



From Worship to Weekday

Study guide for personal reflection
or use by your small group

WATCH THE JOINING JESUS VIDEO 1

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) 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?

3) 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?

4) 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, what would it look like to be part of Jesus' redemptive mission in your neighborhood?

5) 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 many Christians do. Some think that they have to go out for Jesus rather than with Jesus. Some think that they have 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.

WATCH THE JOINING JESUS VIDEO 2

6) Four terms were introduced and defined. How would you explain each term to a friend?

“Missional Living”

“Missional Community”

“Neighborhood”

“Neighboring”

7) 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.” If you are in a small group, you are starting to become a Missional Community. If you are studying independently, know there are others in our Bethlehem community who are beginning the journey of becoming a neighborhood missionary.

Why do you think it would be important for neighborhood missionaries to regularly gather together? (See Hebrew 10:24-25) How can this be done during a pandemic.

What is the mission statement of our church (or what is the gist of it)? How would missional communities help accomplish our stated mission?

8) 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?

9) At the end of this video segment we are invited 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: Connect with 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?

"A-Ha!" Insights to Action: What was the most significant insight you had as a result of today's video and these questions? 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 9? Take 60 seconds to reflect on or share your self-identified assignment. In the coming days watch for opportunities Jesus will give you to put your self-identified assignments into play.

Ministering through Prayer: As you prepare to head out on our mission adventure with Jesus, if you are in a small group ask each person "How can I help you in prayer?" If you are doing this study independently send your prayer requests to prayer@bethlehemdenver.com and our Prayer and Praise team will join you in praying for your requests. If you desire a prayer in church, please call the church office. Then pray for your neighbors. Write your requests for your neighbors here.