

YOU ARE SENT

Welcome | Equip | Send, #3: SEND | September 20, 2026 | Dave Geldart | Tru Community Church

1. [1] INTRO: CANDLES

- a. **[STAGING: A single candle, already lit, on a stool center stage before the service begins. Let it burn through the whole message.]**
- b. Good morning. I want to start with something small.
 - i. **[POINT TO THE LIT CANDLE.]**
- c. That candle's been burning since before you walked in.
 - i. In a minute I'm going to light a second one from it.
- d. But first, a question – similar to yet slightly different from one we asked last Sunday:
 - i. Raise your hand if someone in this room, or someone connected to this room, played some part in you following Jesus.
 1. **[PAUSE. LET PEOPLE LOOK AROUND.]**
- e. Look at that.
 - i. Somebody welcomed you.
 - ii. Somebody sat with you when you didn't know a soul in the building.
 - iii. Somebody answered a question you were embarrassed to ask.
 - iv. Somebody kept showing up even when you didn't.
- f. **[LIGHT THE SECOND CANDLE FROM THE FIRST.]**
 - i. Notice something.
 - ii. The first flame didn't lose anything by lighting the second one.
 1. It's not dimmer. It's not used up.
 2. One candle just got close enough to light the other.
 - a. One just became two. Neither one is worse off.
 - b. And things became just a little bit brighter
 - iii. **That's the whole sermon, if you want to leave right now.**
 1. I'm going to leave these burning while we talk,
 2. because I don't want you to forget the picture.
- g. For three weeks we've been walking through three words that form the backbone of our vision and mission here at Tru:
 - i. **Welcome. Equip. Send.**
 1. Somebody welcomes you.
 2. Somebody helps you grow.
 3. And eventually — this is the part we haven't talked about yet —
 - a. **you become the flame for somebody else.**
- h. **Welcome. Equip. Send.** Say it with me — **Welcome. Equip. Send.**

i. So far we've communicated how "You Are Welcome Here"

i. Last week was "You Can Grow Here"

2. [2] Today's big idea is "You Are Sent"

a. **Because at some point, what God's doing *in* you has to become something God does *through* you.**

i. That's not a bonus round for spiritual overachievers.

ii. It's what it means to follow and become more like Jesus

1. That's just what discipleship is.

b. **[3] MATTHEW 28:18–20 (NIV) —** *"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'"*

c. Jesus final charge to his disciples wasn't: "Go and earn your place."

i. Or, "Go get people to church."

d. He says, **"Go make disciples."**

i. What starts with "come follow me", eventually broadens to

1. "come follow me, **and bring somebody with you.**"

ii. Welcome. Equip. Send.

e. **But I don't want us to miss the surrounding statements to this call to go make disciples.**

i. Without them, this could come across as a religious works-production focused thing.

f. When we consider the rest of the context here, everything gets **both stronger and more relaxing.**

i. Jesus begins: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me..."

1. and ends: "I am with you always..."

ii. We're sent BECAUSE Jesus HAS authority, and we're sent with Jesus' presence.

1. So it's not "Go do multiplication for Jesus if you want to be a good Christian."

2. Its "Jesus has authority, Jesus sends you, and Jesus goes with you."

iii. There's here the power lies →

1. And our rest within it

g. So here's what it actually looked like the first time it happened.

h. **[4] JOHN 1:40–42 (NIV) —** *"Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did*

was to find his brother Simon and tell him, 'We have found the Messiah.' And he brought him to Jesus."

- i. **[MOTION TOWARD THE CANDLES]** This is Andrew.
 - i. He didn't have a discipleship curriculum.
 - ii. He just had his flame lit by Jesus, and he took it to someone else.
- j. That's a pattern we see throughout the New Testament.
 - i. Jesus finds someone.
 - ii. That someone goes and finds someone else.
- k. That's the story underneath our words on our wall in the front hallway.
 - i. **[5] [POINT TO PATHWAY] 3 stages of the path, each with 3 steps.**
 - 1. Neighbor. Guest. Friend.
 - 2. Family. Disciple. Servant.
 - 3. Disciplemaker. Leader. Planter.
 - ii. Those are not nine vocabulary words to memorize — They're one story.
 - 1. About someone disconnected, moving toward becoming someone who helps other people connect.
 - 2. This isn't a ladder to climb.
 - 3. **Just the next step, the power of God, and who you're taking with you.**

3. DISCIPLES BECOME DISCIPLEMAKERS

- a. Our pathway calls this first step in Send: **Disciplemaker**.
 - i. **And this is really the heart of SEND**
 - ii. It's when a disciple stops only asking "How am I growing?" and starts asking, "Who am I helping grow?"
- b. That doesn't mean becoming a pastor.
 - i. It doesn't mean standing up front with a microphone.
- c. Most of the time it's incredibly ordinary —
 - i. one person, one coffee, one open Bible, one honest conversation at a time.
 - ii. Checking on someone who didn't show up.
 - iii. Walking with them through real life
 - iv. Encouraging them along the way.
 - v. Telling them the truth they need to hear, not just the truth they want.
 - vi. Praying for them by name before you fall asleep.
- d. **[6] 2 TIMOTHY 2:1–2 (NIV) — "You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."**

- i. We read part of that last week.
- ii. Count the generations of disciples in that one sentence:
 - 1. Paul. Timothy. Reliable people. Others they taught.
 - 2. That's not one flame. That a chain of flames!
 - 3. Four generations of disciples!
 - 4. That's just what faithfulness does — it keeps moving.
- iii. **What was given to Paul was never going to stop with Paul.**
 - 1. **What's been given to you was never going to stop with you.**
- e. Here's a distinction I want you to hear clearly, **last week we landed on Servant** — how can I use what God's given me to bless somebody? True. Necessary. Good.
 - i. But Send takes one more step.
 - 1. **A servant asks, "How can I help?"**
 - 2. **A disciplemaker begins to ask, "Who am I helping become?"**
 - ii. A servant gives someone a Saturday.
 - 1. A disciplemaker gives someone their life -- for a season or more.
- f. We don't want a church where the same few faithful people keep doing more and more.
 - i. We want a church where faithful people keep helping *other* people become faithful.
 - 1. That's not mere addition growth. That's multiplication as Jesus intended.
 - ii. And it's far more effective for reaching the world with the Good News of Jesus

4. [7] LEADERS DEVELOP PEOPLE

- a. Send's second word: **Leader**.
- b. These are primarily people who step into key roles in a ministry or group
- c. Before you picture a title — staff, elder, somebody with a badge — that's not only what we mean.
 - i. In our pathway, leadership isn't a position you apply for.
 - 1. It's trust that gets recognized. It's a behavior.
 - 2. Character, faithfulness, fruit — and then broader responsibility follows.
- d. **[8] EPHESIANS 4:11–13 (NIV) — "So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."**
- e. We've read that together before. Read that again:

- i. Jesus didn't give the church its leaders so they can do the ministry while everybody else watches.
 - ii. They're given by Jesus **to equip the people — so everyone one else does the ministry** – to welcome, serve, disciple, lead – so the body of Christ grows.
- f. **[PERSONAL STORY: My tendency to just do it myself]**
 - i. **I don't default to this.**
 - ii. Sometimes I disobey the word of God as your lead pastor
 - iii. I've realized that often times, it's easier for me to just do things myself
 - 1. I'm pretty good at things!
 - 2. It takes so much extra time to try to teach others anyways
 - 3. Plus, most of the time, I could have done it better and faster anyways
 - 4. After all, people are looking to me – I'm the leader – I gotta make sure things get done – it's what yall expect of me!
 - a. So sometimes, I just "do it myself"
 - b. Some of you are a lot like me!
 - iv. **But God's been patiently teaching me for many years how shortsighted that kind of leadership really is**
 - 1. Short term gain → Enormous long term cost. Both to me and church.
- g. Here's a danger we don't want to settle for:
 - i. A church where a small group of exhausted, faithful people try to carry everything, because they're the only ones who are willing and know how.
- h. Healthy leaders stops asking only, "How much can I get done?" and starts asking, "Who am I developing?" → ... "to carry this further?"
 - i. "Who am I raising up to take over what used to be mine?"
 - 1. So I can do that again with someone else – AND SO CAN THEY!
 - ii. Success quietly stops meaning "Look how much I did" and starts meaning "Look who's taking next steps with Jesus because I invested in them."
- i. And in the end, FAR MORE MINISTRY GETS DONE when we raise up more leaders

5. [9] PLANTING NEW THINGS

- a. Send's final word is: **Planter.**
- b. Before you check out because you're not planning to start a church — stay with me.
- c. Even though not everyone is called to become a planter,
 - i. a planter is actually anyone who looks around at what God's given them and asks, **"Where could this multiply somewhere new?"**
 - ii. Sometimes that's a new church.

- iii. Sometimes it's a new LIFE Group or other small group.
 - iv. Could be a new ministry. A new leader raised up. A neighborhood nobody's paying attention to yet.
- d. The pathway is honest: not everyone plants a church or starts a new ministry.
 - i. But every mature disciple lives with an outward posture, always asking, "Who is God sending me to next?"
- e. This isn't hypothetical for us: We're now part of a Church Planting Network, working with 7 other churches to help plant a first Wesleyan church in Hays, Kansas!
 - i. Something we're all going to be able to help with in various ways.
- f. Look at how this actually happened the first time.
- g. **[10] ACTS 13:1–3 (NIV) —** *"1 Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. 2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' 3 So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.*
 - i. That's not a strategic plan five year in the making.
 - ii. That's a worshiping, praying, ordinary church listening to the Spirit —
 - 1. and then doing the hard thing:
 - a. blessing two of their best leaders and letting them go.
 - iii. Sending costs something.
 - 1. Antioch didn't send their leftovers.
 - 2. They sent Barnabas and Saul — the two they probably wanted to keep.
 - 3. That's what real sending looks like. It's not comfortable. It's obedient.
 - a. And it's surprisingly freeing
- h. Paul had a name for that posture.
- i. **[11] ROMANS 15:20–21 (NIV) —** *"It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. Rather, as it is written: 'Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand.'"*
 - i. Paul wasn't chasing comfort.
 - 1. He was chasing the places nobody else had gone yet.
 - 2. People who didn't yet have relational access to the Gospel.
 - ii. That's the thread running through the whole book of Acts we just spent this summer in.
- j. **[POINT TO ACTS MAPS]**

- i. Jerusalem. Judea. Samaria. Ends of the earth.
 - ii. That plan was and still is the Spirit shoving ordinary people toward places they hadn't planned to go, saying yes before they knew what came next.
- k. **[STORY — Jon and Nicole]**
 - i. Jon and Nicole were a part of an old LIFE Group Jenn and I led in our first home many years ago – over off Casement road,
 - 1. Eventually they moved back to rural Kansas and we lost touch for years
 - ii. But what we found out later was they didn't just take their U-Haul, they took what they'd learned and seen about discipling and LGs with them too
 - 1. And what they couldn't find, they initiated.
 - iii. It doesn't look the same there — smaller, different, not flashy.
 - 1. That's not a weakness. That's the whole point.
 - 2. Ripples of people experiencing real community and mission who wouldn't have otherwise —
 - 3. farther than our little group meeting in a Northview living room could have imagined.
 - 4. Little I getting close enough to light other lights. Who go wherever and repeat.
 - l. That's what Send looks like in real life.
 - i. Small steps toward people, and God carrying the light farther than we could see.
- 6. **[12] TESTIMONY (7–8 MIN): LYDIA BARRETT** *[Invite her up.]*
 - a. I want you to hear from one of our own who is living this out right now.
 - b. Lydia's stepped into a SEND lifestyle through discipling, leading, and planting!
 - i. As she started Immanuel Journaling groups, and now a new women's discipleship group.
 - c. **Interview questions:**
 - i. *Tell us about your experience discipling. What's it been like — and what made you say yes to walking with Donna?*
 - ii. *You've just started a brand-new women's discipleship group. What made you say, "I need to start something, not just join something"?*
 - 1. *Was there a specific moment you remember thinking, "I don't just want to keep growing myself — I want to help someone else grow"?*
 - iii. *What's surprised you about either discipling or planting? What's been harder than you expected — and what's been better?*

- iv. *Somebody in this room is thinking, "I'm not qualified for that." I couldn't do either of those things. What would you say to them?*
- d. *[Thank her.]* This isn't rare. This is what happens when somebody stops waiting to feel ready.

7. [13] IT DOESN'T STOP WITH YOU

- a. Send isn't the opposite of Welcome and Equip.
 - i. It's what they were always headed toward.
- b. The one who was welcomed becomes the one who welcomes.
 - i. The one who was equipped becomes the one who equips.
 - ii. It loops — because that's how a living thing works
- c. **Welcome. Equip. Send.** Not a program you complete. A pathway of living outward:
 - i. **[DISPLAY FULL PATHWAY]**
 - ii. Neighbor — a person already around your life; coworker, classmate, actual neighbor.
 - iii. Guest — somebody says yes to your invitation.
 - iv. Friend — somebody whose name you've learned.
 - v. Family — Someone who now belongs, not just attends.
 - vi. Disciple — Someone following Jesus on purpose.
 - vii. Servant — Someone who begins asking how they can give to others.
 - viii. Disciplemaker — When your disciple starts giving their whole life to others
 - ix. Leader — They become people others trust to help them move forward.
 - x. Planter — Someone who starts something that wasn't there. (REPEAT)
- d. That's the whole pathway.
 - i. You're somewhere on it.
 - ii. All of us are.

8. (APPLICATION)

- a. **Look at the pathway. Where are you right now?**
- b. And don't worry about getting the answer perfectly right.
 - i. Again, the question isn't, "Have I arrived?"
 - 1. There is no finish line here.
 - 2. **[14] The question is simply: "What's my next step—and who am I helping take theirs?"**
- c. **Maybe your next step is simply letting somebody know you.**
 - i. Maybe it's joining a LIFE Group.
 - ii. Maybe it's asking someone to disciple you.

- iii. Maybe you've been serving for a long time and your next step is not doing more, but intentionally inviting somebody else learn how to do it with you.
- d. Maybe you've already got someone you're investing in.**
 - i. Then maybe your next step is to prayerfully and intentionally help them move toward sharing their light with someone else
- e. And maybe—and this is where Send can get really exciting—**
 - i. God has been putting something new on your heart.**
 - 1. A new group.
 - 2. A new ministry.
 - 3. A neighborhood you want to reach.
 - 4. Maybe even something bigger than that.
 - ii. You don't have to have the whole thing figured out.
 - 1. Andrew didn't.
 - 2. He'd known Jesus for less than a day when he went and found his brother.
 - 3. You don't need twenty years of faith to give somebody the next thing you learned.
 - 4. You just need one thing Jesus has shown you, and one person you can pass it to.
- f. So don't leave here thinking, “I need to become a disciplemaker, a leader, or a planter.”
- g. Just ask:
 - i. Where am I?**
 - ii. What's my next step?**
 - iii. And who could I take with me?**
- h. Because what God is doing in you was never meant to stop with you.**
 - i. We're not trying to build a bigger church.
 - ii. We're trying to follow Jesus one step at a time—and we're praying for a church that multiplies.
 - 1. That's why our neighbors matter.
 - 2. That's why discipleship and small groups matter.
 - 3. That's why Hays matters.
- i. And that's why our WOTY: Ripple isn't just a slogan.
 - i. It's what happens when ordinary people take one faithful step,
 - 1. pass the flame to somebody else,
 - 2. and trust God to carry it farther than they can see.

- j. That's the church we're becoming.
 - i. In His authority
 - ii. In his presence and power
- k. So I invite each of us to take a few seconds and say to God what the prophet Isaiah did so many centuries ago, *"Here I am. Send me."*

9. [15] COMMUNION

- a. In a minute, we're going to say that at this table.
- b. **[GESTURE TO THE TWO LIT CANDLES.]**
 - i. One flame became two, and neither one was worse for it. **[PAUSE]**
 - ii. That's not just true of candles.
 - 1. That's what Jesus does with people who give him everything — including what they've been given. Such as it is.
- c. **Because before we ever moved toward anybody else, Jesus moved toward us first.**
 - i. He didn't wait for us to get it together. He came looking for us.
 - ii. **That's the whole gospel in one sentence —**
 - 1. **Jesus came and found us before we ever went looking for him.**
- d. So as we come to the Communion Table this morning, remember:
 - i. this bread was broken so it could be given.
 - ii. This cup was poured out so it could be shared.
- e. Jesus wasn't diminished by giving himself to us.
 - i. He gave himself fully—and there is still more than enough grace
 - ii. You're welcome at this table because the Father sent Jesus for you —
 - 1. and he said yes! → That's worth celebrating
- f. We're doing this like we did a couple weeks ago — come forward, take the elements back to your seat, and we'll eat and drink as one family, right where we are.
 - i. *This bread is Jesus' body, given for us — so that he could welcome us into his family.* **[EVERYONE EATS]**
 - ii. *This juice is Jesus' blood, poured out — making a way for us into the presence of God, not based on what we've done, but on what he's done.* **[ALL DRINK]**

10. Ending Prayer

WELCOME | EQUIP | SEND



— TRU.CHURCH —



YOU ARE SENT

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MATTHEW 28 ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “**All authority** in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore **go and make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And **surely I am with you always**, to the very end of the age.”

YOU ARE SENT

JOHN 1 ⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹ **The first thing Andrew did** was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). ⁴² And **he brought him to Jesus.**





WELCOME | EQUIP | SEND



**NEIGHBOR
GUEST
FRIEND**



**FAMILY
DISCIPLE
SERVANT**



**DISCIPLE
MAKER
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— TRU.CHURCH —

DISCIPLES BECOME DISCIPLEMAKERS

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LEADERS DEVELOP PEOPLE

EPHESIANS 4 ¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² **to equip his people for works of service**, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.





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— TRU.CHURCH —

PLANTING NEW THINGS

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ACTS 13 ²⁰ It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. ²¹ Rather, as it is written: "Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand."



LYDIA BARRETT

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WES

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— TRU.CHURCH —

WHAT'S MY NEXT STEP
AND WHO AM I HELPING TAKE THEIRS?

WELCOME | EQUIP | SEND

**NEIGHBOR
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**FAMILY
DISCIPLE
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**DISCIPLE
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— TRU.CHURCH —



COMMUNION

