "look and feel" among those who are the people of God (or at least it should!). What is the Kingdom like among believers? According to the Bible it's where the fruits of the Spirit are present (Gal 5:22-23). It's where love exists among the brethren (John 13:35). But what does the presence of the Kingdom look like among those who are not yet believers? Discuss the following:

a. It will usually look like human need. It will look like where love, hope or redemption are needed. We can look around and ask ourselves, "Where can grace be applied? Where can a little love and truth make a difference?" (Finke, p. 84)

b. How important is it for those in the Kingdom to have the "look and feel of the redeemed" for those that don't yet believe? How does this happen?

c. Given what we've learned so far, "How have you seen Jesus at work in your life this week?" How has Jesus shown you what is happening in his Kingdom?

5. According to Chapter 13 what are some of the ways that we listen to or hear from Jesus?

6. Finke suggests that the best way to get to know Jesus is from reading the Gospels. What are some of the reasons why this might be important?

7. Discuss and briefly summarize Finke's suggestions for getting into the Gospels: How can you put these suggestions into practice?

With all this in mind take another look at the scripture passages from the beginning of this lesson:

How does the passage from 1 Peter support the missional idea of getting into position every day? What does Peter say are the keys to "being prepared?" How do the verses with the quotes from John the Baptist and Jesus relate to seeking God's Kingdom among us? What does God's part look like here, how about ours? In what way do the passages under the title "Opening up the Gospels" support the importance of reading the Gospels in order to hear from Jesus?