

**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:**

In his letter to the divided church in Rome, Paul references Hebrew scriptures to confirm God's promises now fulfilled: The word is near you...you will be saved...no one who believes in him will be put to shame... there is no distinction...everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. That is, *everyone*. This is the truth at the heart of the gospel message: this is a faith for everyone! Because of the person and work of Jesus Christ, there is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female. These dividing walls, these barriers that the world puts up between us to categorize and separate and divide- they have been torn down through Jesus Christ.

This is the good news that actually changes people- it brings all people, like Gentiles and Jews together into the family of God. But Paul says, here is the thing-how are people going to know this unless someone tells them? How will they know they are welcome in the family or know to call on Jesus or even believe, unless someone invites them? We do not have to be theology experts or "professionals," only embody this gospel of love and extend the invitation when the opportunity presents.

**Key Scripture**

Romans 10:8-15

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

1. What do you think is the greatest threat or negative impact to the universal Church's witness today?
2. In Romans 10, what did Paul mean that there is now no more distinction between the Jews and Gentiles? How should this impact how we invite others today?
3. Who is in your circle of influence? What are some places and spaces that you frequent that are helping you connect with the community?
4. What relationships do you have that are marked by trust and respect that could be safe spaces to begin sharing your faith?
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.*]

### Please be intentional about praying together!

- *Pray for General Conference*
- *Pray for our new church location and details of this move*
- *Pray for each other*

### 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.*