

**Instructions:**

Group leaders, take some time before your gathering to look over these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you pick 3-5 questions to discuss that pertain to your group's unique style and needs.



**Series: Sent**

Everyday we interact with people who are struggling with life and spiritual questions on their own without a community of wisdom or support to lean on. Yet studies show that most people who do not go to church currently would go if someone they knew invited them. So why are many of us nervous to invite, to mention church, or even to talk about our faith? Maybe you don't want to make someone uncomfortable or offend them; sharing your faith can be challenging because it requires an openness and vulnerability that seems scary today. Yet Jesus asks his disciples to be invitational, in their immediate surroundings and beyond. Join us for this series as we explore what it looks like to be invitational with our friends, family, and co-workers and how we can be faithful to Jesus' command to go!

**Message Description:**

**The last words Jesus spoke to his disciples were to go and make disciples in the name of Jesus, encouraging them that they will be his witnesses to all of the things they have seen and experienced with him.** This idea of invitation, to share about our faith and to live it out in a way that is external and public, and not just personal and private, is central to who we are. And yet there are few things that make us more uncomfortable than this idea of "witnessing." What if we make someone mad, or offend them, or remind them of their past church hurt (or our own) when someone shared their faith in a manipulative or aggressive way? What if we don't know enough about God or scripture to talk about it with others? And yet if we say nothing, we might miss out on some amazing opportunities to connect people to the love of Christ in our welcoming church community.

**How can we follow this command of Jesus faithfully?** Start by becoming an expert of your own story; how has Jesus or the church made a difference in your life? Share your story with people you already know, who trust you and know your heart. And extend an invitation for them to come and see for themselves.

**Key Scripture**

[Matthew 28:18-20](#), [Mark 16:15](#), [John 20:19-22](#), [Luke 24:44-48](#), [Acts 1:8-9](#)

**Questions based on this week's teaching:**

1. What do you think it means to be a witness to Christ?
2. Does the idea of sharing about your faith with others make you uncomfortable? Why or why not?
3. Have you ever had an experience like Rachel shared in her teaching, where you encountered someone "witnessing" in a very judgmental, aggressive, or forceful way? How did it make you feel? What did you do?
4. What role should the Spirit play in our mission (or call or command or sacred responsibility) to tell others about Jesus?
5. Who is one person that you feel God might be calling you to witness to during this series? [Pray for them! Ask for God to place someone on your heart who is in need of compassion, community, or support, that you could share with them about the love of God *for them*.]

**Becoming an expert in your own story:**

*Consider answering these questions among your house group as a way to grow more comfortable about sharing your story of faith with other people.*

**What is one way Jesus has made a difference in your life?**

**What is one way the church has made a difference in your life?**

**Please be intentional about praying together!**

**Close in prayer:**

Pray together. Create intentional time and space to offer prayers for one another, that we might share in the comfort of Christ together and experience the Spirit's presence.

**Consider the simple acronym of ACTS to guide your time of prayer together:**

- A- Adoration.** *Share praise reports or reasons to praise God. (Reading a psalm together can help)*
- C- Confession.** *Leave space to pray silently or individually to confess sins.*
- T- Thanksgiving.** *Share something in the group that you are thankful for this week.*
- S- Supplication, or petition.** *Share concerns and prayer requests you have.*