

CONNECTGROUPGUIDE

ON MISSION WITH JESUS



Deeply Transformed | Serving Together

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April 19

April 26

May 3

May 10

May 17

Compassionate Mission

Local Mission

Costly Mission

Fearless Mission

Rewarded Mission

INTRO

Matthew 9:35–10:42 fits beautifully with our 2026 Focus of being Deeply Transformed | Serving Together.

It marks a pivotal turning point in Matthew, transitioning from Jesus performing miracles to commissioning his followers to join in his ministry. It opens with Jesus traveling through Galilee, teaching, preaching, and healing with a heart filled with compassion for the "harassed and helpless" crowds.

The disciples are empowered to share in preaching the Kingdom and healing the sick, initially focusing on the "lost sheep of Israel". They are given specific, demanding instructions, emphasising urgency, and trusting entirely on God for provision rather than material gain. This highlights that the mission is not a commercial venture but an act of grace—freely receiving and freely giving.

Jesus prepares his followers for the harsh realities of ministry, warning that they will face opposition, rejection, and even persecution, yet promising the Holy Spirit's guidance and eternal reward. He calls for radical commitment, urging them (and us) to love Him above family and to take up their crosses, promising that losing one's life for his sake is finding true life.

The conclusion is an encouragement for the church, highlighting that welcoming the message of the kingdom—and those who bring it—is a profound blessing.

Some guidelines for Connect Group ...

- Come to the study prepared; preparation will greatly enrich your time together; it is recommended to take notes during the Sunday sermon, and to write down your thoughts as you prepare
- As part of your preparation, why not listen to the sermon again during the week (*most sermons are recorded and available on [Apple Podcasts](#), and also on the [website](#)*)
- As you prepare, pray that God will speak to you through his word
- Be willing to participate in your group. Your sharing will greatly encourage all the other members as you grow together
- Stick to the topic - this allows everyone to participate on level ground and to go deeper into the Bible
- Be sensitive to others and listen attentively; affirm others, especially those who may feel timid or don't often share
- Your leader won't be lecturing, but helping members to think through the questions. Some of the questions don't have a 'right' answer, especially those that apply the Bible to our lives
- Be careful not to dominate, as it could inhibit others from sharing
- Expect God to teach you through the passage and through other members, and always pray that it will be a profitable time together

Compassionate Mission

Matthew 9:35-10:4

INTRO

What is a situation in the world at the moment that moves you to compassion?

1. What are the two key aspects of Jesus' ministry with the crowds?
2. How would you describe the good news of the kingdom?
3. What might Jesus have been referring to, in his context, when he described the crowds as "harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd"? (Note the previous passage where Jesus healed two blind men, and a demon possessed mute man. And note the Pharisees response in v.34)

Sermon Notes

4. How might people today be harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd?
5. Jesus' initial response to the harassed crowds is compassion, but what practical action does Jesus ask of his disciples after this?
6. Share something you know about one of the twelve apostles. You may like to do some research on one or a number you don't know much about.
7. What does this passage teach us about Jesus?



- Do what Jesus says, "Ask the Lord of the harvest therefore, to send out workers into his harvestfield."
- Pray for more workers for the harvest at ACN, for people to hear God's call to ordained ministry, and cross-cultural ministry to take the gospel into new territory.

Sermon Notes

PERSONAL GROWTH PLAN

Spend some time talking about the Personal Growth Plan.
What can you share this week about the steps you are taking?

LIVING TO LOVE JESUS

#Christ-centred

#Bible-based

Deeply Transformed

How will I fuel my love
for Jesus and
intentionally grow as a
disciple of Jesus?

LIVING TO PROCLAIM JESUS

#Spirit-led

#Mission-shaped

Serving Together

How will I develop my
servant heart
and make a difference in
the world?

Local Mission

Matthew 10:5-15

INTRO

Have you ever received something for free that felt really valuable?

Read Matthew 10:5-15

1. Who are the disciples sent to?
And who are they not sent to yet?
2. What is the message they are to proclaim and what does it mean?
3. What are the disciples to do alongside their proclamation?

Sermon Notes

4. How do the disciples show their dependence on God whilst on mission?

6. What might we do if we are rejected, or if our message is rejected?

5. How does hospitality work on their mission? What might it mean for our hospitality?

7. Should we think of ourselves as "missionaries" at home here? What might the drawbacks or benefits of such thinking mean?



- Pray for God to raise up workers for the harvest field.
- Ask God to prepare, equip, and send you.
- Ask God for the boldness, courage, and wisdom to speak up for him in your context

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Costly Mission

Matthew 10:16-25 1 Peter 4:12-19

INTRO

What fears or hesitations do people have when it comes to talking about Jesus?

Read Matthew 10:16-25

1. How do you feel being called a sheep sent among wolves?
Is there a current context where you feel like a sheep among wolves?
2. What does it look like to be as shrewd as a snake and innocent as a dove?
3. What are we promised when we're under persecution and pressure?

Sermon Notes

4. How costly is it to follow Jesus?

Read 1 Peter 4:12-19

6. How does Peter help us understand suffering for being a Christian?

5. How does Jesus' own experience shape the way we understand and endure opposition?

7. How should we respond when mission is costly?

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- Ask God to make you bold and gentle, shrewd and innocent, wise and winsome as you witness for Him.
 - Thank God for His Spirit who helps us when we speak.
 - Pray for the faith to trust Him during the costly, challenging, and painful days of following Jesus.

PRAY

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Fearless Mission

Matthew 10:26–33

INTRO

What kinds of things most commonly make Christians afraid of openly following Jesus today?

Are there things that make you afraid of sharing your faith?

Read Matthew 10:26-33

1. Jesus says, "Do not be afraid," three times in this passage. What reasons does Jesus give for not being afraid, and which one stands out most to you?
2. What do you think Jesus means in verses 26–27? Why should the disciples speak openly rather than hide?
3. What does Jesus mean when he says to not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul? What does this show about eternal realities?

Sermon Notes

4. Jesus points to the Father's care over sparrows and even the hairs of our head. How does God's sovereignty and care help Christians face fear?
5. How does the assurance that God knows and values us so deeply shape our view of his love and provision?
6. In light of verses 32–33, where might Jesus be challenging you to acknowledge him more openly in your life?

7. What might it look like this week to obey Jesus' command not to be afraid in your workplace, friendships, or family life?

Extension Question

8. In verse 28, the word translated "hell" is Gehenna (lit. Valley of Ben Himmon). Read Jeremiah 7:31–32; 19:2–6, 2 Kings 23:10; and then compare Matthew 10:28. What does Jesus mean by Gehenna, and how does it sharpen his warning?



- Pray for courage to speak openly about Jesus, especially in places where fear easily silences us.
- Pray for freedom from fear of people, that we would care more about God's approval than human opinion.
- Pray for those around the world who are faced with hostility and persecution.

You can use <https://www.opendoors.org.au/get-involved/prayer/> for up to date prayer points for the persecuted church.

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Rewarded Mission

Matthew 10:34-42 Micah 7:5-7

INTRO

Share a time when you had to choose between two things you care about.

Read Matthew 10:34-42

1. Why does Jesus say he came to bring a sword instead of peace? What particular type of division is he talking about?
2. What kind of loyalty does Jesus ask of us?
3. What does it mean to take up your cross?

Sermon Notes

4. What similarities do you see between Micah's words in Micah 7:5-7 and Jesus' words?

6. What reward can someone getting cool water for a disciple expect?

5. How does Jesus connect himself with his messengers? What is promised to those who receive them?

7. How do the cost and reward fit together?



- Thank God for the infinite eternal reward we have in his presence.
- Ask for strength to take up our cross daily and the endurance to follow Jesus closely.
- Praise God that even though following Jesus is costly, the reward is immense and nothing we lose for him is wasted, nothing we do for him is forgotten.

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