



#### WEEK 4—Your Mission if You Choose to Accept It

1. The last of the five purposes is for us to accept the mission that God leaves on earth to accomplish: We need to share the Gospel with those who do not know Christ. When you think of the idea of sharing your faith with other people, what is your reaction? Many Christians are afraid to share their faith with others, why do you think this is so? What are some things we can do to help us overcome this fear?

*Answer—One of the big causes of this fear is that we do not know how to do it. That fear can be alleviated by working to prepare yourself so that when you have the opportunity to share the gospel, you know exactly how to go about it. We will talk about how to do that in a later question.*

2. Pastor Rick said that the mission of spreading the gospel to others is the most important job we have while we are on earth. Do you agree? Why is it so important? A Christian speaker once said: “We can feed the hungry, help the homeless, alleviate as much suffering of people as we can, but if we do not give them the gospel as well, then we are just making earth a better place to go to hell from. That is not what we have been called to do”. Do you agree with this sentiment? Do you think he is saying that we should not help people, or that helping people is not what we are supposed to do? What is he saying?

*Answer—The speaker is saying that helping people is the means to an end: the end is to share the gospel with them. If a person has all of their needs met while on earth but then dies and goes to hell because no one shared the gospel with them, then we are missing the point of helping them as Christians. Giving the gospel to people should always be a part of anything we do for them.*

3. The following statements are reasons why we should share Christ with others. Read the verses and then discuss the merits of each statement. Which one impacts you the most? See if your group can come up with even more reasons, this is not an exhaustive list. **A.** Matthew 4:18-20—You cannot be a follower of Christ without fishing for men (evangelism). You can never completely be a follower of Christ without sharing your faith with others. **B.** Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15—Jesus expects me to continue His mission of seeking and saving the lost. **C.** 1 Corinthians 9:16,17; 1 Thessalonians 2:4; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20— Sharing the Good News of the Gospel is the responsibility of every Christian, it is not optional.

**D.** 1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9; Revelation 22:27—It is God’s desire that everyone be saved. **E.** John 14:6; John 3:16-18; Mark 9:43-47—People you know and love who die without trusting Christ as Savior will spend eternity in hell.

4. Read Acts 1:8. Jesus divulges His strategy for how the church could reach the world with the Gospel, what are the three steps and in Colorado, what would those steps be for us? If you were to begin following these steps, what would be your “personal Jerusalem”? When you think of people in your life who need to hear about Christ, what name pops into your mind? What could you do in the next month to bring the Gospel to them?

*Answer—Jesus said: Step 1—Jerusalem, the people you have direct contact with every day. Step 2 - Judea and Samaria, the people of the Denver Metro area and the rest of Colorado. Step 3— The uttermost parts of the earth, America and the rest of the world. Some ideas to get the gospel to them in the next month: 1. Invite them to attend a church service. 2. Invite them over for dinner at your home and share the gospel with them or invite Pastor Mark to come also (he’ll come to anything with food) and have him share the gospel with them. 3. Write a letter (handwritten, better than text or email) to the person explaining the gospel. 4. Invite unsaved friends to your small group Christmas party and have someone share the Christmas story with the gospel. Have your people brainstorm other things they could do.*

5. Are you comfortable with your ability to share your faith with others? As a group, discuss times in the past when people in your group shared their faith with other people. How did they begin the conversation? What were the circumstances that led to the conversation? What seemed to work in having a conversation about Christ? What was the result? If someone shut you down and wouldn’t listen to you, were they rejecting you or God? Is it a failure if we try to share Christ with people and they do not listen?

*Answer— When people will not listen to the gospel, it is not us they are rejecting but God. Jesus told a story in which he predicted that there would be four types of listeners. You might want to read the passage to your group and explain it, it is the parable of the sower in Matthew 13:3-9. You could also talk about the passage in 1 Corinthians 3:6-9 where Paul talks about one person sowing the seed, another watering, but it is God that causes it to grow. It is never a failure to share the truth of the gospel with someone, you never know what thoughts you are able to sow into their minds. It might be that you sowing the seed causes them to come to Christ later, perhaps even years later.*