



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: John 1:1-2,18; 1 John 1:3; Eph. 1:9-10;2:16-17

Prayer:

Ask one person to pray at the beginning of your meeting.

Check-in

Check in with each other about how everyone is doing.

Open the Bible. Read John 1:1-2,18; 1 John 1:3; Eph. 1:9-10;2:16-17

Have someone read this overview:

Sermon Summary:

We live in a world of escalating tensions—between nations, political persuasions, racial & ethnic groups. People march for peace & justice; too often it degenerates into destruction & violence. Humanity needs help.

The 'Mission of God' is God's project to rescue humanity & restore his fractured creation. That's why he sent the Son & the Holy Spirit. God's mission involves reconciliation on multiple levels—between humanity & their Creator, between diverse people-groups and (ultimately) between heaven & earth—God's realm & the created sphere. Paul calls God's goal, his "long-range plan [that] everything would be brought together & summed up in Christ, everything in deepest heaven, everything on planet earth." God invites us—the Church—to first experience, & then join, his peace-making mission. Ironically, God's peace-making mission involves war—warfare against the destructive powers of darkness.

Discussion:

1. Read John 1:1-2, 18; 14:26; 15:26. How do these verses show that the triune God has a mission?
2. Tim Keller said: "The Trinity is, by nature, 'sending.' The Father *sends* the Son into the world to save it, & the Father & the Son *send* the Spirit into the world...Now...the Spirit is sending the church"
3. How does this statement describe the mission of God?
4. Where does the church fit into the mission of God based on this statement?
5. Read Ephesians 1:10. This verse is central to understanding the mission of God and also the book of Ephesians. Put this verse into your own words and expand it if you can.
6. Read Eph. 2:16-17. How do these verses relate to Eph. 1:10? What evidence do you see of God's reconciling work in your life?
7. How can we, as the church, join with God in His work of reconciliation? What might this look like in your life?

End with Prayer.

- Pray that we would enter into the mission of God.
- Pray for any needs of people in your group.