



What is the Gospel?

The HOBBIT

Matthew 13

Message-based Group Lesson

Overview

The Gospel is Good News! It is news that tells the story of how Jesus as our Savior King has provided a way for us to become transformed from the inside out. But the Gospel is not meant to be hoarded. It begs to be shared. Just like the Father God has sent His Son, we too are "sent people". For this reason, if we are to truly live Kingdom lives, we must embrace our identity as a missional church, made up of people on a mission to share the Good News.

Engaging with each other

1. Think of a time you were "a man or woman on a mission." What was driving you? What did you want to accomplish? Why?

Engaging with the Bible

1. In one brief statement Jesus summarized both his mission and ours (John 20:21). See if you can fill in the blanks by answering the following questions about this mission:

What _____ Why _____

When _____ Who _____

Where _____ How _____

2. After a relatively short amount of time Jesus' tiny crew of followers had become a force to be reckoned with (Acts 17:6). Within a few centuries Christianity had spread throughout the known world. How do you explain this?

3. Early in his ministry, Jesus offered a warning about how his followers may be thrown off mission (Matthew 5:15). Are there ways that we at VCC intentionally or unintentionally become side-tracked from our mission? Explain.
4. Describe some of the "Kingdom of God" weapons we have in our arsenals (Matthew 5:43-45; Mark 10:41-45). Why might it be difficult for us to use these unconventional weapons with people who are far from God?
5. What does 2 Peter 3:9 tell us about God's heart? Why do you think this passage says, "He is patient with *you*"?

Engaging with our lives

1. How might your approach to life begin to change if you were to develop a more "missional" mindset?
2. In which of the five H.O.B.B.IT areas could you picture yourself becoming more missionally involved in the future? What would it look like? With whom might you team?
 - H (Hub)
 - O (Outpost)
 - B (Branch)
 - B (Beachhead)
 - IT (International Treks)
3. How might God need to prepare your heart to allow you to become a man or woman "on a Gospel mission"?