



SDG Discussion Guide

"On Mission with Christ - CONNECT"

Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 15:1-2

July 2, 2017

For starters:

In light of the past few weeks' discussion on missions, where is the mission field that God could be calling you to, whether in your current setting or elsewhere?

Interaction with the text (The following questions are meant to provide points of interaction with the respective sermon texts. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday; or, group members may find these questions in print on that Sunday. Further, feel free to facilitate your own discussion regarding the respective texts.).

1. In Acts 1:8, a call is given to the disciples to be Jesus' "witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." A similar call is in Matthew 28:19-20. How would you feel if you were among the disciples, one of the first ones given this task?
2. How would you act upon this call?
3. What could be the qualities that come with the power from the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8) and how would these qualities help with this mission?

For the questions below, read Luke 15:1-2, and the verses that follow.

4. Verses 1 and 2 are followed by a number of well-known and well-loved parables. What triggered Jesus to tell these parables?
5. Why were the Pharisees so bothered by Jesus' associations?
6. In responding to the call to make disciples of all nations, to the ends of the earth, what can we learn from Jesus' example? Who did he connect with?
7. Are you inclined to spend time only with people who are also devout believers? How can you be striving to better follow Jesus' example especially with the parables of Luke 15 in mind?

Spend some time in prayer together. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you connect to more people, both believers and non-believers, in order to be salt and light to others (Matthew 5:13-16). Ask God to provide opportunities for such relationships. Pray for God's renewal, that you may awaken anew to God's acceptance of you and his desire for all to know of his acceptance and love, and for grace to respond to His call. Ask God to use your experiences in life and knowledge of him to bring others in your midst to know Christ.

*These questions were adapted from *The NIV Quiet Time Bible* (InterVarsity, 1996), *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998), and *The NIV Life Application Study Bible* (Zondervan, 2011).