

Neighbors: Missional Living

1 Thessalonians 1-3

4B area. [500K people. 55%= nones]

Heart of A Missionary [1 Thessalonians 1]

Love God. Love People.

- Our pursuit of God leads to our pursuit of His Creation [*Poema*]

Brokenness not Badness

- Eyes of Christ [Cross in the Middle]
- "our compassion towards THE BROKEN does not come from a place of sympathy but a place of empathy."

Mind of A Missionary [1 Thessalonians 2]

Contemplative

- Missional living doesn't happen accidentally. We need to use the weapons that we are given.
- "Knowledge is indispensable to Christian life and service. If we do not use the mind that God has given us, we condemn ourselves to spiritual superficiality and cut ourselves off from many of the riches of God's grace." - John Stott

Strategic (Paul's missionary journeys)

- Paul & the Apostles relied on the Holy Spirit and Strategy to spread the Gospel (and start the church)
- [He was dealt cards] Where they stayed... what they did... how they made money... all done with a strategy to advance the Kingdom of God through the Local Church.
- [How much thought do you put into where you live? your job? your activities?] We want to be church planters, don't we?

Bold

- Are you afraid to fail? [MISSIONAL LIVING= HUGE RISK]
- Paul risked everything [Life. Reputation. Future]

Will of A Missionary [1 Thessalonians 3]

Perseverance

- NO doesn't scare the revolutionary... it fuels them

Power

- True power comes from the Lord. "The most powerful WILL is one aligned with God's."

Response:

1. Pray

Ask God to show you what it is that He has for you to do

2. Think

Use your mind (aligned with God's) to look at the cards God has dealt you & your family. How can you best use this hand to make much of Him? [be strategic]

3. Do

Have a "family meeting" to talk about HOW you are going to live as missionaries HERE!

Small Group Questions

Have you ever been on a mission trip? Where did you go and what did you do?

- How did that trip change the way you lived back at home?

What do you think about the data we heard about the 4B area?

- How has this info changed the way you think about this area? (think broken not bad)

What would it look like for you to begin to be strategic in light of living missionally?

- What cards have you been dealt and how are you using them?
- What steps have you taken to begin doing this?
- Where have you been afraid to fail?

We have been challenged to Pray, Think, and Do... Where are you at on this?