

SERMON 5 – A CHURCH ON MISSION

Acts 1:8; Matthew 9:36–38; Acts 11:19–26

Dave Geldart, Feb 8, 2026, Tru Community Church

1. [1] INTRODUCTION: WHEN SOMETHING WORKS SO WELL, YOU CAN'T KEEP IT TO YOURSELF

- a. There are certain things in life that, once you experience them, **you can't not talk about.**
 - i. **A new restaurant** you stumble into that blows your expectations away.
 - ii. A show you start watching "**just one episode**" of—and suddenly it's 1am:
 - 1. 24, Battlestar Galactica, Ted Lasso, Severance
 - iii. A tool, an app, a shortcut, a life hack that actually works.
- b. You don't need a marketing plan.
 - i. You don't need a training seminar.
 - ii. You just tell people.
 - iii. **We are naturally EVANGELISTS of our passions**
 - 1. Because when something genuinely changes your life—even in small ways—it tends to spill over. → It ripples!
- c. That's been the heart of this entire series.
- d. We've been talking about **New Year, New You, New Do**—not as self-improvement, not as religious resolutions, but as an intentional response to what God is already doing among us.
- e. We said:
 - i. Renewal is God's work.
 - ii. **Intention is our response.**
 - iii. And obedience is where faith starts to move forward.
- f. We talked about **connecting intentionally with God**
 - i. not just knowing about Him, but knowing him personally and relationally
 - ii. learning to recognize His voice and presence.
- g. We talked about **connecting intentionally with others**
 - i. not just attending church, but giving yourself to deep relational connection
- h. **Last week we talked about New Do**
 - i. How small intentional next steps of faith move us toward maturity in connection with others
 - ii. **And also how God even uses our failures to grow us**
 - 1. So that failure is really only failure if you give up.
- i. And now, today, we zoom out.
- j. Because the Christian life doesn't end with personal renewal or even healthy community.

- i. It moves outward.
- k. The church is not a container for spiritual life.
 - i. The church is a conduit for it.
- l. This morning, we're talking about the culmination of this whole sermon series:
- m. [2] A Church on Mission**
 - i. Not because mission is a program we're launching.
 - ii. Not because evangelism is a box we're checking.
 - iii. But because **mission is the natural overflow of a people who are being shaped by Jesus together.**

2. (THE CORE QUESTION: WHAT IS GOD DOING THROUGH US?)

- a. One of the most important questions a church can ask is not:
 - i. "How many people showed up?"
 - ii. "How big is our budget?"
 - iii. "How busy are we?"
 - iv. "How many ministries do we run?"
- b. The deeper, core question is this:
 - i. **[3] What is God doing through us—for the sake of others?**
- c. Because from the very beginning, God's people were never meant to be an endpoint of His work.
 - i. They were meant to be a starting point.
- d. Listen to Jesus' words to his followers in **Acts 1:8 (NIV):**
 - i. **[4] "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."**
- e. Notice what Jesus does *not* say.
 - i. He does not say:
 - 1. "You will receive power so you can feel spiritually fulfilled."
 - 2. "You will receive power so you can build impressive religious institutions."
 - 3. "You will receive power so you can stay safe and comfortable."
 - ii. He says:
 - 1. **"You will receive power... and you will be my witnesses."**
- f. The Holy Spirit is not given just for inward experience.
 - i. He is given for outward movement.
- g. And the movement Jesus describes is not random—it's relational and ripple-shaped:
 - i. Jerusalem (where they are)

- ii. Judea (their region)
- iii. Samaria (their neighbors they didn't like)
- iv. The ends of the earth
- h. Start where you are,
 - i. Move outward faithfully.
 - ii. Trust God with the multiplication.
- i. That pattern has shaped our conversation this year.
 - i. It's why our church Word of the Year is **Ripple**.
 - 1. Because we believe God uses small, faithful acts of obedience to create effects far beyond what we can see or control.
 - ii. Our step.
 - 1. His power.
 - iii. Our faithfulness.
 - 1. His faithfulness.

3. (JESUS' HEART FOR THE HARVEST)

- a. But before we talk about *what* we do, we need to look at *why* Jesus sends us.
- b. [5] Matthew 9:36–38 (NIV):
 - i. “When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’”
- c. This passage is not about guilt or pressure.
 - i. It's about **compassion**.
- d. Jesus doesn't look at the crowds and feel annoyance.
 - i. He doesn't look at them and feel superiority, or disappointment.
 - ii. He looks at them and feels *moved*.
 - 1. They are Harassed.
 - 2. Helpless.
 - 3. Disconnected.
 - 4. Searching.
- e. And His response is not, “The harvest is overwhelming.”
 - i. It's, “**The harvest is plentiful—but the workers are few.**”
- f. In other words, the problem of mission is not a lack of opportunity.
 - i. The problem is a lack of availability.
- g. Which is why Jesus doesn't start by saying, “Go.”

- i. He starts by saying, “Ask.”
 - 1. Ask the Lord of the harvest.
- h. Mission begins with prayer.
 - i. But it doesn’t end with prayer.
 - ii. Because the disciples who pray this prayer eventually realize something unsettling:
 - 1. **They are the workers God wants to send.**
 - 2. The answers to their own prayers.

4. [6] This is A MISSION THAT MOVES THROUGH ORDINARY PEOPLE

- a. That realization is exactly what we see later in Acts 11.
- b. [7] Acts 11:19–21 (NIV):
 - i. “Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews. Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. The Lord’s hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.”
- c. **This is one of the most important—and most understated—mission passages in the New Testament.**
- d. These aren’t the 12 apostles.
 - i. These aren’t professional missionaries.
 - ii. These aren’t people with a seminary degree
- e. They are ordinary believers who were scattered by hardship—and kept talking about Jesus wherever they went.
- f. And notice the order:
 - i. They spoke.
 - ii. **Then** the Lord’s hand was with them.
 - iii. **Then** people believed
- g. God’s power follows faithful movement.
 - i. Not perfect movement.
 - ii. Not polished movement.
 - iii. Faithful movement.

5. [8] FAITHFUL PEOPLE, FAITHFUL GOD (WITHOUT PERFECTION)

- a. One of the quiet lies that keeps churches from living on mission is the assumption that God only works through smart people who feel ready.
- b. Ready enough.
 - i. Bold enough.
 - ii. Put-together enough.
 - iii. Theologically confident enough.
- c. But Acts tells a very different story.
- d. The believers in Acts 11 didn't wait until persecution made sense.
- e. They didn't wait until someone commissioned them.
- f. They didn't wait until they had a five-step plan for evangelism.
- g. Or graduated from their church's leadership equipping track
- h. They simply spoke about Jesus as they went.
- i. And Luke tells us something crucial:
 - i. "The Lord's hand was with them."
- j. That phrase matters.
- k. Because it reminds us of something we've already been talking about in this series:
 - i. **God is the primary agent of change: in our lives and in our world**
- l. Our role has never been to manufacture outcomes.
 - i. Our role has always been to respond faithfully.
- m. That's why we've been saying all along:
 - i. Our small step
 - ii. God's big work
- n. Not:
 - i. Our flawless execution
 - ii. Our impressive qualifications
 - iii. Our big results
- o. **And this is where I want to be very clear:**
 - i. Living on mission does *not* mean being special or impressive.
 - ii. Living on mission does *not* mean never stumbling.
 - iii. It does *not* mean always saying the right thing.
 - iv. It does *not* mean every conversation ends with a conversion story.
- p. It means **showing up again**, trusting that God meets faithfulness with His presence.

6. [9] MISSION GROWS OUT OF SHARED LIFE, NOT PRESSURE

- a. One of the most freeing things about the early church is how *ordinary* their mission was.
 - i. They weren't running events.

- ii. They weren't hosting attractional gatherings.
- iii. They were living life together—and Jesus kept coming up.
- b. [10] Acts 11:26 tells us:
 - i. "The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch."
 - ii. "little Christs"
- c. That wasn't a compliment.
 - i. It wasn't a brand.
 - ii. It was an observation, by the people around them.
- d. "These people keep talking about Christ."
 - i. "These people seem shaped by Jesus."
 - ii. "These people's lives don't make sense without Him."
- e. **Mission didn't begin with strategy.**
 - i. It began with proximity.
- f. **And that's important for us, because many people assume that "mission" means something *extra*—something added onto already busy lives.**
- g. But biblically, mission flows *through* ordinary rhythms of life:
 - i. shared meals
 - ii. friendships
 - iii. work conversations
 - iv. neighborly presence
 - v. hospitality
 - vi. parties
 - vii. kids sports
- h. This is **relational evangelism**, not event-based pressure.
 - i. And this is where our Word of the Year—**Ripple**—keeps grounding us.
 - ii. Because ripples necessarily don't start with great force.
 - 1. They start with contact.
 - iii. One small movement.
 - 1. One faithful step.
 - 2. One life touching another.
 - 3. And the ripples go wide and far

7. WHY COMMUNITY MATTERS FOR MISSION

- a. Notice what happens next in Acts 11.
- b. [11] Acts 11:22–24 (NIV):

- i. "News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord."
- c. Mission didn't isolate these believers.
 - i. It drew the church *toward* them.
- d. Barnabas doesn't show up to correct them.
 - i. He doesn't shut it down.
 - ii. He recognizes the grace of God at work—and encourages it.
- e. That's what healthy churches do.
- f. They don't centralize all ministry.
 - i. They **affirm and equip what God is already doing through His people.**
 - ii. **Most ministry of the church happens unofficially through the lives of its members!**
- g. Which is why personal disciplemaking and small groups matter so much for mission.
 - i. **Mission sustained without community leads to burnout.**
 - ii. **Community without mission leads to stagnation and ingrown toxicity.**
 - iii. But together?
 - 1. They multiply.

8. TYING BACK TO WHAT WE'VE ALREADY STARTED

- a. This is why the things we've already talked about in this series matter so deeply.
- b. Connecting intentionally with God shapes *who we are becoming*.
- c. Connecting intentionally with others sustains *how we live*.
- d. Mission is simply **those things turning outward.**

9. And yes—this is where the personal BHAGGs we introduced last week find their meaning.

- a. Not as pressure.
- b. Not as checklists.
- c. But as **faith goals that create space for God to work through us together.**
- d. We're not trying to do more.
 - i. We're trying to **trust more deeply**.
 - ii. By risking making concrete our next steps of obedience.
- e. And the invitation today is not:
 - i. "Can you do something impressive?"

f. [12] It's: "Will you take the next faithful step God is placing in front of you?"

10. A CHURCH THAT LIVES SENT (WELCOME. EQUIP. SEND.)

- a. If you've been around Tru over the past year, or seen the little magnets we have around, you've probably heard us use three simple words to describe who we are and what we believe God has called us to be about:
 - i. [13] Welcome. Equip. Send.
- b. That's not a slogan.
 - i. It's a biblical rhythm.
- c. We welcome people into the grace of God and loving community.
 - i. We equip people to grow in maturity, faith, and ministry,
 - ii. And—we send people into their world as witnesses.
 - 1. Starting with our neighbors in the chair next to us
 - 2. Then our neighbors around our lives and homes
 - 3. And farther and farther out as God
- d. And here's the important part:
 - i. **Sending is not a failure of gathering.**
 - ii. **Sending is the goal of gathering.**
- e. Jesus never intended the church to be a spiritual cul-de-sac.
 - i. He intended it to be a launching point.
- f. That's why Acts 1:8 still matters—not just as history, but as identity for the Church.
 - i. "You will be my witnesses..."
 - 1. Not someday.
 - 2. Not when you're ready.
 - 3. Not when we have bigger numbers or budgets.
 - ii. You will be my witnesses—right now, where you are, and wherever I send you next, for the rest of your lives.
- g. And God does what only God can do with it.
- h. [14] Ephesians 3:20 reminds us:
 - i. **"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us..."**
- i. Notice where the power is.
 - i. Not just *around* us.
 - ii. Not just *above* us.
 - iii. **At work within us.**
- j. God chooses to work through ordinary people who are willing to take faithful steps.

k. That's been true since Acts.

i. It's still true now.

11. [15] OUR CORPORATE “NEW DO”: MOVING OUTWARD TOGETHER

a. This is where everything we've talked about comes together.

b. [16] And just like we have a corporate WOTY: RIPPLE

i. We also have some corporate BHAGGs to go along with it.

ii. Tru's NEW DO for 2026

1. God's power, our faithful steps

c. And I believe God is inviting us into a **three-layered ripple movement outward this yr:**

i. [17] Personal: Disciplemaking Relationships

1. We believe God is calling us to grow in intentional personal discipleship.
2. Right now, about 15 people are actively engaged in discipling relationships.
3. We're praying and trusting God to grow that to **30 people by the end of this year**—with a specific hope of seeing more women engaged and equipped.
 - a. Of the 15 currently in dship, only 3 are women. So our BHAGG would be that at least 10 of the 30 would be women
4. Not because numbers impress God.
 - a. But because people matter to Him.
5. And disciplemaking doesn't require a title.
 - a. It requires availability.

ii. [18] Communal: Small Groups

1. We're also praying for **6 healthy small groups** by the end of the year.
2. Groups that are:
 - a. Relational
 - b. spiritually forming
 - c. missionally outward-facing
3. LIFE Groups,
 - a. Our key small group model
 - b. Open, multi-generational groups oriented around what we see the early church valuing in Acts 2:
 - i. Learning Biblical Truth
 - ii. Intercession
 - iii. Fellowship
 - iv. Extending life to others

- c. Currently have 2 life groups, with another in the works
- 4. and also focused groups—men’s, women’s, recovery, studies
- 5. Because transformation happens best in circles, not rows.

iii. [19] Missional: Church Planting

- 1. And finally, we believe God is calling us to take a step together we’ve never taken before as a church:
 - a. To join a **Wesleyan Church Planting Network** within our KS district.
 - b. Not doing it alone, but Tru partnering with other churches in our district to help plan and plant a new church in our general area of Kansas.
- 2. Why?
 - a. **Because just as healthy things multiply,**
 - b. So also healthy churches plant churches. Period.
 - c. And the single most effective way to reach new people for Christ is the planting of new churches.
- 3. This isn’t about weakening ourselves or leaving our community behind.
 - a. It’s about expanding our impact.
 - b. And following Jesus.
- 4. It’s about trusting that what God is doing here is meant to ripple outward—beyond us.
- 5. I believe we’re finally ready to take a next step of faith with God here!
 - a. And I’m extremely excited!

iv. Again, these aren’t checklists.

- 1. They’re **faith goals.**
- 2. There are some steps for us to take toward these.
- 3. But God will also have to show up.
 - a. Our step.
 - b. His power.

12.[20] THE INVITATION

- a. So here’s the invitation today—and it’s intentionally simple.
- b. Not: “Do more.” But: “**Stay open.**”
 - i. Stay open to where God might be sending you.
 - ii. Stay open to who God might be placing in your path.
 - iii. Stay open to the next faithful step—whatever size it is.
- c. You don’t have to figure out the whole plan.
 - i. You don’t have to see the whole ripple.

- ii. You just have to place your life in God's hands and say, "Here I am. Send me."
- d. Because faithful people, in the hands of a faithful God, change the world.

13. CLOSING: A PEOPLE ON MISSION

- a. Tru, we are not behind.
- b. We are not late or lacking
- c. God has been forming us—deeply and patiently.
- d. And now, He is inviting us to trust Him with what comes next.
 - i. Welcome., Equip., Send.
- e. May we be a people who live sent.
 - i. Not with pressure or fear
 - ii. But with humble confidence in a God who delights in using small, faithful steps to bring His kingdom to life.

14. OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND

- a. If you're ready to commit yourself to following God into your world, living on mission in your real life, beginning with your neighbors
- b. I'm going to ask you to respond in a minute by simply standing to your feet.
- c. This is not for the super Christians, or the oversees missionaries.
- d. But for those who are ready to say to God "Here am I. Send me."
- e. Don't stand because your neighbor is standing. We are all on a journey, and often at different steps. This is you saying yes to God Himself, in the presence of these witnesses.
 - i. So take it seriously.
- f. And we will as well.
- g. We'd love to pray for you and support you as you follow JC wherever he would lead you.
- h. So if you've sensed God calling you to a next step of mission and ministry through this series, And you're ready to say yes.
 - i. Please stand now.

15. PRAY for those standing

NEW YEAR.
NEW YOU.
NEW DO.

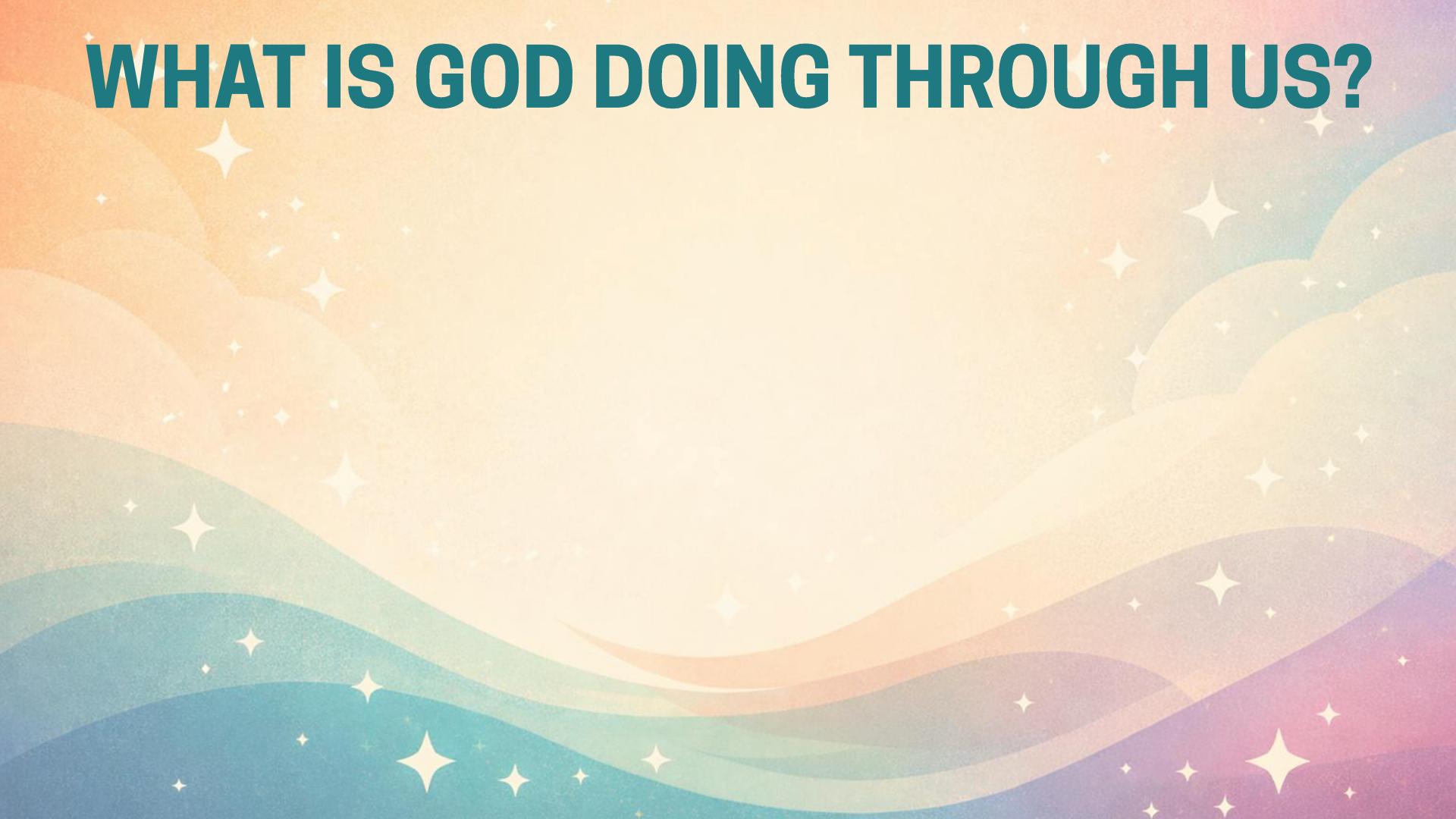


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WHAT IS GOD DOING THROUGH US?



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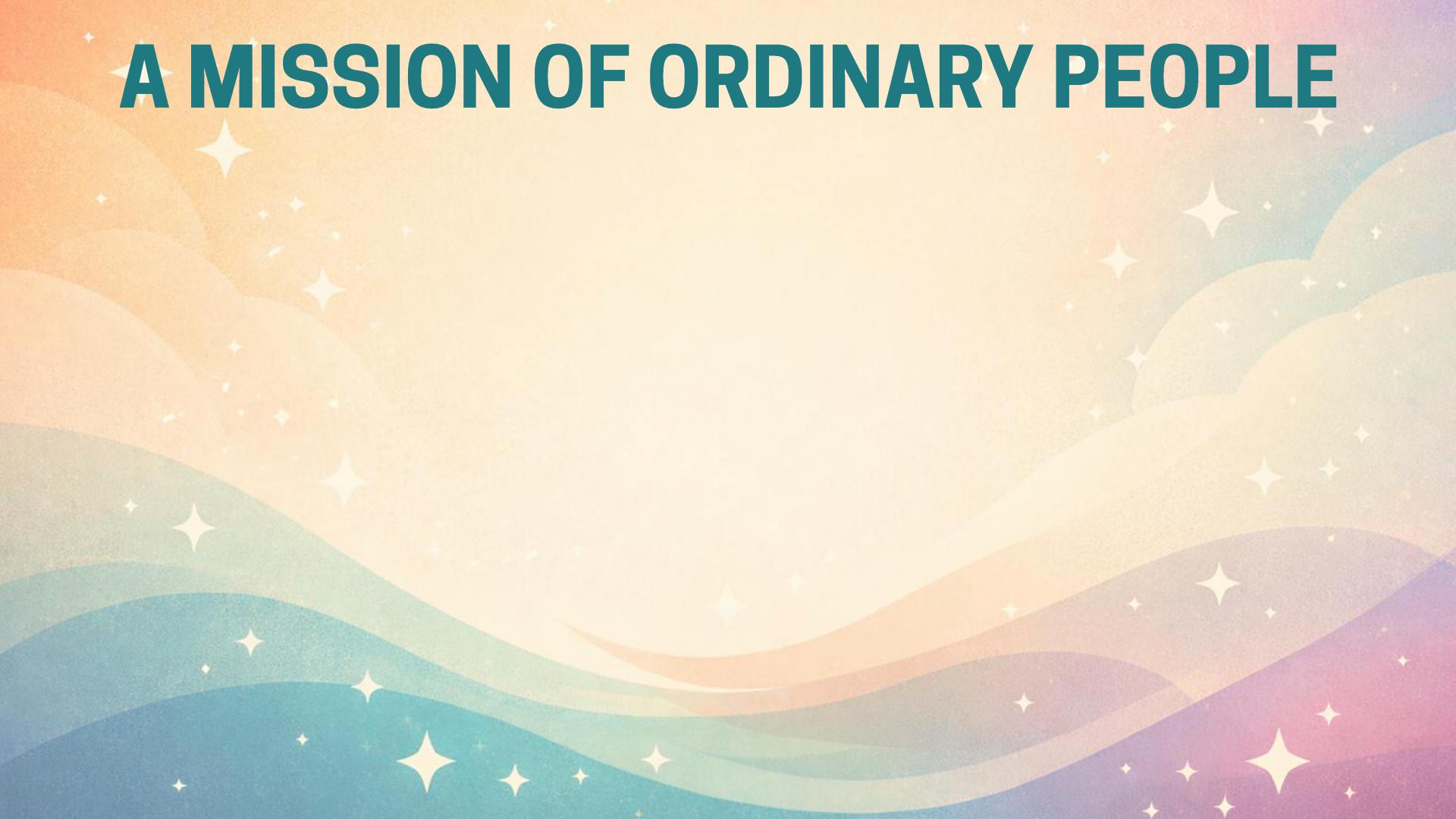
ACTS 1:8

JESUS' HEART FOR THE HARVEST

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MATTHEW 9:36-38

A MISSION OF ORDINARY PEOPLE



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ACTS 11:19-21

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MISSION GROWS FROM SHARED LIFE



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ACTS 11:26

COMMUNITY MATTERS FOR MISSION

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ACTS 11:22-24

WILL YOU TAKE THE NEXT STEP?

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“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us...”

EPHESIANS 3:20

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

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BHAGGs:

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BHAGGs:

Personal: 30 Disciplemaking Relationships

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Communal: 6 Small Groups

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Personal: 30 Disciplemaking Relationships

Communal: 6 Small Groups

Missional: Join a Church Planting Network

NEW YEAR.
NEW YOU.
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**A CHURCH
ON MISSION**

