Let Us Go Over to the Other Side

Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our <u>Grantham Church YouTube Channel</u>. If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the recent sermons page at our website and at the <u>Grantham Church Podcast</u> the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, April 24th, 2022



Sermon Title: Let Us Go Over to the Other Side

Scripture Reading: Mark 4:35-41

Sermon Focus: Before he was the president of a Moscow Evangelical Christian Seminary in Russia, Alexander "Sasha" Tsutserov was a KGB agent within the Soviet Union. The KGB is responsible for the destruction of thousands of church buildings and the deaths of even more Christian ministers and pastors. Sasha is now on a mission to replenish what was lost by raising up disciples and church-planters across Russia. In his message, Let Us Go Over to the Other Side, Sasha invites us to reflect on the ministry of Jesus and our responsibility to reach others for the sake of the Kingdom.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person or by video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

- 1. What a testimony! Sasha's story could be likened to the Apostle Paul's conversion experience in Acts 9:1-19. What did you find inspiring and/or challenging about Sasha's story of coming to faith in Christ and the gospel?
- 2. Sasha emphasized the importance of reading the Bible (the New Testament) and how the Spirit spoke to him as he read the Gospels for the first time. He read Luke 11:9-13, and it prompted him to respond in faith. How have you in your own journey experienced God speaking to you through the Scriptures?
- 3. Sasha talked a lot about Russian culture and the importance of "local knowledge" in communicating the gospel and reaching others for Christ. What were some cultural differences that you noticed between Russia and the US in his sharing? What can we learn from his message about using our own local knowledge to evangelize the lost in central PA? Also, what implications might this have on the way we do "overseas" missions work in the 21st century?
- 4. There is a war going on right now between Russian and Ukraine. How did you see Sasha's story highlighting how the gospel of the Kingdom transcends worldly kingdoms and geopolitics (e.g., the US, Russia, Ukraine, etc.)? For example, he said that he is training over 100 Ukrainians to plant churches.
- 5. In the Lunch Q&A, Sasha said his calling is to advance the gospel of the Kingdom, not to opine on current events. He said he is against war and if people's hearts were being changed by the gospel, there would be no conflict. How might this challenge thinking among US Christians whose faith is intimately interwoven into the politics of the day, much to our own demise?
- 6. Will you spend some time praying for Sasha's ministry and the work he is doing through the Moscow Evangelical Christian Seminary? Please lift him, his family, his church plant at the Moscow Country Club up to God in prayer now. Also, be sure to include other brothers and sisters sharing the gospel around the world.