



RESOURCES FOR GROUPS

TITLE: Mission Critical

DATE: April 11, 2021

PASSAGE: Luke 4:18-21 + Isaiah 61:1-3

SPEAKER: Pastor Steve Berg

COMMUNITY BUILDING:

- Talk about a time someone moved toward you with encouragement and hope when you were hurting.
- What is a restorative practice that you try to do on a regular basis?

CHRIST-CENTERED DISCUSSION:

Bold indicates zoom friendly OR to be used with spiritual growth partners. *Italicized green text is the leader guide.*

- **How would you describe the “mission” that Pastor Steve laid out on Sunday? Are you on board to accept this mission?**

Pastor Steve described the mission as “moving towards the hurting with the good news of release and restoration.” Use your notes and take some time to talk through the different phrases of that statement.

- Look at Luke 4:18-21. What is Jesus' 5-part mission as described in verses 18-19? What stories in the Gospels portray Jesus fulfilling those goals? How is He fulfilling them now? Are the five parts mutually exclusive or interrelated in some way? Discuss.

- What does it mean to be restored? What does it mean to be released?

- What regular rhythms do you have in place that help you find “release and restoration” in your own life?

Be ready as leaders to lead out with examples from your own life, but try not to dominate the conversation. Help your members not overthink or over-spiritualize what these practices are. For the Israelites, these rhythms involved eating, communing together and incorporating thoughts toward God in their everyday practices. It didn't always involve a set-aside, sacred space. Get practical.

- Jesus refers to 5 goals of his mission (preaching the Gospel, helping people to be free to really live, performing acts of mercy, working for fair and just social structures, and celebrating God's grace to disheartened people.) What examples are there in Acts and the Epistles to demonstrate that the early church accepted and lived out this 5-fold mission of Jesus?

- If all five parts are to be carried out by the church, which one(s) do we seem to give priority to and which do we tend to neglect? What role could you play in living out this mission in our church?

Steer the conversation toward active engagement when possible, not simply “arm-chair quarterbacking.” Are there places for your group members to jump in right away? Pay attention to the passion areas that come out of this conversation. Circle back around to these areas as we continue through the Missional Journey.

- **Would you describe yourself as a person who is “moving toward the hurting with the Good News?” Is this who you want to be? Who are the “hurting” around you right now? How will you “move towards” them this week?**

FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING:

- Two classes are starting this week at Woodlands (Woodlands Membership and Parenting in the Midst of the Storm). Taking a class together can be an intentional way to grow as believers. Two others will start May 4 - Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life and Christianity Explored. You can still sign up for the latter two!
- We are continuing the resource page on our website. [Go there](https://woodlandschurch.org/resources/) to find our Faithfully Following pieces for this week. (Here's the new url: <https://woodlandschurch.org/resources/>)