KINGDOM of HEAVEN

A SERIES IN THE BOOK OF MATTHEW

Community Group Material
Matthew 10:24-11:1
Week of 18-24th September

Missionary Exhortations

Leader Preparation

Read through the passage so that you are familiar with it.

This is the third week of our focus on Jesus sending out the disciples and we are focusing our attention this week on God's calling to us, and to our church's missions focus.

Read through the exegetical material on **pages 21-23** of the CG leader manual, familiarising yourself in particular with the parts that were not taught in the sermon.

We would like to create moments of connection between what happens at church on Sunday and the continuation of this in our groups during the week. The intention is not to shame people who weren't at the service, but to speak positively about what we learned and connect it to the group discussion. Use opportunities to remind people of the song you enjoyed in worship, something that stood out in the sermon, or even the fantastic time you had chatting over a cappuccino afterwards!

Missions Resources

As a group, take some time this week to contemplate how you can be involved in missions. If you are interested in being a missionary, supporting a missionary or adopting a missionary, please contact Jenni Kurten: jenni@ruc.org.za
You may like to download the list of RUC missionaries:

- https://rosebank-files.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/MissionariesBooklet2021.pdf

And perhaps some prayer requests, and information about the persecuted church from Open Doors South Africa:

- https://www.opendoors.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/PC_Sep-2023.pdf
- https://www.opendoors.org.za/christian-persecution/world-watch-list-2023/

Wycliffe has a helpful guide to how to pray for missionaries:

- https://www.wycliffe.org/prayer/how-to-pray-for-missionaries

Group time

Introductory questions

During the service on Sunday we saw some updates about some missionaries that Rosebank supports.

- Was there a missionary who you saw and thought "they're just like me"?
- Was there someone doing something that you could NEVER do?
- Is there anything you envy about the life of a missionary?

Ask your group members what about the service was most meaningful to them – what was something new that they heard and have been processing.

Exploring the Passage

READ Matthew 10:24-11:1

Encouragement: Do not fear

- We all like to be in control of our selves. What do you fear about trusting God with your life?
- Read Psalm 33:13-22
    - Do you see God as being far away from us and unable to understand our suffering? Why or why not?
    - Can you think of a time that you have held on to a sense of God seeing you and caring for you as he cares for the sparrows?
    - Looking at verses 16 to 19:
      - when we encounter trouble, we look for our own ways to save ourselves. In the long term, what is God's promise?
    - Looking at verses 20 to 22:
      - how can you remind your heart and your mind of God's good plan for you?

Exhortation: Allegiance to Jesus

- How might we experience peace through our relationship with Jesus?
- When might our faith cause conflict rather than peace?
- What was Jesus' reason for "losing" his life on earth? What purpose does it serve to send us out "like sheep among wolves" into the world?

Some extra passages:

1. Reward for faithfulness under persecution
    - Matthew 5:11-12
    - Romans 8:17-18
2. Fear of God
    - 1 Peter 1:17
    - Acts 9:31
    - 2 Corinthians 5:11
3. Peace to those "in Christ"
    - John 14:26
    - John 16:33
    - John 20:19-23

Encouragement: Disciples are supported by disciples

God has a plan to reach the harvest, and we are part of that plan.

- How is God asking you to share the good news – either close to home or far away?
- How is God asking you to support others as they do his work? What are some ways you could support others?

Sharing & Prayer

Reread Matthew 10:39. Spend some time meditating on this verse individually. What decisions could you make that would temporarily allow you to "find" your life, but then lose it? How might God be calling you to lose your life for his sake?

Allow some time for people to share how they believe God may be calling them to be involved in his mission.

Consider whether as a group you could connect with a missionary or missions project:

Some ways to support missionaries:

1. Invite them to share at your community group while they are visiting or on furlough.
2. Ask to be added to their newsletter to guide your prayers for them.
3. Join a missionary sending cell.
4. Contribute financially – preferably regularly, but even occasionally.

Pray as a group for one another, and for missionaries that may be on your heart. Perhaps use a sentence prayer method:

- Each prayer should only be one simple sentence long
- No one has to pray
- The leader can start off and finish – *but must also adhere to the one sentence rule!*

The purpose of this is to make praying together as unthreatening as possible for everyone to participate. It may be helpful to encourage people to say their prayer in their home language – prayer in the language of our heart seems to flow more easily.