

MISSIONAL ENGAGEMENT - STUDY GUIDE

SESSION THREE - LIVING AMONG

INTRODUCTION

In session one, we gained an understanding of the bigger WHY behind everything we are called to be and do as Christians and as the church. In session two, we talked about the mandate that the church has to serve and love the community and world in which we live.

In this session, we will explore even further the importance of entering into deep relationships with people in our communities and the reasons for doing it.

VIDEO: SESSION THREE

“The Word became flesh and blood,
and **moved into the neighborhood**.
We saw the glory with our own eyes,
the one-of-a-kind glory,
like Father, like Son,
Generous inside and out,
true from start to finish.”

JOHN 1:14 MSG

We want to share our lives with people
who are not yet part of our community.

THREE REASONS FOR SHARING OUR LIVES

Reason #1: We become part of God's _____ .

Reason #2: We become more like _____ .

Reason #3: Incarnational ministry is an important _____ strategy.

God did not just give us a gift.
He gave Himself to us.

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NOTES

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DISCUSSION & REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. God did not just give us a gift. He gave Himself to us. How should that reality shape the way we approach serving others?

2. Read the quote from Alan Hirsch below and then discuss the following: How does this quote reflect the lifestyle that Jesus modeled? Do you already tend to live your life in this way? If not, what would you need to change to do so?

“Spend more time listening to, eating with, and playing with the neighborhood you live in. Work toward not merely identifying with the locals; seek to become one.”

ALAN HIRSCH

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DISCUSSION & REFLECTION QUESTIONS

3. What does it look like to join in the missional activity of God?

4. Sociologist Ray Oldenburg identifies three places in people's lives: home, work, and third place. He explains that the third place is a place where we make friends, discuss things and have fellowship. It's a place where we relax and just hang out. A place where we go a few times a week and build and maintain relationships.

Now read the quote from Philip below and then discuss the following: How does this quote make you feel? Do you agree with it? Why or why not? What is your third place? What kind of relationships do you have with non-Christians?

“For many Christians their third place has become the church. And so many Christians no longer have real relationships with non-Christians and we have pulled ourselves out of this world, out of culture in order to build our own culture. Even though we follow a God who left his culture in order to become part of our culture. Our world.

So all of the sudden we are not part of the places where people are open to talk about spirituality. Often we don't have the relationships anymore where people can be open with us when they are in crisis or need help because we have pulled ourselves out of their lives and their third places.”

PHILIP ZIMMERMANN
