

Joining Jesus On His Mission -#1

And

The Implications for Your Lutheran Church—Anytown, Iowa

Based on the book JOINING JESUS ON HIS MISSION, by Greg Finke.

Foundation Work: Ephesians 2:1-10

1. Ours is not a simple life and death story (if there is such a thing.)
2. “We were, by nature, _____ of _____.” *Who and Why?*

3. Our story has become a dead and alive experience, not a life and death story. *Is there a difference?*

4. What are your reflections on verses 6-7?

5. We are alive in Christ, through faith in His death and resurrection from the dead, and now have a new purpose. We are called God's _____.
6. What good works has God prepared in advance for you to do?
 - Vocation?
 - Charity?
 - Love and Compassion?
 - Mission?

Discussion:

1. How has Jesus been “messing” with you lately?
 - How has Jesus been trying to get your attention lately?

 - What has He been showing you?

 - What has He been stirring in you?

 - How has He made you uncomfortable with your status quo?

2. The author states: “There is a growing sense among the leaders I am talking with that Jesus is up to something, that He's messing with our presumptions, calling us to something more than what we have settled for. He is giving many of us a holy discontent with the status quo so that we will look up from what we are doing, pay attention to Him and start to wrestle with what He is currently showing us and asking of us.” (p. 20) *What might our holy discontent look like?*

3. Jesus certainly has a redemptive mission to the world, but does He really invite us to join him? *If so, how?*

4. What's changed in our world?
 - The US has become one of the largest mission fields on the planet.
 - There are people in your “neighborhood” who are unconnected to a local Christian Church or to Christ at all. (*See any evidence of this?*)
 - The mindset and practices of our congregations are perfectly calibrated for a US culture that is already gone.
 - Most people are not looking for a church home.
 - *Do you think Jesus is worried?*

5. It's time for a new (old) concept - “Missional Living.” Simply put, living each day on a mission trip and being neighborhood missionaries in everything you do. Think of yourself as a pinch of Christ yeast mixed into your community. (*What do you do each day? Whom might you leaven with Jesus?*)

6. Being Missional is not about changing what we do on Sunday mornings, it's about changing what we do when we go out on Monday mornings. *What might you need to change?*

NEXT WEEK – Read chapters one and two (pages 1-36)