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Intro:

## Living in Love and Service To the World

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Welcome to session five, where we explore how God has called us to impact the world for His glory! Thank God that He loved the world enough to send His Son. But here is a truth we cannot avoid: If God loves the world, then as Christians, so should we! When we mention the word “world,” it seems like a very vague, non-specific place, almost too big a concept to grasp. Well, the world starts right where you are: with those who live around you who are not yet Christians.

Living on Target: Chapter 6 “Living in Love and Service to the World”

In our small group today, we will discuss how to live in love and service to the world as followers of Jesus. We will learn from the Scriptures and from our own experiences how to be faithful witnesses of God’s grace and truth in every context and culture.

The first element we will explore is the **scope of our mission**. We will read Acts 1:8, where Jesus tells His disciples that they will receive power from the Holy Spirit to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. We will reflect on what this means for us today and how we can start with our local community and then extend our reach to the whole world.

The second element we will examine is the **attitude of our heart**. We will read Matthew 9:9-13, where Jesus eats with tax collectors and sinners and challenges the Pharisees who criticize Him. We will reflect on how we can avoid being judgmental or exclusive and instead seek to share the love of Jesus with those who are considered sinners or outcasts by the world.

The third element we will consider is the **role of our testimony**. We will read Matthew 5:13-16, 28:19-20, and John 14:6, where Jesus teaches us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, to make disciples of all nations, and to proclaim that He is the only way to the Father. We will reflect on how we can be faithful and effective in sharing our faith and our good works with others, and how we can partner with other believers around the world to fulfill the Great Commission.

**Remember that with God nothing is impossible!**

Session Five Big Idea



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## Agenda:

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### **01: Pray (Leader)**

Ask God to open our eyes to His work not just in our community, but in the world, and for boldness to join Him in that work.

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### **02: Read & Reflect**

\*\*Leader, feel free to journey through these all at once, then discuss or take them one at a time with a verse, reflections, and a response conversation.

## **The Scope Of Our Mission:**

### **Read (Participant)**

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

### **Reflect: (Leader)**

Living in love and service to the world means that we start with our local community and then extend our reach to the whole world. We follow Jesus' command to be His witnesses in every place and to every people group. We rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to enable us to do so.

## **The Attitude Of Our Heart:**

### **Read (Participant)**

And as Jesus reclined at the table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners." (Matthew 9:9-13)

### **Reflect: (Leader)**

Living in love and service to the world means that we do not look down on anyone or exclude anyone from our fellowship. We seek to share the love of Jesus with those who are considered sinners or outcasts by the world. We care about their eternal destiny and their present needs. We imitate Jesus, who ate with tax collectors and sinners.

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## **The Role Of Our Testimony:**

### **Read (Participant)**

You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:13-16)

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)

### **Reflect: (Leader)**

Living in love and service to the world means that we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We do not hide our faith or keep it within the church's walls. We shine our light before others so that they may see our good works and glorify God. We also speak the truth of the gospel with boldness and clarity. We partner with other believers around the world to fulfill the Great Commission. We trust that God is the one who saves and convicts, and we are His instruments.

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## **04: Respond**

### **The Scope Of Our Mission:**

- How do you understand the meaning of being a witness for Jesus in your context?
- What are some of the challenges or opportunities you face in reaching out to people from different cultures or backgrounds?
- How do you depend on the Holy Spirit in your mission and ministry?



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### **The Attitude Of Our Heart:**

- How do you show mercy and compassion to those who are different from you, or who have wronged you?
- How do you avoid the temptation of self-righteousness or judgmentalism in your interactions with others?
- How do you share the gospel with those who are sick, hurting, or lost?

### **The Role Of Our Testimony:**

- How do you maintain your saltiness and brightness as a follower of Jesus in a dark and tasteless world?
- How do you balance your good works and your verbal witness in your daily life?
- How do you respond to those questioning or challenging your faith in Jesus as the only way to God?

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## **05: The Rhythm of Reconciliation**

As followers of Jesus, you have been called into the ministry of reconciliation. God has reconciled you to himself through Christ, and he has entrusted you with the message of reconciliation. You are Christ's ambassador, and he accomplishes reconciliation through you. Here are some action steps that you can take to become a peacemaker:

- Identify one person or group of people in your local community or in the world who need to hear the gospel. Pray for them, and look for opportunities to share the message of reconciliation with them. Use some resources or tools that can help you communicate the gospel effectively and respectfully. (Refer to this article for some ideas)
- Examine your own heart and attitude toward people who are different from you or who have sinned against you. Confess any sin of pride, judgment, or bitterness, and receive God's forgiveness and grace. Practice forgiveness and mercy toward others, and show them the love of Jesus. Follow Jesus' example of eating with tax collectors and sinners, and showing them mercy and grace. (Refer to Matthew 9:9-13 and Luke 15:1-7)
- Share your personal testimony of how God reconciled you to himself and changed your life. Craft your testimony in a clear and concise way, and include the key elements of the gospel message. Be salt and light daily, and do good works that glorify God and bless others. Speak the truth of the gospel with boldness and clarity. Partner with other believers around the world to fulfill the Great Commission. (Refer to Matthew 5:13-16, 28:19-20, and John 14:6)



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**06: React:**

- **Visit [steelecreek.org](http://steelecreek.org):** Choose one of our missionaries and pray regularly for them. You may also make contact and let them know they have your support.
- **Learn about God's heart for the nations:** The Bible contains passages that reveal God's love and concern for all peoples and nations. You can study these passages and see how God's plan of salvation is for everyone, not just a select few. Some examples are Genesis 12:1-3, Psalm 67, Isaiah 49:6, Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, Revelation 7:9-10, and many more. You can also read books, articles, or blogs that explore God's global mission and how you can join him in it.
- **Pray for specific people groups and places:** God invites us to partner with him in prayer for his kingdom to come and his will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. Prayer is a powerful way to intercede for the spiritual and physical needs of people who have not yet heard or believed the gospel.
- **Give sacrificially to support God's work:** God calls us to be generous and cheerful givers, not only of our money, but also of our time, talents, and resources. Giving is a way of expressing our gratitude to God for his grace and provision, and of participating in his mission by supporting those who are serving him in different contexts. Christians should give first to their local church, and also to missionaries or organizations that are reaching unreached people groups, to ministries that address justice issues, or to projects that are meeting humanitarian needs. You can also look for ways to use your skills, gifts, or hobbies to serve others and glorify God. For example, you can volunteer at a local shelter, tutor a refugee child, write a letter to a persecuted believer, or make a craft for a fundraiser.
- **Go and share the gospel with others:** God commands us to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to obey everything he has commanded us. Going does not necessarily mean traveling to another country, although that is one option. Going means being obedient to God's leading and being willing to share the gospel with anyone he puts in our path, whether it is our neighbor, our coworker, our friend, or a stranger. Going also means being prepared to face challenges, opposition, or persecution for the sake of Christ. You can go by joining a short-term or long-term mission trip, by moving to a new place or culture, by joining a church planting team, or by simply being a faithful witness wherever you are.



- **Connect with other believers who share a global vision:** God does not want us to pray for and become involved in his activity globally alone. He wants us to be part of a community of believers with the same passion and purpose. You can connect with other believers who have a global vision by joining a small group, a class, or a ministry in your church that focuses on missions, by attending conferences or events that inspire and equip you for God's work, by subscribing to newsletters or podcasts that keep you updated and informed, or by finding a mentor or a friend who can encourage and challenge you in your journey.

### **07: Read Ahead**

Congratulations! You've completed our living on target workshop! If we by God's grace and empowerment will live faithfully (not perfectly) in our Living on Target lifestyle, we will not only live as His "disciples" we will have the ability and integrity to "make disciples" by simply asking others to follow us, as we follow Christ.

To get the full experience of our vision, take time to read pastor Kelvin's book "Living On Target" as it takes the concepts presented here and expounds on them. Steele Creek Church exists to be and make disciples by living in love and service to Christ, our homes, our church, and the world. Visit [steelecreek.org](http://steelecreek.org) to explore how you can join us on our mission!

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