

## Joining Jesus on His Mission

*Video Training Curriculum*

### Processing Our Insights & Putting Them into Action

#### **Purpose**

This video curriculum is designed to help participants gain important insights for joining Jesus on his mission and turn those insights into self-identified, simple actions in their everyday lives. Why insights *and* actions? The goal is to have participants gain both insights and *experience* in joining Jesus on his mission. This curriculum is not so much a tool for Bible *Study* as it is a tool for Bible *Doing*.

#### **How to Use**

The video curriculum takes participants on a journey of insight and discovery for joining Jesus on his mission in the places they already live, work and go to school. Consisting of ten segments, with each segment lasting between eight and ten minutes, the curriculum gives the participants the key “a-ha!” experiences they need to go from mission-study to mission-living.

It is recommended that you allow about 60 minutes for watching each video segment and then going through the processing materials. Each video segment sets up the opportunity for participants to process their insights and then to self-identify an assignment for the next week. The goal is to give each participant the opportunity to put their insight into action at their own pace. If time is limited, watch the video and then go straight to the “Before We Go” section. *If you have to choose something to cut, do NOT cut the video, the self-identified assignment, or time of prayer.*

#### **The Video and the Book**

A participant does not need to read the book, “**Joining Jesus on His Mission**” by Greg Finke in order to use this video curriculum. However, a solid strategy for training people to be everyday missionaries is to have participants read the book *alongside* their participation in the video curriculum. Notes linking book chapters and video segments are provided in the processing materials.

**Book Discounts:** Having purchased this video curriculum qualifies you for Dwelling 1:14’s deepest discount on the book: **50% off the list price** of \$15.99. That’s **only \$7.99** per book! (The discount applies to order of 12-24 books + shipping.) Contact the author at [finkeonthemove@aol.com](mailto:finkeonthemove@aol.com) or 281-844-7644 for information about how to order copies of the book at the “Video Curriculum” discount.

## **Permission**

Purchasing the video curriculum entitles you to **make as many copies of the videos as you need** for use within your congregation. However, by purchasing the video curriculum you also agree to **ONLY** use the videos within your congregation. Please help protect Dwelling 1:14 by safeguarding the distribution of the videos.

## **How to Start**

If your group does not know each other well, think about taking time to answer an ice breaker question. Focus on questions that invite people to tell part of their story.

Each week, when your group is ready to turn its attention to the video, we suggest that you first remind them of your group's main purpose. You can say something like, *"We are gathering to support each other as we seek God's Kingdom and join Jesus' mission in our everyday lives. We want to share our stories of what went well and what we missed. Our stories provide the encouragement, insight and accountability we need for heading out and joining Jesus for another week."*

Here's what can be expected from each of the ten sessions of this curriculum. Each session will follow a simple three-part rhythm:

- 1) Watch the video together. Each video presents a key insight from the book, **"Joining Jesus on His Mission."** (Corresponding book chapters are listed in each written session.)
- 2) Next, using the materials provided, process those insights as a group.
- 3) Then comes your most important work: Toward the end of your time together, you will take a few minutes to identify and write down what you believe you are to do as a result of the insights and discussion you have had during the segment. This is your self-identified assignment for the coming week. This assignment is important because it will move participants from merely *talking* about joining Jesus on his mission to *actually* joining Jesus on his mission in the lives of real people.

You may also want to remind your participants that your group is a safe place. You want your group to be a place where you learn from one another's experiences and everything remains confidential. Your gathering is about Jesus and how he is leading you to join him on his redemptive mission in the lives of people around you. Help each other avoid sliding into boasting, gossip, put-downs or any other un-redemptive habit.

**If your group has more than 8 participants, for the sake of time, you may want to break down into smaller groups for the discussion and prayer time.**

## **The Goal is Baby Steps**

The "Joining Jesus" video curriculum does not ask participants to take heroic leaps into being a Neighborhood Missionary. Instead it helps you take a series of baby steps over several weeks in order to build your confidence and experience in joining Jesus. By God's grace, as you work through this training, you will go from uncertainty to understanding and from anxiety to excitement for living as everyday missionaries.

During each session your group will have the opportunity to tell the stories of what happened in the previous week, whether those stories seem little or large. In Zechariah 4:10, the Lord asks, "Who

despises the day of small things?” And Jesus reminds us in Matthew 13:31 that the Kingdom of God is like a small seed. In other words, **small is BIG and little is LARGE.**

The “Joining Jesus” video curriculum is introducing a new way of thinking and living for participants, namely, living life with Jesus as an active participant in their daily lives and with his mission as their mission. As a leader, this means you will need to practice a healthy tension between patience and persistence with your participants. They will need time to catch on and gain experience. But they will also need you to spur them on to think through and take the next “baby step” for joining Jesus in the new week.

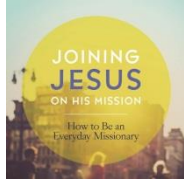
**If you encourage and celebrate the baby steps each person takes, you will see amazing progress over the ten sessions.**

May God bless you and your group as together you “*Join Jesus on His Mission!*”



The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

Dwelling 1:14 is a nonprofit ministry. We are dedicated to discipling people *for* and *through* joining Jesus on His mission in the places they already live, work and go to school. Donations are tax deductible. Visit us on our website [www.dwelling114.org](http://www.dwelling114.org).



**Video 1: "What's Jesus Up To?"** Mark 1:15 | Book chapter 1

**Processing Our Insights:**

- 1) Jesus is on a mission. He's been sent by his Father on a grand adventure to redeem and restore all things. Ever since Jesus broke out of the tomb on Easter Sunday morning, he's been on the loose out there, pursuing his Father's redemptive mission; ripening people, preparing people to be reunited with the Father he loves. In fact, that's what Jesus is up to *right now* in every one of our neighborhoods. And... he invites us to join him.
  - What intrigues you about thinking of mission/outreach in this way?
  
- 2) In the video, the Finke's say, "Don't worry. We're not going to ask you to take a giant leap all at once into being a Neighborhood Missionary. Instead we're going to help you take a series of baby steps over the next several weeks that will build your confidence and experience in joining Jesus in everyday life."
  - What do you like about this kind of approach?
  
- 3) When the Finke's start working with people who are ready to be everyday missionaries, one of the first questions they ask is, "So, how's Jesus messing with you?" Remember "messing with you" doesn't mean, "How is Jesus picking on you?" It means, "How is he 'messing' with your status quo? How is he 'messing' with your presumptions and preferences as a Christian? How is he trying to get your attention?"
  - So, how is Jesus messing with you lately?
  
  - Why do you think Jesus wants your attention?
  
- 4) In a remarkably short amount of time, North America has become one of the largest mission fields on the planet. The odds are very good that right now, wherever you live in North America, the people in your neighborhood and workplace are unconnected to a local congregation and may not be connected to Jesus at all. The church today is no longer servicing a community filled with Christians. We are now a church who finds itself in a mission field. And we weren't trained for that. The mindset and practices of most Christian churches are perfectly calibrated for a culture that essentially no longer exists. This is why so many churches are struggling. There is not one county in the U.S. that has more than 50% of its residents regularly participating in a local congregation. And many counties have dramatically fewer than that.

- What disturbs you about this kind of rapid change in your community?
- The good news is that Jesus isn't struggling or confused. What is Jesus' response to this change?

5) Joining Jesus on his redemptive mission is what the term **“missional living”** means. “Missional living” is simply living each day as if it were a mission trip. The difference, of course, is that instead of being on a mission trip to a foreign land, we are on a mission trip to our own community. We are Neighborhood Missionaries. The word **“missional”** is simply a descriptive word indicating that each part of our daily lives can now be seen as part of Jesus' redemptive mission in our community.

*Joining Jesus doesn't add another layer of busyness on top of an already busy schedule. Instead, joining Jesus is something we do in the midst of our busy schedule. Living missionally simply requires a new mission *mindset* and to put some new mission *practices* into play along life's way.*

- As you think about your own daily life, how do the statements above help you?

6) Does the idea of joining Jesus on His mission make you nervous? That's probably because you have something precisely backwards in your mind like Greg used to. He used to think that he had to go out *for* Jesus rather than *with* Jesus. He used to think that he had to be a Jesus-salesperson rather than what Jesus actually invites us to be: a Jesus-follower. When we are joining Jesus on His mission in the places we live, work and go to school, it will look to our neighbor like we are being a good neighbor. It will look to our co-worker like we are being a good friend.

- What makes you nervous as you think about yourself as a neighborhood missionary?
- How does the statement above change your mission mindset?

Note: Being a good neighbor or a good friend over time does not guarantee your neighbor or friend will come to have faith in Jesus. However, it does build the foundation of relationship and trust which leads to more personal conversations, including questions about life and faith.

### **Before We Go**

Note: It may be helpful to break into groups of three.

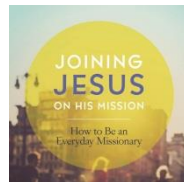
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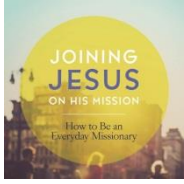
Have each person take **60 seconds** to share their self-identified assignment with the group.

In the coming days *watch for opportunities Jesus will give you* to put your self-identified assignments into play. The next time your group meets be ready to tell the stories of what happened (whether little or large).

**Ministering through Prayer:** As we prepare to head out on our mission adventure with Jesus, have each person ask the next person, **“How can I help you in prayer?”** After everyone has had a turn to answer, each person then prays for their neighbor. Write the prayer request in the space below so you won’t forget.

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**Video 2: "Jesus Is On a Mission"** Colossians 1:19-20 and Revelation 21:5 | Book chapter 2

**Processing Our Insights:**

- 1) This video segment focuses on the new mission mindset we are invited to have as we join Jesus on his mission.
  - How would you sum up this new mission mindset?
  - How does this new mission mindset change the way you think about being on mission?
  - What is the mission of Jesus? And is his mission accomplished by getting people to a worship service or by helping people meet *him* wherever they may be? (Follow up question: What is the role of a worship service in the mission of Jesus?)
- 2) Four terms were introduced and defined. How would you explain each term to a friend?
  - "Missional Living"
  - "Missional Community"
  - "Neighborhood"
  - "Neighboring"
- 3) Greg indicated that our group is already beginning to act like a missional community. He said, "A Missional Community is a smaller group of neighborhood missionaries who gather regularly to support each other as they learn to live their lives as a mission trip."
  - Why do you think it would be important for neighborhood missionaries like us to regularly gather together like Greg describes? (See Hebrew 10:24-25)
  - What is the mission statement of our church (or what is the gist of it)? How would missional communities help accomplish our stated mission?

4) Only Jesus can do Jesus-work. Only Jesus could die on the cross and rise again to take away our sins. Only Jesus can know what's stirring around in the deep places of a person's heart. Only Jesus can ripen a person so that our seed of kind-attention, gentle-truth or longed-for-grace lands at just the right moment.

- Jesus speaks of looking for "ripe" people in John 4:35. What does it mean for a person to be ripe?
- What if a person is not yet ripe?
- How does the analogy of the apple tree help you?

5) At the end of this video segment the Finke's invited us to take up the instruction of Jesus to open our eyes and look around. Who has the Father already put nearby us at home, at work, at school, etc.? Jesus wants us to understand that he is already working in their lives and that many of them are ripe for a little grace, friendship, wisdom or a listening ear.

However, in order to know how Jesus may be ripening them, we need to know their name and a little of their story. In the coming week, let's take a small but intentional step toward joining Jesus in our neighborhood. Here is your challenge: Go around to as many of your neighbors as you can in the coming days and find out the following:

- What is their name?
- What is a little of their story? For example: when and why did they move here, what do they do for a living, what do they do to unwind?

Write down what you find out and bring it with you next time.

### **Before We Go**

Note: It may be helpful to break into groups of three.

**"A-Ha!" Insights to Action:** What was the most significant insight you had as a result of today's video and discussion? Take **3 minutes** to write down your insight and what you think Jesus might be giving you to believe and/or do as a result. This is your self-identified assignment for joining Jesus in the coming days. In addition, will you take up the challenge in Question 5?

Have each person take **60 seconds** to share their self-identified assignment with the group.

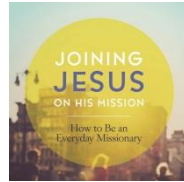
In the coming days *watch for opportunities Jesus will give you* to put your self-identified assignments into play. The next time your group meets be ready to tell the stories of what happened (whether little or large).

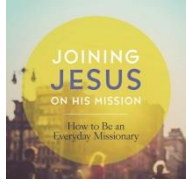
**Ministering through Prayer:** As we prepare to head out on our mission adventure with Jesus, have each person ask the next person, **"How can I help you in prayer?"** After everyone has had a turn to answer,



each person then prays for their neighbor. Write the prayer request in the space below so you won't forget.

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**Video 3: "Mission Mindset Changes"** Matthew 11:19 | Book chapters 3-6

**Before the Video:** Each person take a moment to share with the group the insights and experiences you had over the last several days as you sought to join Jesus on his mission in your everyday life.

**Processing Our Insights:**

- 1) Today we focus on three simple but important changes in how we think about mission. To give us a context for this experience, take a few minutes to identify the various "neighborhoods" in which you spend significant time. Label the circles below to represent each of your "neighborhoods," for example, home, work, gym, coffee shop, school, etc. Draw additional circles as you need them. Then in the circle write the names of people you know from each "neighborhood."

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Three large, empty circles are arranged horizontally, each positioned below a horizontal line. These circles are intended for the user to draw and label their "neighborhoods" and list names of people known in each.

- 2) The first mission mindset change we are already familiar with: Jesus is on a mission and he invites us to join him. We don't go *for* Jesus. We go *with* Jesus. He is already at work in the lives of everyone in every "neighborhood." Our part is to seek, recognize and respond to what he is already up to in people's lives.

The second mission mindset change is that *the river has moved*. Our culture has moved from a church-culture to a mission field. Even our very best services and programming are not enough to attract a significant percentage of the community into our church buildings like they used to.

The third mission mindset change is to trust that our secret weapon for joining Jesus on his mission is *being with and enjoying people*. In other words, we imitate what Jesus did in the Gospels.

- As you think about these mission mindset changes, how do they impact the way you may relate to the various people you have identified in your “neighborhoods” (above)? Share your insights with the group.

3) The Finke’s presented a simple formula for joining Jesus on his mission:

**Enjoy People + Seek, Recognize and Respond** to what Jesus is already doing in the lives of the people we are enjoying

- As you think about the various people in your “neighborhoods,” what would it take to create the time and space to occasionally hang out with them and enjoy them like we see Jesus doing in the Gospels? (You do not need to think in terms of doing something every day or even every week, but every once in a while.)
- Take a moment to pray this prayer: “Dear Jesus, you have placed various neighbors nearby me. Who is ripe for some unhurried time with me and You? Amen.”
- Which person or family came to mind during the prayer? Write their name(s) below. (Perhaps Jesus has been preparing them for such a time as this.)
- What could be your plan for hanging out with this person within the next month? Share your thoughts with your group.

Note: If you are more introverted, how can you spend time with your neighbor in a way that may challenge but does not violate your relational wiring? If you are more extroverted, how can you build on your previous friendly encounters with neighbors to begin forming deeper friendships? Also, if you do not know a person or family very well, perhaps you could expand the plan to include other people as well. If the person who came to mind is of the opposite sex, be wise and be sure to invite additional people to join you.

**My Plan:**

Who?

What?

When?

Who else can be included?

Who can help me with this plan?

- In the coming week, let's take a small but intentional step toward joining Jesus on his mission. Here is your challenge: begin to implement your plan by contacting the person(s) and inviting them to what you've planned. See if they are available within the next month for your get together.

### **Before We Go**

Note: You may want to break into groups of three.

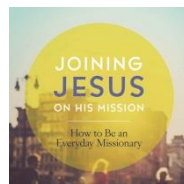
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Have each person take **60 seconds** to share their self-identified assignment with the group.

In the coming days *watch for opportunities Jesus will give you* to put your self-identified assignments into play. The next time your group meets be ready to tell the stories of what happened (whether little or large).

**Ministering through Prayer:** As we prepare to head out on our mission adventure with Jesus, have each person ask the next person, **“How can I help you in prayer?”** After everyone has had a turn to answer, each person then prays for their neighbor. Write the prayer request in the space below so you won't forget.

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**Video 4: "Seeking What's Already Happening"** Matthew 6:33 | Book chapters 7-9

**Before the Video:** Each person take a moment to share with the group the insights and experiences you had over the last several days as you sought to join Jesus on his mission in your everyday life.

Note: Perhaps now would be a good time to ask if anyone is feeling inadequate at this point in the training process. Have a laugh together and take a moment to reassure and encourage. Remember your secret weapon: Jesus is actually resurrected and on the loose in your community!

**Processing Our Insights:**

- 1) Today we focus on how to seek, recognize and respond to what Jesus is already doing in the lives of the people we are enjoying. As you watched the video, what insights did you have?
- 2) Many people assume seeking and recognizing what Jesus is doing must be the most difficult and mysterious part of joining Jesus on his mission. Why is it actually pretty simple?
- 3) At one point Greg said, "It's not that God is inactive. It's that we are inattentive." What makes sense about that?
- 4) The stories of the shrimp party and lawn mowing are examples of the Kingdom of God coming near. Jesus does all the hard, complicated work of preparing people and circumstances. All we have to do is watch for where a little grace can be applied. We can go about our daily routines simply asking ourselves, "What's Jesus up to here?"
  - What is a recent story from your life where you have seen "the Kingdom of God coming near"? (If you are having trouble with this question, think of something good or hard that happened last week. What might have Jesus been up to in the midst of that good or hard moment?)
- 5) Susan reminds us that when we see a need for a little grace in our neighbors' lives, we do not need to feel like we must solve their problems or fix what is broken. That's Jesus' job, not ours. Why is this important to keep straight?

**Before We Go**

Note: You may want to break into groups of three.

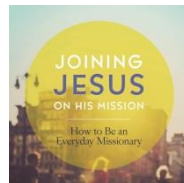
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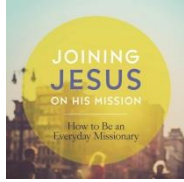
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**Ministering through Prayer:** As we prepare to head out on our mission adventure with Jesus, have each person ask the next person, **“How can I help you in prayer?”** After everyone has had a turn to answer, each person then prays for their neighbor. Write the prayer request in the space below so you won’t forget.

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**Video 5: "How to Join Jesus Every Day"** John 4:35-38 | Book chapters 10-12

**Before the Video:** Each person take a moment to share with the group the insights and experiences you had over the last several days as you sought to join Jesus on his mission in your everyday life. If you were able to interact with neighbors from any of your various neighborhoods, tell your story to the group.

**Processing Our Insights:**

- 1) The Finke's introduced the 5 Mission Practices. Can your group remember what they are?
  - \_\_\_\_\_ the Kingdom
  - \_\_\_\_\_ from Jesus
  - \_\_\_\_\_ with people
  - \_\_\_\_\_ good
  - \_\_\_\_\_ through prayer
  
- 2) Without realizing it, have you found yourself already putting these mission practices into play as you have become more intentional about seeking and joining Jesus? Share a story of an example.
  
- 3) The 5 Questions, based on the 5 Mission Practices, help us tell the stories of what happened as we joined Jesus in our daily lives.

The 5 Questions:

- How did you see God at work this week? | Seeking the Kingdom
- What has Jesus been teaching you in his Word? | Hearing from Jesus
- What kind of conversations are you having, especially with those who are not yet Christians? | Talking with People
- What good can we do around here? | Doing Good
- How can we help you in prayer? | Ministering through Prayer

Why is it important for us to regularly gather together like this and share our stories of joining Jesus on his mission?

Note: Our stories provide the encouragement, insight and accountability we need to stay intentional and inspired for joining Jesus on his mission as we head out for another week. This is essentially what we have already been doing at the beginning of our gatherings, taking time to tell the stories of what we have experienced on our mission adventures with Jesus. We are becoming a missional community!

4) Practice #1 is what Jesus invites us to do first of all: “Seeking the Kingdom.” Jesus has brought the kingdom of God into our world and into our community. Therefore, the practice of “seeking the kingdom” is the first practical step we can take in joining Jesus in what he is already doing. We can ask ourselves, what is Jesus already showing us? Who are the people already nearby? What is Jesus inviting us to notice or do?

- What intrigues you about living each day as a Kingdom seeker and looking for what Jesus is already showing you?

5) As we become more intentional about “seeking the Kingdom,” don’t think big. Think small. Think, “What are the little things that are right at hand?” Jesus says that the kingdom of God is like a seed, a pinch of yeast or a cool cup of water.

- As you think about your various neighborhoods, where could you plant a seed of kindness in someone’s life, offer a pinch of hope, or a cool cup of water of grace?

Note: Wherever a little grace can be applied, we know Jesus is up to something and the kingdom of God is near!

6) What is encouraging to you about the GPS illustration and message?

*Can Jesus use imperfect missionaries?  
That’s all he ever does!*

### **Before We Go**

Note: You may want to break into groups of three.

**“A-Ha!” Insights to Action:** What was the most significant insight you had as a result of today’s video and discussion? Take **3 minutes** to write down your insight and what you think Jesus might be giving you to believe and/or do as a result. This is your self-identified assignment for joining Jesus in the coming days.

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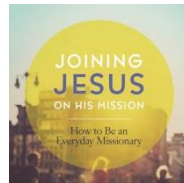
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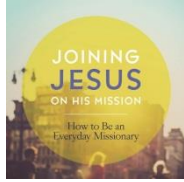
- Also, give the group a brief update on how your planning and inviting is going for hanging out with a neighbor(s).



**Ministering through Prayer:** As we prepare to head out on our mission adventure with Jesus, have each person ask the next person, **“How can I help you in prayer?”** After everyone has had a turn to answer, each person then prays for their neighbor. Write the prayer request in the space below so you won’t forget.

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**Video 6: "Hearing from Jesus"** Matthew 17:5 | Book chapter 13

**Before the Video:** Each person take a moment to share with the group the insights and experiences you have had over the last several days as you sought to join Jesus on his mission in your everyday life. If you were able to interact with neighbors from any of your various neighborhoods, tell your story to the group. You can use the 5 Questions to help you get started.

- How did you see God at work this week?
- What has Jesus been teaching you in his Word?
- What kind of conversations are you having, especially with those who are not yet Christians?
- What good can we do around here?
- How can we help you in prayer?

**Processing Our Insights:**

1) The Finke's introduced the 5 Mission Practices. See if your group can list them below.

- \_\_\_\_\_ the Kingdom
- \_\_\_\_\_ from Jesus
- \_\_\_\_\_ with people
- \_\_\_\_\_ good
- \_\_\_\_\_ through prayer

2) Today's video focuses on the mission practice of "hearing from Jesus." What Jesus said in the Gospels he is still saying today. And what Jesus did in the Gospels he is still doing today. So if we want to recognize and respond to what Jesus is telling us or showing us in our daily lives, it begins with us being familiar with what he's already shown us and told us in the Gospels.

- What in the video segment made the most sense to you?
- Why is "hearing from Jesus" a mission practice?

3) The Bible says that because our identity is in Christ through our Baptism, we can now know who we are and what we have. We are forgiven children of the King and we have been given the gifts of the Kingdom. We have been given abundant love, abundant grace and abundant goodness – things our broken world needs so badly. And because of who we are and what we have in Christ, we now know what we can do. We can look for opportunities to release a little bit of what we have in abundance into the lives of people who need it. The practice of hearing from Jesus in the Gospels helps us do that.

- Why do you think this is important to your life as an everyday missionary?
- 4) In the Gospels, Jesus disciples his followers so that they can recognize and respond when the Kingdom comes near with an opportunity to offer a little grace or goodness. The Finke's suggest there are three main practices in which Jesus disciples his followers. What are the three practices?
- \_\_\_\_\_ the Kingdom
  - \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves
  - \_\_\_\_\_ our neighbors
- 5) Over and over again, throughout the Gospels, Jesus disciples his followers in these three practices: seek the Kingdom, humble ourselves, and freely love our neighbors who need it so badly. These practices are the foundation for the 5 Mission Practices the Finke's advocate.
- Why is humbling ourselves so important?
- 6) The video reminds us to love our neighbor out of the abundance of love which is already ours through Baptism. With the abundant love we already have as God's children, we look for those who need some love. Then we give to our neighbor some of what we already have in abundance. From God, through us, to our neighbor. Freely we have received, freely give.
- What difference does this make to you as you think about loving people nearby, especially your unlovable neighbors, co-works, classmates, etc.?
- 7) Every day we need Jesus' encouragement and challenge in order for us to take up his practices anew. This is why "hearing from Jesus" in the Gospels is so important. Starting tomorrow, which Gospel will you open and start following Jesus around in? What will he be able to show you? (Hint: it will have something to do with your true identity in Christ, and the invitation to seek the Kingdom, humble yourself and then love your neighbor.)
- Take a moment to ask Jesus which of the four Gospels he would have you open tomorrow and start following him around in? Matthew, Mark, Luke or John?
  - When you are ready, share with the group which Gospel you will be starting tomorrow.

Because of what Jesus shows you or tells you in the Gospel you will be reading, what will he be able to show you in your everyday life? Let's go find out!

## **Before We Go**

Note: You may want to break into groups of three.

**“A-Ha!” Insights to Action:** What was the most significant insight you had as a result of today’s video and discussion? Take **3 minutes** to write down your insight and what you think Jesus might be giving you to believe and/or do as a result. This is your self-identified assignment for joining Jesus in the coming days.

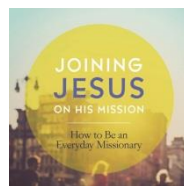
Have each person take **60 seconds** to share their self-identified assignment with the group.

In the coming days *watch for opportunities Jesus will give you* to put your self-identified assignments into play. The next time your group meets be ready to tell the stories of what happened (whether little or large).

- Also, give the group a brief update on how your planning and inviting is going for hanging out with a neighbor(s).

**Ministering through Prayer:** As we prepare to head out on our mission adventure with Jesus, have each person ask the next person, **“How can I help you in prayer?”** After everyone has had a turn to answer, each person then prays for their neighbor. Write the prayer request in the space below so you won’t forget.

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**Video 7: "Talking with People & Doing Good"** Ephesians 2:8-10 | Book chapters 14-15

**Before the Video:** Each person take a moment to share with the group the insights and experiences you have had over the last several days as you sought to join Jesus on his mission in your everyday life. If you were able to interact with neighbors from any of your various neighborhoods, tell your story to the group. You can use the 5 Questions to help you get started.

- How did you see God at work this week?
- What has Jesus been teaching you in his Word?
- What kind of conversations are you having, especially with those who are not yet Christians?
- What good can we do around here?
- How can we help you in prayer?

Last week we each decided to open a Gospel and start following Jesus around in it. What did you see? What did you hear? What do you think Jesus was asking you to believe or do?

**Processing Our Insights:**

1) The Finke's again introduced the 5 Mission Practices. See if your group can list them below.

- \_\_\_\_\_ the Kingdom
- \_\_\_\_\_ from Jesus
- \_\_\_\_\_ with people
- \_\_\_\_\_ good
- \_\_\_\_\_ through prayer

2) The first half of today's session focuses on the Mission Practice of Talking with People. What stood out for you as you watched the video?

3) In our culture, ignoring most of the people that are regularly within our proximity is called *normal*. We look right past them. But what if we began to change that? Greg points out that Jesus can do more with two people who are beginning to talk with each other than he can with two people successfully ignoring each other.

- This makes sense. But what if someone is more introverted like Susan? What is the good news for introverts who take up the Mission Practice of Talking with People?
- Why is noticing and talking with the people who are regularly around us an especially important mission practice?

- 4) The video then unpacks the Mission Practice of Doing Good. What was something that stood out for you?
- 5) What makes sense about us looking for the good God has prepared in advance for us to do?
- 6) How is the good we do for others like seed?
- 7) What struck you about the story of Ben and his autistic classmate?
- 8) In the coming week, let's take a small but intentional step toward joining Jesus on his mission. Here is your challenge: Who do you know that could use a seed of God's goodness planted in their life? They may not deserve it, but they need it. What's their name and what will you do within the next few days?

### **Before We Go**

Note: You may want to break into groups of three.

**"A-Ha!" Insights to Action:** What was the most significant insight you had as a result of today's video and discussion? Take **3 minutes** to write down your insight and what you think Jesus might be giving you to believe and/or do as a result. This is your self-identified assignment for joining Jesus in the coming days. In addition, will you take up the challenge of Question 8?

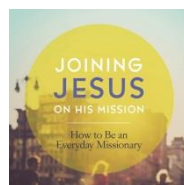
Have each person take **60 seconds** to share their self-identified assignment with the group.

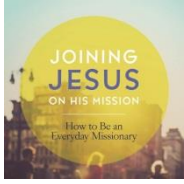
In the coming days *watch for opportunities Jesus will give you* to put your self-identified assignments into play. The next time your group meets be ready to tell the stories of what happened (whether little or large).

- Also, give the group a brief update on how your planning and inviting is going for hanging out with a neighbor(s).

**Ministering through Prayer:** As we prepare to head out on our mission adventure with Jesus, have each person ask the next person, **"How can I help you in prayer?"** After everyone has had a turn to answer, each person then prays for their neighbor. Write the prayer request in the space below so you won't forget.

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**Video 8: "Ministering Through Prayer"** Matthew 6:9-13 | Book chapter 16

**Before the Video:** Each person take a moment to share with the group the insights and experiences you have had over the last several days as you sought to join Jesus on his mission in your everyday life. What did Jesus seem to be showing you? How did you respond? You can use the 5 Questions to help you get started.

- How did you see God at work this week?
- What has Jesus been teaching you in his Word?
- What kind of conversations are you having, especially with those who are not yet Christians?
- What good can we do around here?
- How can we help you in prayer?

Last week we took up the challenge of intentionally planting a seed of good. How did that go?

**Processing Our Insights:**

1) The Finke's again introduced the 5 Mission Practices. See if your group can list them below.

- \_\_\_\_\_ the Kingdom
- \_\_\_\_\_ from Jesus
- \_\_\_\_\_ with people
- \_\_\_\_\_ good
- \_\_\_\_\_ through prayer

2) Today's session focuses on the final Mission Practice of Ministering through Prayer... and honestly, doesn't that sound like the most terrifying Mission Practice of all? How does Susan reassure us in the video? (And how does that help you?)

3) What could be a situation where you would offer to pray with a person?

- What words of advice did the Finke's give about *how* to pray with someone?

4) We have a safe environment to practice Ministering through Prayer right here in our missional community. How has praying out loud with each other on a regular basis grown you?

- How has practicing prayer in our missional community prepared you to minister through prayer in your "neighborhoods?"

- 5) Occasionally praying *with* our neighbors is missionally powerful. But we can also pray *for* our neighbors during our personal or family devotion time. Take a few minutes to fill in a Neighborhood Prayer Map for one of your neighborhoods. A copy is located in the back of the book “Joining Jesus on His Mission.” If you don’t have a copy of the book, you can create your own prayer map by simply using a sheet of paper.
  - Why is praying regularly for our neighbors during our devotion time missionally powerful, too?
- 6) In the coming week, let’s take a small but intentional step toward joining Jesus on his mission. Here is your challenge: Begin to use your Neighborhood Prayer Map to pray regularly for your neighbors.
- 7) What was helpful about the encouragement the Finke’s offered regarding having *time* for a missional life?

### **Before We Go**

Note: You may want to break into groups of three.

**“A-Ha!” Insights to Action:** What was the most significant insight you had as a result of today’s video and discussion? Take **3 minutes** to write down your insight and what you think Jesus might be giving you to believe and/or do as a result. This is your self-identified assignment for joining Jesus in the coming days. In addition, will you take up the challenge of Question 6?

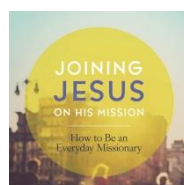
Have each person take **60 seconds** to share their self-identified assignment with the group.

In the coming days *watch for opportunities Jesus will give you* to put your self-identified assignments into play. The next time your group meets be ready to tell the stories of what happened (whether little or large).

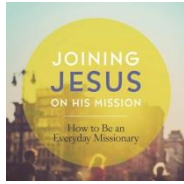
- Also, give the group a brief update on how your planning and inviting is going for hanging out with a neighbor(s).

**Ministering through Prayer:** As we prepare to head out on our mission adventure with Jesus, have each person ask the next person, **“How can I help you in prayer?”** After everyone has had a turn to answer, each person then prays for their neighbor. Write the prayer request in the space below so you won’t forget.

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**Video 9: “A Mission Trip to Our Own Neighborhood”** Matthew 9:9-13 | Book chapters 17-18

**Before the Video:** Each person take a moment to share with the group the insights and experiences you have had over the last several days as you sought to join Jesus on his mission in your everyday life. What did Jesus seem to be showing you? How did you respond? You can use the 5 Questions to help you get started.

- How did you see God at work this week?
- What has Jesus been teaching you in his Word?
- What kind of conversations are you having, especially with those who are not yet Christians?
- What good can we do around here?
- How can we help you in prayer?

Last week we took up the challenge of starting to regularly pray for our neighbors. How is that going?

**Processing Our Insights:**

- 1) What is “neighboring” and why is it a simple but critical part of being a Neighborhood Missionary?
- 2) The Finke’s shared their story of starting to get to know the neighbors God had placed around them in their neighborhood. They noted how a simple neighborhood gathering began to catalyze a powerful shift in their neighborhood – from ignoring neighbors to enjoying neighbors.
  - What new insights came to you during their story or how were you affirmed?
  - Give the group a brief update on how your planning and inviting is going for hanging out with a neighbor(s). How were your plans or experiences reflected in the video?
  - If you are struggling to make progress neighboring in your neighborhood, what’s been in the way? What do you think is the resistance?
  - Take time right now to stop and pray about this resistance. Prayer is not a last resort but a first response.

3) Neighboring by hanging out and having fun creates the time and space for conversations to begin and, when it is Jesus' timing, to go deeper. The Finke's gave a simple formula to describe how neighboring works best. See if your group can fill in the formula together:

- \_\_\_\_\_ time + \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ (usually involving food and drink) = \_\_\_\_\_ x over time = \_\_\_\_\_.
- What makes sense about this formula?

4) Is neighboring all we have to do to join Jesus on his mission in our neighborhoods? No. But it is how we start. So what's your plan for starting? Or if you have started, what's your plan for next steps?

### **Before We Go**

Note: You may want to break into groups of three.

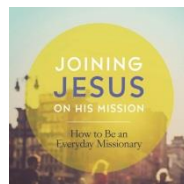
**“A-Ha!” Insights to Action:** What was the most significant insight you had as a result of today's video and discussion? Take **3 minutes** to write down your insight and what you think Jesus might be giving you to believe and/or do as a result. This is your self-identified assignment for joining Jesus in the coming days.

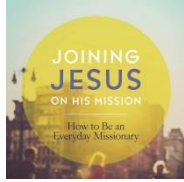
Have each person take **60 seconds** to share their self-identified assignment with the group.

In the coming days *watch for opportunities Jesus will give you* to put your self-identified assignments into play. The next time your group meets be ready to tell the stories of what happened (whether little or large).

**Ministering through Prayer:** As we prepare to head out on our mission adventure with Jesus, have each person ask the next person, **“How can I help you in prayer?”** After everyone has had a turn to answer, each person then prays for their neighbor. Write the prayer request in the space below so you won't forget.

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**Video 10: “The Missional Community”** Hebrews 10:24-25 | Book chapter 19

**Before the Video:** Each person take a moment to share with the group the insights and experiences you have had over the last several days as you sought to join Jesus on his mission in your everyday life. What did Jesus seem to be showing you? How did you respond? You can use the 5 Questions to help you get started.

- How did you see God at work this week?
- What has Jesus been teaching you in his Word?
- What kind of conversations are you having, especially with those who are not yet Christians?
- What good can we do around here?
- How can we help you in prayer?

**Processing Our Insights:**

- 1) Our group has been regularly meeting together as we have been learning how to join Jesus on his mission in our everyday lives. We have become a Missional Community!
  - What are the most significant things we have learned about joining Jesus over these nine sessions together?
  - Why has our Missional Community been key to the progress we have been making?
- 2) Thinking about the words of Hebrews 10:24-25, how is our Missional Community an expression of what the writer to the Hebrews is encouraging?
- 3) By now the 5 Questions are familiar to us. As a group, have some fun putting the 5 Questions into your own words:
  - Question 1
  - Question 2
  - Question 3

- Question 4
  - Question 5
- 4) Why is asking each other the 5 Questions and telling our mission stories so important for helping us stay intentional and inspired for our long term mission adventure with Jesus?
- 5) If joining Jesus on his mission is to be our lifestyle and not just our hobby, we will need a little help from our friends. The easiest thing for a Neighborhood Missionary to do is give up. We need the encouragement, insight and accountability that only a Missional Community like ours can provide. Today, of course, is the conclusion of our ten-session training curriculum. We have a decision to make.
- As a Missional Community are we done or have we just begun?
  - What are our next steps?

### **Before We Go**

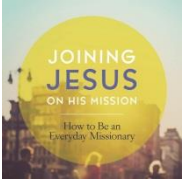
Note: You may want to break into groups of three.

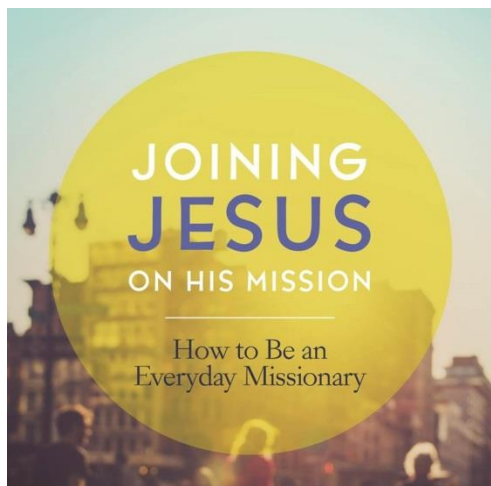
**“A-Ha!” Insights to Action:** What was the most significant insight you had as a result of today’s video and discussion? Take **3 minutes** to write down your insight and what you think Jesus might be giving you to believe and/or do as a result. This is your self-identified assignment for joining Jesus in the coming days.

Have each person take **60 seconds** to share their self-identified assignment with the group.

In the coming days *watch for opportunities Jesus will give you* to put your self-identified assignments into play. The next time your group meets be ready to tell the stories of what happened (whether little or large).

**Ministering through Prayer:** As we prepare to head out on our mission adventure with Jesus, have each person ask the next person, **“How can I help you in prayer?”** After everyone has had a turn to answer, each person then prays for their neighbor. Write the prayer request in the space below so you won’t forget.





## Joining Jesus on His Mission

*Additional Tools*

### **Graphic:**

The purchaser has permission to use the above graphic to illustrate and promote “Joining Jesus” groups and activities.

### **Options for Sermon Series Outlines:**

Pastors have found that the biblical themes utilized in “Joining Jesus on His Mission” give insight and inspiration to their listeners both when used as a stand-alone series or during one of the seasons of the traditional church-year, such as Advent, Epiphany, Lent, Easter or the last Sundays of the Church Year.

Whenever it is time to help the people of God join the mission of God, “Joining Jesus on His Mission” can be a helpful tool in your preaching toolbox. (Quantity discounts on the book are available through Dwelling 1:14.)

See below for how pastors have divided the chapters of the book for various occasions and outcomes:

#### **Four Week Series | “Joining Jesus on His Mission”**

1. Title: “The Mission of Jesus” | Text: Mark 1:17-18 | Utilize material from chapters 1-5
2. Title: “Seeking What Jesus is Showing Us” | Text: Mark 1:15 | chapters 6-10
3. Title: “The Practices of Joining Jesus” | Text: Matthew 6:33 | chapters 11-16
4. Title: “Joining Jesus in Our Neighborhoods” | Matthew 9:9-13 | chapters 17-19

#### **Five Week Series | “Simple Practices for Joining Jesus Every Day”**

1. Title: “Seeking the Kingdom” | Text: Mark 1:15 | Utilize material from chapters 7-12
2. Title: “Hearing from Jesus” | Text: Matthew 7:24-29 | chapter 13
3. Title: “Talking with People” | Text: John 4:1-7 | chapter 14 and 6
4. Title: “Doing Good” | Text: Ephesians 2:8-10 | chapter 15 and 6
5. Title: “Ministering through Prayer” | Text: Matthew 9-13 | chapter 16

#### **Seven Week Series | “Joining Jesus on His Mission”**

1. Title: “What’s Jesus Up To?” | Text: Mark 1:15 | Utilize material from chapters 1-2
2. Title: “The River Moved” | Palm 46:6-7 | chapters 3-5
3. Title: “Seeking What’s Already Happening” | Matthew 6:33 | chapters 6-10

4. Title: "Simple Practices for Joining Jesus: Part 1" | Matthew 17:5 | chapters 11-13
5. Title: "Simple Practices for joining Jesus: Part 2" | Ephesians 2:8-10 | chapters 14-16
6. Title: "What Will Your Story Be?" | Luke 10:36-37 | chapters 17-18
7. Title: "Mission with a Little Help from Our Friends" | Hebrews 10:24-25 | chapter 19

### **Advent Series | "The Advent of the King"**

(choose your text from various assigned advent readings)

1. Title: "The King Has a Mission" | Utilize material from chapters 2 and 10
2. Title: "The Long Awaited Season of Restoration" | chapter 8
3. Title: "The King Invites Us to Join Him" | chapters 2, 11-16 or 17-18
4. Title: "Mission with a Little Help from Our Friends" | chapter 19

### **Lent + Holy Week Series | "The Cross and the Mission of God"**

1. Title: "What is the Mission of God?" | Text: Colossians 1:19-20 | Utilize chapters 1-2
2. Title: "Why is the Cross Necessary to the Mission of God?" | Matthew 16:21-25 (Romans 5:12, 15) | chapters 3-6
3. Title: "The Mission has a Church" | Matthew 28:16-20 (Galatians 2:20, 1 Corinthians 12:27) | chapters 7-10
4. Title: "Joining Jesus on His Mission" | Mark 1:14-18 | chapters 2, 8, 11
5. Title: "The Mission of God through the People of God" | Luke 4:16-21 (Matthew 13:33, John 12:23-27) | chapters 12-16
6. Palm Sunday | Title: "Why Jesus Pursued the Cross" | Palm Sunday Gospel + Hebrews 12:1-3 | chapters 2, 8, 17-18
7. Maundy Thursday | Title: "Jesus' Invitation to Missional Community" | Maundy Thursday Gospel + Hebrews 10:24-25 | chapter 19
8. Good Friday | Title: "It is Finished so It can Begin" | John 19:30 | chapters 2 and 8
9. Easter | Title: "Jesus is on the Loose! Let the Adventure Begin!" | Easter Gospel + Revelation 21:5 | chapters 2, 8 and 10

### **Joining Jesus Kids' Style! | The 5 Practices and 5 Questions Reworded for Kids Ages 2-18**

Through repetition at an early age, kids can begin to seek, recognize and respond to the presence and activity of Jesus around them. They just need a little help from their parents and teachers!

The 5 Practices and 5 Questions are important tools to put into the hands of parents and teachers.

- Use them as a family around the dinner table.
- Use them in the classroom as part of the religion curriculum.
- Use them with youth in small group gatherings.

A team of Early Childhood Directors in the Texas District of the LCMS used the book, "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Did You See?" as inspiration for the 5 Questions:

- 1) Child, child, how did you see Me?
- 2) Child, child, what did you hear about Me?
- 3) Child, child, what did you say about Me?
- 4) Child, child, how did you show love from Me?
- 5) Child, child, what do others need you to say to Me?

**The following are ideas for different ways to phrase the questions, which have been gleaned from parents and educators. Use them as is, or let them inspire you to make up your own version!**

For Junior and Senior High kids, it can be helpful to start your time using the 5 Questions by first reviewing the 5 Practices. An easy way to do that is to use the “Here’s the Point” summaries at the end of chapters 12-16 in the book, “Joining Jesus on His Mission.”

**A fun way to begin using the 5 Questions is to roll a dice and answer the question that corresponds to the number on the dice. If you roll a 6 you get to pick the question you want to answer.**

### **Seeking the Kingdom... How did you see God at work in your life this week?**

“Help me open my eyes to see YOU, Lord...”

#### **For Toddlers and Preschoolers:**

Where is Jesus?

How have you seen Jesus today?

Has Jesus done something awesome in your family?

Did you see anything at school today that reminded you of Jesus?

Where did you see something good or kind happening (God is love)?

(Go through the days’ activities together and relate them to God’s many blessings and challenges)

#### **For Elementary Kids:**

If you were a detective looking for God today, what evidence did you see of His activity?

What “God-sightings” did you have today?

How has God helped you or someone you know today?

What was one hard thing that happened? What do you think Jesus was up to?

(Go through the days’ activities together and relate them to God’s many blessings and challenges)

#### **For Middle and High Schoolers:**

Where have you seen God working around you this week?

How’s Jesus been messing with you (your status quo, your preferences or comfort level)?

What blessings or challenges have you had this week? What do you think Jesus was up to?

What’s Jesus trying to have you pay attention to?

Who has Jesus been getting you to notice that may need some grace?

### **Hearing from Jesus... What has God been teaching you in His Word?**

“Help me open Your Word daily and listen to You, Lord...”

Here’s a simple way to cover all the bases as you teach God’s Word to kids. Answer three questions:

**Know What?** What is this section of God’s Word saying?

**So What?** Why do you think God included this in his Word? What is he teaching us?

**Now What?** Now what am I going to do with what I read? How can I put it into practice?

#### **For Toddlers and Preschoolers:**

Did you know God loves you SOOO much? How do you know?

What have you learned about Jesus this week?



Let's learn a Bible passage by singing a Bible passage song.

**For Elementary Kids:**

What did you find out about God in his Word?  
What did you find out about you in His Word? (think in terms of both obedience and grace)  
What did you hear from Jesus today in his Word? Do you believe him?  
How do you think Jesus wants you to respond?  
What is Jesus inviting you to believe or do in his Word?  
What do you think Jesus wants you to learn from what happened today?

**For Middle and High Schoolers:**

How is Jesus "messing" with you in what he's told you in his Word this week?  
What did you find out about God in his Word?  
What did you find out about you in His Word? (think in terms of both obedience and grace)  
What have you been hearing from Jesus in his Word this week? Do you believe him?  
What does Jesus want you to believe or do as a result of what he has told you in his Word?  
What does obedience look like if you put his Words into practice in your relationships?

**Talking with People... What kind of conversations are you having with pre-Christians?**

"Open my eyes to notice who You would have me talk with, Lord..."

**For Toddlers and Preschoolers:**

Who do you like talking with in your family or in your neighborhood?  
Do they know who Jesus is?  
Have you told them Jesus loves them, too?  
Who needs to hear "Jesus loves you" today?  
What can you tell your friends about Jesus?

**For Elementary Kids:**

Do you have friends or family who do not know who Jesus is or don't trust him?  
What are their names?  
How can you share Jesus' love with them?  
Who needs to hear "Jesus loves you" today?  
What can you tell your friends about Jesus?  
How might you share what you believe about Jesus with your family or friends?  
Who do you know that might need you as a friend today?

**For Middle and High Schoolers:**

Who are you hanging with and talking with regularly? What kind of things do you talk about?  
Do you have friends or family who do not know who Jesus is or don't trust him?  
What are their names?  
Tell us about conversations you have with people who have a different belief system from you.  
Who needs to hear "Jesus loves you" today? Who need to hear "Jesus has a better way" today?  
Tell us about when a conversation turned more reflective or spiritual. What were their questions, fears or hopes?  
Thinking of the people you know who are against God or Christianity, have you asked them what they believe? Have you asked them what they think Christians believe?

How might you share what you believe about Jesus with your family or friends?  
Who do you know that might need you as a friend today?

### **Doing Good... What good can we do around here?**

“Help me put my words and attitudes into action, Lord...”

#### **For Toddlers and Preschoolers:**

How did we show people Jesus loves them?  
How have you been kind to your family or friends today?  
What can we do to make someone feel special today?  
How can you help at home later today?

#### **For Elementary Kids:**

How did you show Jesus’ love to the people around you?  
How can you make a difference?  
How can we work together to make a difference?  
How can you help at home later today?  
What can we do to help our neighborhood or school?  
How can you be a reason something good happens in the life of a person who needs it?

#### **For Middle and High Schoolers:**

What was the good God prepared in advance for you to do this week?  
How did you help someone experience the love of Jesus this week?  
What did you do to make a difference this week?  
What can you do to make a difference next week?  
What good can you do around school or home or your neighborhood this week?  
Who do you know that could use a friend... how can you help them this week?

### **Ministering through Prayer... How can we help you in prayer?**

“Help me, O Lord, to pray for and with those who need You and not just for myself...”

#### **For Toddlers and Preschoolers:**

How do you talk to God?  
What can we tell Jesus about today?  
Is there anything you want to ask Jesus?  
Who can we pray for today?  
(Help them find words by saying, “Repeat after me...”)

#### **For Elementary Kids:**

What do you want to share with Jesus today?  
How can we help each other in prayer today?  
How can we ask Jesus to help you with today?  
Have you prayed with a friend or family member this week? Ask God to help with this.

#### **For Middle and High Schoolers:**

Who do you know that needs your prayers?  
How can we help you in prayer?

What do you want to ask God about today?

Have you prayed with a friend or family member this week? Ask God to help with this.