



- We are more than **believers**.
- A believer only knows **about Jesus**.

Are there still some among you who hold that “only believing” is enough? Believing in one God? Well, remember that the demons believe this too—so strongly that they tremble in terror! James 2:19 (TLB)

- A follower **participates** with **Jesus**.
- We are **the church**.

For we are members of His body. Ephesians 5:30 (ESV)
And He is the head of the body, the church Colossians 1:18 (ESV)

Is the **church** God wants us to be reflected in the **people** we aspire to be?

God's plan:

You are created to **impact** the lives of others.

“You are the salt of the earth”,... “You are the light of the world” ... Matthew 5:13-14 (ESV)

- God's desire to impact this world includes **you**.
- God's desires for this world reflect His **heart**.

9 God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. 10 This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. 1 John 4:9-10 (NLT)

Our gratitude compels us to **participate** with God.

18 And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. 19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them... 2 Corinthians 5:18-19a (NLT)

- God's plan for you will reflect God's **love in you**.
- 19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message (ministry) of reconciliation. 20 So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when **we plead**, “Come back to God!” 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 (NLT)
- You are a **representative** of Jesus.
- We share Jesus' mission; to reveal God's love to people who are spiritually **lost**.
- 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.” Luke 19:10 (NLT)

God's plan for our lives identifies us as a:

- **Light** to the world.
- “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden ...let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father. Matthew 5:14-16 (NLT)
- **Witnesses** to the world.
- But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8 (NLT)
- God's mission is about the **lost**.

- 1 Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. 2 This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people—even eating with them! 3 So Jesus told them this story: Luke 15:1-3 (NLT)
- 4 “If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. 6 When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’ 7 In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away! Luke 15:4-7 (NLT)

Applications:

- Every person **belongs** to God.
- 4 If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Luke 15:4a (NLT)
- You **count** things that **matter**.
- When something is **lost**, it changes your **focus**.
- The **value** of what is lost determines the **intensity** of the search. Heaven **celebrates** what's important.
- ...there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away! Luke 15:7 (NLT)

The heart of God's plan:

Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. When he saw the crowds, **he had compassion on them** because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. He said to his disciples, “The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.” Matthew 9:35-38 (NLT)

- The Great **commission** requires great **compassion**.

Commission: It's an instruction and command given to a group of people.

19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT)

- Compassion **compels** us to share God's love and our story.
- Go into the world. Go everywhere and announce the Message of God's good news to one and all. Mark 16:15 (MSG)
- Compassion compels us to **pray**.
- ...my heart's desire and prayer to God concerning them is for their salvation. Romans 10:1



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions for Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Talk through these points and how we live them out.
- What keeps us from being the church God desires us to be? How can we change that? What is one thing we can do to reach the lost? Will you commit to doing that one thing?

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