



THE
GREAT
SENDING

GOD'S HEART FOR THE WORLD
BEATING THROUGH
YOU

Journal

Stories, Action-Steps, Prayer

Introduction

*...A community of believers, who are sent to all people
with power and strength, courage and gifts
to proclaim the Good News!*

As they were sent, people believed.

As they believed, they were sent.

As they were sent, we believe.

As we believe, we are sent.

The Great Sending, page 243

God's heart for the world beating through you is one of the principle messages of the The Great Sending, by Rev. Dr. Will Sohns. This journal is a companion resource to engage the 42 Scriptural reflections on the *Missio Dei* leading to action, so that others may come to faith by the power of Jesus' Gospel!

"...it's not, 'oh, yes, there's mission too ...The ancient term, *Missio Dei*, is most specific: Jesus turns us out of ourselves to God our Father."

- Dale Meyer in The Great Sending, page 198

For a sample of what is to come: Read study 41 or 42!

There are immensely critical and powerful resources in The Great Sending, beyond just the commentary section! We highly commend them to your reading, learning, and transformation to see God's heart beating through you! Take the time to read these longer sections to deepen and nourish your faith. Learn more about the *Missio Dei* alive in God's Word:

- + God's Heartbeat, page 31.
- + Scriptural Foundations, page 225.
- + The Sending Catechism, page 245.

the house and that the gutters were overflowing with leaves. He quickly thought how lucky he was to have such a nice house and how much his wife appreciated him for doing the trash duty as it was her least favorite chore. He was glad he could serve her and brighten her day just by taking care of the trash. He noticed his neighbor pulling into their driveway and decided to say hi. They stopped and had a quick little conversation about the weather and traffic. And he realized as he walked inside that maybe God was slowly building a friendship with his neighbor. He could use another friend and would love to have someone so close to play darts with in the evenings. And who knows, maybe God could use him to bless his neighbor in the future somehow.

He walked inside and was immediately greeted by his toddler whom he kissed hello before making sure to walk into the kitchen to greet his wife and ask her all about her day. He knew she really liked when he listened to her and helped her with her problems and after she mentioned a heated discussion about the holidays with her sister the two of them spent some time brainstorming how to best handle the holidays and even prayed together that God would heal some of the past hurt in their family and make this year's holiday a blessing and not a stressor for them.

After dinner, he gave his kid a bath, changed out the laundry, and realized how simple and mundane these chores were but thanked God in passing for having a family to take care of. He had prayed for so many years for an evening just like this and here it was just an ordinary night but an answered prayer as he'd always wanted a family of his own. He sat down on the couch and started flipping through their streaming service to find something to watch. He opted for a British baking show he knew he and his wife would both enjoy. Grabbed her hand and was woken by her what seems like a few minutes later as she told him it was time to go to bed.

As was their tradition, once they were both ready and in bed, they prayed and thanked God for each other and their family. He also thanked God for opening his eyes to see how God was at work in the lives of those around him and for using him in small ways to make a Kingdom impact today. That last prayer intrigued his wife and she asked him once they were done praying what he meant by that. So, he told her all about her day and the little ways God had shown him to pray, talk, or show kindness or see him at work in other's lives. She said what a great way to make Mondays more enjoyable and to be a blessing.

As he rolled over and shut off the lights he thought, 'All in all not a bad day, nothing too special but can't complain, wonder how God can use all those small moments in big ways... sure be neat to see.' ... and he drifted off to sleep. We each get the same 24 hours in a day... but do we go through our day with Resurrection eyes looking for how God could use us to shine his light and share his love, and to see how God is already at work in the lives of those around us... it's as easy as a simple prayer asking God to open our eyes each morning.

After dinner, he gave his kid a bath, changed out some laundry, and sat down on the couch flipping through their streaming service to find something to lose himself in. A few hours later his wife woke him up from his couch nap and told him they should head to bed.

As was their tradition once they were both ready and in bed, they prayed a quick prayer together rolled over, and shut off the lights. 'All in all, not a bad day he thought to himself, nothing too special, but can't complain' ... and he drifted off to sleep.

Beep beep beep...

'Oh man, it can't be going off already. Ugh, Monday... okay God, please help me have my eyes open for how you're moving in my life and in the lives of those around me today... help me not go through this Monday grudgingly like I have most Mondays. Amen,' he thought to himself as he turned the alarm off on his phone. He started scrolling Instagram and thought maybe I should read a quick Scripture verse instead. Not sure what really prompted that thought. So he opened his Bible app and spent a few quick minutes reading a small passage. His wife was asleep next to him in bed, he thought how lucky he was to have her, and passingly as he left her in bed to go get ready he thanked God for her. He made a cup of coffee after showering, grabbed his now awake toddler, thanking God for getting to be his dad as he opened the fridge and fished out some breakfast for his son.

Mere minutes later found him behind the wheel of his car, stuck in traffic. He noticed a car trying to squeeze in and decided he would be nice and let them in ahead of him. Thinking if he lived in the country he wouldn't have to deal with people but then the thought came to him but then he wouldn't get to see how God is messing with people, or how he could play a small role in shining God's light in their lives. *What an odd thought* he said to himself. But supposed there must be some truth to it. Once at work he opened his computer, answered emails and decided to use his greeting in each reply to give each person a little encouragement, *after all, it was Monday, and everyone hates Mondays* he thought. He had two meetings with co-workers where they were collaborating on big projects, he decided to make sure he told the lead of the projects what a great job they were doing, offered a few words of advice for a tricky situation that had occurred between a few members of the team, and left the meetings feeling like he really had made a difference more so than just his average Monday meetings had been.

The hours flew by and he soon found himself snagging his lunch bag and heading to the break room. His friend Mark invited him to play cards with a group of co-workers. They were all laughing and talking about their weekends and what their families had been up to. When they asked him about his weekend, he excitedly told them all about the Bible study they had gone to after going for a hike as a family. He even decided to tell them what their Bible study was about as a quick summary. And then said they went to church where his wife sang in the choir and they sang a beautiful version of his favorite hymn. "A rather non-eventful weekend if you as me," he said as he started to change the subject to the latest Astro's game. But, Mark interjected to ask him why that hymn was his favorite. They all ended up talking a bit more about church and a few even asked him some interesting questions about faith.

He finished lunch thinking, "I don't know why I told them so much about my weekend, but I'm sure glad their questions about faith didn't seem so hard. Seriously, why did I bring that up? Weird!" He got back to work and soon found himself stuck in traffic once again on his way home for dinner. He decided once again to let someone go in front of him and noticed it made him a little less upset about all the traffic. As he pulled into the driveway he noticed the trash can on the side of the street needed to be pulled back up to

The Great Sending Journal content

Short Missio Dei Narratives: Stories of God's people living God's mission. The first appears before study one and subsequent chapter narratives are at the end of the journal.

Journal pages correspond to each study in The Great Sending (starting on pg. 51 in the book). The journal pages contain:

- + A key Scripture verse.
- + A quote from the Scriptural commentary.
- + "Life Queue"- A Tweetable like-summary.
- + A reflection area (influenced by Swedish Method)



Light Bulb: What is an 'aha' or noteworthy?

Question: What question(s) does Scripture or the commentary study evoke?

Cross & Arrow: What characteristic of Jesus are you recalling? What action step is the Spirit arising in you?

- + "As we believe, we are sent..."- An action step or challenge to live God's sending in your life.
- + "Prayer Prompts"- Additional prayer prompts to enliven living as one beloved and sent.

Our prayer is that you would be drawn deeper into the love of Christ which compels us to be ambassadors, sharing the gift of God's redeeming, redemptive grace with our neighbors, our community, and the world. Our Sending Father is seeking to connect the disconnected to Jesus, His Church, and Missional calling. His heart is beating through you!

Resources and Acknowledgements

Voices from different vocations, places, and cultures help us to hear God in new and fresh ways as we come to our Sending God in learning, reading, prayer, heart, and action! Partnerships in the Gospel bring blessing, creativity, and encouragement! We would like to thank those who have influenced the contents here.

The staff at Resurrection in Spring, TX compiled the *Missio Dei* narratives, “Life Queues”, and action driven application, “As we believe, we are sent...” sections. The following are a few of many resources that have been influential,

- Harvest Partnership Church Planting Partnership.
www.harvestpartnership.church
- Beloved and Sent, Jeff Cloetter.
- The Art of Neighboring, Dave Runyon and Jay Pathak.
- Happy Hour: Etiquette and Advice on Holy Merriment, Hugh Halter.
- The Gospel Comes with a House Key: Practicing Radical Ordinary Hospitality in our Post-Christian World, Rosaria Butterfield.
- Fearing God: How the fear of God and our love for God create a trust in God, by Nathan Carlson.
- Pray and Care for neighbors you know and don’t know by name with other believers. Every home is a mission outpost of Jesus’ light. Check out www.blesseveryhome.com Receive reminders, names, and much more.

The majority of the prayer prompts and structure, in this The Great Sending Journal, were compiled from a more robust compilation (including Lectio Divina, Hymns, and Examen) of the Spiritual Life Team of the Southeastern District-LCMS’ Prayer Prompt booklet for The Great Sending. It can be found at the www.thegreatsending.org.

Retiree/grandpa : “It’s through daily life but also as a parent I believe how you plant and nurture faith in your children and their children is a kingdom building responsibility but also a fight to pass on to others.”

Self employed communications & marketing consultant- “I guess I look at it as a daily thing. It’s not about where you’re planted necessarily, but about where you go daily. And for some of us, it’s not the office or classroom, its our daily happenings. I think of my husband this morning how he helped a woman out of a snowdrift for 20 minutes. He could have easily passed her on his way to work, but he stopped. He likely didn’t literally share the Good News with her, but he showed her love, from a complete stranger. And I think that may be just as or more powerful thank words. So maybe discipleship or the Great Commission isn’t necessarily about the actual words we say all the time. It’s about love and showing that love. Like Jesus says, “ Love the Lord with all your heart, soul and mine. This is the greatest commandment and second, love your neighbor as yourself”

God has called you and planted you in your places, spaces, families, jobs, etc for a reason. So that you can make disciples everyday in the things you do, how you serve, how you speak and how you tell other’s about the Good News you have in Jesus Christ. There are so many ways to make disciples and God calls and equips each of his saints for the task!

CHAPTER 6 THE GREAT SENDING NARRATIVE

Study 36-42: The Great Sending Nature and Culture with Resurrection Eyes

Beep beep beep....

‘Oh man, it can’t be going off already. Ugh, Monday! I guess I have to get out bed,’ he thought to himself as he turned the alarm off on his phone and immediately started scrolling Instagram. Leaving his wife asleep in the bed he got up to start his day. He made a cup of coffee after showering, grabbed his now awake toddler out of the crib, and grudgingly walked back to the kitchen to feed his boy.

Mere minutes later found him behind the wheel of his car, stuck in traffic, wishing he could live in the country and not have to commute through so much traffic. Once at work, he opened his computer, answered emails matter of factly, had two meetings with co-workers where they were collaborating on big projects.

The hours flew by and he soon found himself snagging his lunch bag and heading to the break room. His friend Mark invited him to play cards with a group of co-workers. They were all laughing and talking about their weekend and what their families had been up to. When they asked him about his weekend he nonchalantly mentioned they had been to a Bible study on Saturday after going for a hike as a family and then spent Sunday after church cleaning out the garage. “A rather non-eventual weekend if you ask me!” He quipped before changing the subject quickly to the latest Astro game.

He finished lunch, got back to work, and soon found himself stuck in traffic on his way home for dinner. As he pulled into the driveway he saw that the trash can needed to be pulled back to the side of the house and that the gutters looked like they needed a good cleaning. He noticed his neighbor pulling into their drive at the same time, but didn’t feel like making small talk so kept his head down as he retrieved the trash can from the street.

He walked inside and was immediately greeted by his happy toddler, and could hear his wife finishing up dinner in the kitchen. He kissed his wife hello and sat down to play with his kid. His wife started telling him all about her day and the heated discussion she and her sister had gotten in about the upcoming holidays. He told her to just ignore her sister’s words and understand that every holiday was stressful and changed the subject to what’s for dinner.

sure she had done a good job that she had never had anyone pray for her like that, and to hear it from a high schooler she was just floored. She was blessed!

Being a disciple of Christ means learning, growing, observing, and honing our skills as we go. We are sent and along the way Christ will give us the words to say, the prayers to pray and the seeds to plant or water. We don't need to know it all before we go or have a gospel line memorized. We simply need to be ourselves, stay in the Word and know that the Holy Spirit is always with us "equipping us for doing his will and working in us that which is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ..." (Hebrews 13:21). So go! Start talking, I find if I simply am willing to start the Holy Spirit is quick to take over and do the heavy lifting for me.

CHAPTER 5 THE GREAT SENDING NARRATIVE

Study 29-35: The Great Sending Multiplication of the Gospel in Acts

I texted some friends the other day... some are stay at home mommas, military families stationed all over, empty nesters, soon to be retirees after running their own company for years, grandma's, and great grandma's.... I wanted to hear from faithful believers how they think God uses them or has used them to multiply disciples. How they think God has used them to increase the number of believers?

A military momma/part time worship leader in Ohio : "Ohh! I've been thinking about this recently. The obvious answer is my interactions with my children (I hope, and praise God for his ability to move outside of me because I'm such an example of sinful being trying and failing, repenting and trying again.) And probably worship leading, but I have no way of measuring that and sometimes I think that it's enchanting worship for current believers vs reaching those who are unbelievers. I wrestle with this because I don't think I'm successful in this regard (reaching the unchurched/unbelievers.)"

Military momma currently stationed in Alaska: "We were just talking about this a couple weeks ago at bible study. Hopefully my children. Also this might be simple but whenever we move somewhere or I meet someone new I almost always ask where they go to church. It opens up lots of different conversations. I try to remember to invite people I know to different events going on at our church even when I know they aren't believers. I also struggle with this wondering I am doing enough. I think you show how it's just simply in living live and loving people and talking about Jesus."

Empty nester/entrepreneur : "By listening (listening is key) to hurting people and responding in a loving, caring and truthful way. I don't know that increased the kingdom has taken place. I pray so, but I think I respond to the needs around me (though honestly not as much as I should)"

Empty nester/military contractor : " By serving/living God 1st and loving people at home, work and play... speaking and attempting to live the truth with His help. It's the last commandment Jesus gave as He ascended... how can anyone in the Christian church not get the gravity of that moment.. that IS why we are His disciples"

Public high school Spanish teacher : " Ah such a beautiful question! I know that my gift of teaching allows me to create moments of joy, peace, & learning about being kind to one another, giving a helping hand, teaching not to judge parents or others, reflect on their actions to approve their poor choices (lots of girls want to just fight & hurt each other), have respect for themselves & so much more. But my formula is celebrating Our Loving God by not being afraid of saying in the classroom I love Him & He loves all of them. I am a testimony of how much He loves us. Look, here I am doing what I wanted to do if He would keep me around."

CHAPTER 1 THE GREAT SENDING NARRATIVE

Study 1-7 Christ is the Heart of The Great Sending

Have you ever run into a new believer? Have you met someone who recently came to faith in Christ Jesus? If you haven't had the pleasure, let me introduce you to my good friend, Aron. I had the joy of living by him and his wife, Kristina, as they came back to faith in Christ Jesus.

Maybe you are wondering, "What is a new believer?" A new believer is a person who has just come to realize how amazing the grace of Christ Jesus is to behold. They shine, they ooze Jesus in ways we might pine for if we seem to have lost the urgency of growing, learning, and sharing the knowledge and love we have in Christ Jesus.

Think of a little child when they figure out how to do something for the first time, discover a particularly interesting rock, or receive the most amazing Christmas present. The child sparkles and shines and leaves everything else behind to run up to you, to the person next to you, to everyone in the room to share their good fortune or story with anyone willing to listen.

And this was where Aron was when I moved into the apartment building next door. He knew I worked in a church and as he was eagerly reading Scripture and thirsting for the Living Water he would hunt me down to ask questions, or tell me new discoveries he just couldn't wait to share. I remember one afternoon I had walked to the mailboxes to check my mail and all of a sudden I heard a motorcycle careening towards me. It drove up to the mailboxes and Aron hopped off his bike and excitedly asked me a Bible trivia question because he simply wanted to know if I knew the answer. Another day after work, there was a knock on my door and there he stood ready to ask me his latest theological question.

God uses us right where he plants us, right where we live, where we work, where we learn, and where we play. He uses us in all sorts of relationships, long-lasting and short-lived, colleagues, classmates, neighbors, acquaintances, kindred friendships, and family members.

As I had these various conversations with Aron and Kristina over the next few years I was astounded by how much they seemed to grasp the Great Sending. It was simply an outpouring of learning, something that was just too good to keep to yourself. I watched as they started leading youth group and growing in faith with kids and other small group leaders. I watched as they shared their faith with co-workers, as they grappled with who they were before Christ and who Christ was transforming them into. I watched how their faith changed their marriage, how they treated each other, changed their parenting, and how they interacted with their children. I watched as they then embraced my new husband into our friendship and as they continued to host Bible studies at their home, lead small groups, and truly take to heart the Great Sending.

We think we need to know it all, we think we need to be the top scholars of the Bible to make great strides for the Kingdom of God. Yet, God uses His Gospel on the lips of new believers, on those we'd least expect, on the lips of babes to shine His light and share the Good News that can only be found in Jesus Christ. God uses us right where we are. It's not in the big mountain experiences or tent revivals but in the little everyday interactions and relationships of watering the Gospel seed, or praying the diligent prayer. Today, everyday... we only need resurrection eyes to see.

Study 1—The Sending Christ

Jesus said to them again. "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." – John 20:21

"To be sent means we come from the One with nail prints on His hands and feet, the One forever breathing life into His church and its witness." –The Great Sending, page 53.

Life-queue

Jesus breathe life, your life, into my witness!



As we Believe, we are Sent...

Walk around your neighborhood, breathe in God's grace, and be fully aware of His presence with you!

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Spend time praying John 20:21
- ⇒ Read *Missio Dei* Twelve Mission Theses (P208-211)
- ⇒ Ask the Spirit to make you bold in your witness today, fully aware that you are "sent by Christ".
- ⇒ Reflect on the knowledge that the Lord precedes you in the world to which you are called to proclaim the Gospel. Pray in thankfulness for this and boldness to trust His promise.
- ⇒ Give thanks to God for the Spirit's power in challenging, shaking, and sending the Church.

I've learned by watching a young woman in my Bible study, with great ease, ask the waiter or staff at Cheddars or Panera how we could pray for them and then she prays for them right there. I've wondered if I'd ever get to that point. I've felt challenged by the same young woman when I told her I had been talking to one of the staff members one day about their financial problems and hardships and had told him I would pray for him, she didn't hesitate but grabbed my hand and said, "No, let's go pray with him right now!" And we did! I remember thinking why didn't I think of that?

Sometimes, the things we see as our own shortcomings can spark us to help other's excel in that same area. When I started in church work my first thoughts were I wanted to teach my youth what I didn't learn in youth group. I wanted them to be comfortable praying out loud in front of others and for others, I wanted them to realize that they themselves are loved and sent by God. I wanted them to know that they aren't the church of the future, but are the church of right now. So I focused on teaching them to pray, to pray for and with others. I started small and told them at the end of each gathering we all would pray. I told them don't worry about what to pray, if you can't think of anything just praise God! Tell him how awesome he is or that he's good. And often that is right where the kids would start. Then I'd tell them you can praise God, request something of God, or thank him for something. And I'd start to see their prayers expand. After I felt they had honed that skill I'd challenge them to break off in groups of two or three and pray for each other using the acronym B.L.E.S.S.

B - pray for their body (their physical wellbeing)

L - pray for their labor (their job or school)

E - pray for their emotional health

S- pray for their Social relationships (their relationships with family, friends, etc)

S- pray for their spiritual relationship

The blessing of this prayer is you don't even need to know anything about the person to pray this with them. You just use it to cover all your bases. For example, let me pray for you... yes you right now.

Dear Lord, I don't know personally the person who is reading this, but Lord you do. I pray you bless their physical health. If they are sick or worn down Lord, bring them healing, if they are healthy Lord increase their health and energy to serve you with joy and thanksgiving. Lord, bless their work, be it school or a job. If they are in need of work Lord help them find it, in all they do let them work for you and to your glory. Lord, bless their emotional health, especially during these trying times. Give them peace from anxiety or depression increase their joy and help their thoughts be on what is good and on you. Help them know you care for them body, mind and soul. Lord help them in their relationships with family. Let them heal any hurts, and strive to have you at the center of those relationships. Bring them friends who will challenge and refine them, let them shine your light in every relationship they have. Lastly Lord, I don't know if this person reading these words feels near to you or far way. But Lord I know you are faithful and pursue us and never leave us. If they are far from you Lord bring them close and if they are close Lord bring them ever closer. Help them grow in their love for you and shine your light wherever they go. In Jesus name, Amen.

If you were to visit the youth group I lead, you would hear prayers like the one above from junior high and high schoolers. If you were to visit you'd be asked to participate, as I made my mom do when she was visiting one Sunday. She was nervous and said she had never prayed for anyone out loud like that and tentatively went off to pray with one of my junior's and a mentor. She came back with tears in her eyes, she said she wasn't

brings up Jesus every day! I couldn't believe my ears. She went on and on about all the conversations she had had with him and even told me that he doesn't know his Bible because she's had to correct him on a few things.

I wish I could say that that encounter ended with seeing her coming back to faith in Christ Jesus. My prayers for that particular outcome have yet to be answered with a resounding YES! However, as disciples of Christ we are called to plant seeds, to water seeds and maybe even sometimes to get the chance to see the harvest of seeds. **As disciples we forget that we get the joy of being used by the Holy Spirit daily in big and little ways. We get the peace and rest in knowing that the outcome is not our responsibility that ultimately it is the Holy Spirit's job to bring people to faith.** Yet we get to be the tools, the folded hands, the lips proclaiming, and even the arms open wide to embrace along the way. Each day is filled with opportunities to be the hands and feet of Christ in many people's lives in big and in little ways. **Prayer can encourage, prayer can bring people to faith, prayer can move mountains... we simply need to pray without ceasing and let God do the work.**

CHAPTER 4 THE GREAT SENDING NARRATIVE

Study 22-28: The Great Sending Essentials

I've always been fascinated by Christians who so easily pray for others, or waiters, or friends and family at the drop of a hat. I grew up in a Christian home where we said the same prayers for each meal and the same prayers at bedtime. I never learned in my years of youth group, VBS, or mission trips how to simply pray to God like you are talking to a friend. When someone said to me, "Could you please pray for me?" I always answered yes and frequently found that I would forget all about it, before ever getting around to praying for them.

When you feel the call from Christ to be about his work, and that you are sent to share the Good News with others you often feel like you don't even know where to begin. Or that you are so ill equipped and surely there are other's already about His work better suited for the job. **Yet Christ's call to go is for all the saints!** And like anything worth doing, we need to take the time to hone our skills. To try, to fail, to get back up, and try again.

The process of discipleship is a life long journey, and one of learning as you go. A huge way I have been learning and growing as a disciple is by watching and being challenged by those around me whose skills are more honed in areas where mine are not.

We each might have better natural skills in certain areas. Maybe hosting people in your home and feeding them comes naturally to you, or maybe asking the waiter at the restaurant if there's anyway you can pray for them doesn't seem like a foreign concept. To me these ideas used to make my palms sweat and heart race, if I'm honest they still kind of do.

Yet I've learned through observing those around me who seem to excel naturally in these areas. I'm reminded of a family who would welcome me into their home like family, ask me if they could get me something to drink, "Coffee, water, wine, a milk shake?" They were always prepared to make you feel comfortable from the very moment you walked into their house. And I've aspired to make my home as welcoming. The same family opened their home to host bible studies, couple's dinner parties, and youth groups in their home. They weren't always the ones teaching or leading but they knew they excelled in hospitality and loved to provide the space and home that would allow other's to lead and share about Christ.

Study 2 - Who Do People Say Jesus Is?

He (Jesus) said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" – Matthew 16:15

"The message of the *Missio Dei* is to introduce Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, to those who do not yet know Him." – The Great Sending, page 55.

Life Queue

Increase my love for those who do not know you, Jesus.



As we Believe, we are Sent...

Walk your neighborhood, don't hurry, observe and pray for a neighbor you do not yet know.

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Read *Missio Dei Catechism* Why a Catechism? (Introduction. P245-246) Pray John 20:21.
- ⇒ Look for where/ways you see God at work in your life today. Say a prayer of thanks to our Living God.
- ⇒ Reflect on the kind of relationship you would have with a not-yet believer that would prompt them to ask you who is Jesus. Pray for opportunities to develop such friendships.
- ⇒ Lord, give me the insight to share your love in word/action.

Study 3 - Christ Crucified

There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. – John 19:18

“In proclaiming Christ, those on His mission must be careful never to present the cross as defeat and the resurrection as a victory. Christ is glorified in both; in both Christ is victorious.”

– The Great Sending, page 60.

Life Queue

In Jesus, defeat is actually victory, even your victory!



As we Believe, we are Sent...

Who is suffering among you? In what way are you being sent to bring them a small amount of joy? Be bold, you are Beloved & Sent!

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Lord, help me to not be embarrassed by your dying a criminal's death, but share with others the glorious way you sacrificed.
- ⇒ Lead me to lift high your cross as a sign of victory!
- ⇒ Think of one person who has been a 'light' for Jesus in your life. Thank God for that person.

CHAPTER 3 THE GREAT SENDING NARRATIVE

Study 15-21: The Great Christ Sending Through Prayer

One of the easier ways to participate in The Great Sending without even leaving the comfort of your couch or dining room table is to invest in your prayer time. God calls us to prayer and there is amazing power in prayer. I don't know about you but I've often been in situations where someone tells me something, or requests I pray for them and I simply say I will, but then life gets busy and I totally forget. I'm sure you've been there too, right?! I think too often we can let prayer become rote, or reserved for specific times or events. Thank you Lord for this food, now I lay me down to sleep, or corporately in a worship service. But Scripture is clear, as followers of Christ we are called to, "Pray without ceasing." (1 Thess. 5:17) and "Pray on all occasions" (Eph. 6:18).

There is power in prayer and we get to enter the Throne Room of the living God whenever we want to pray and talk with God. We are called to pray for each other, for God's Church, and for the Good News to spread. We are called to pray for those far from Christ and those who have rejected God and run the other direction.

In my life, I have seen prayer used for the building of God's Kingdom do powerful things. One such prayer was uttered by a woman, we'll call Julia, moments before there was a knock on her door. Julia lived in an apartment, on the rough side of town. The apartment building was filled with drugs, prostitution, and crime. She grew up Catholic but had run away from her faith but had never lost the urge to pray to God in times of need. It was a hot South Texas morning and Julia was preparing to do drugs again, something she utterly hated that she did with her boyfriend. But a habit she simply couldn't seem to kick.

She found herself praying for God to stop her, to find some way for her to not take the hit this time. As she uttered this desperate plea to God there was a knock on her door. She opened it partway to find a middle-aged man and young woman standing on the other side. They were from a local ministry and were going to do a Bible study down at the picnic tables of the apartment in a few minutes and wanted to know if she might like to join them. She couldn't believe God had heard her! She invited them in and spent the next few days learning from them, returning to her faith in Christ, and by the end of the week she and one other woman in the complex had agreed to continue the Bible study on their own the following week.

God is so good! And He does hear us when we pray! Many of us have loved ones who have walked away, friends who have never come to believe, and those we wish would have the chance to hear the Good News. Maybe you even pray for them daily and it seems fruitless. Yet, God is faithful and his Spirit is moving in ways we might not know through the power of our prayers.

I have a friend I grew up alongside in the Church. We did VBS, camp, mission trips, Sunday school, and Christmas pageants together. In college, we both struggled with our faith and with organized religion. She became hurt by the Church and walked away, concluding that if there is a God he must be a deadbeat Dad to allow all the pain and suffering in the world.

Every day I pray for the Holy Spirit to move in her life, to send people she might listen to with Scripture or simply Christ-centered conversations. She's a scientist and I'm convinced that it's going to have be another science-minded person who is a Believer that will be able to speak Truth into her life.

A few years ago I found myself getting specific with my prayers for her. I would pray every day for God to send someone into her lab simply to bring up Jesus in conversation. That she wouldn't be able to go a day without Jesus coming up. A few weeks after starting this specific prayer, I was driving with her in the car, and out of nowhere, she brought up that there was this annoying lab tech who started working in her lab that

CHAPTER 2 THE GREAT SENDING NARRATIVE

Study 8-14: Engaging Disciples in The Great Sending

Sitting in what felt like my hundredth airport for the week, desperately ready to be home after flying all over the country for interviews and a conference, I reached into my bag and grabbed my journal. I wanted to take the minutes before my flight left to write down some of my thoughts on the conference and process my busy week.

As I wrote, my mind drifted to the fact that this wasn't a direct flight and that I would have a grueling four-hour layover in Dallas before finally boarding my last flight home. I wrote, "Four hours in Dallas, God?! I could get a car and drive home in that amount of time. What am I going to do at the airport for four hours? It's going to be such a waste of time." Over the intercom, I heard them call my boarding group so I loaded up my bag and boarded my second to last flight for the week.

Like most if not all of God's divine appointments in my life, I never planned them or rarely saw them coming. And now looking back, I have to wonder if God laughed a little at this snarky journal entry of mine knowing He had big plans for me in that four-hour layover.

Upon arrival in Dallas, my exhaustion and hunger won over as I found the last remaining chair at the corner of an airport bar. Two businessmen were drinking and having a good ol' time to my left and someone on my right was quietly eating their meal and reading a book. I ordered a beer and a salad and started scrolling my phone while I waited for my food. It didn't take long before a gentleman sat down and struck up a conversation with me. He was from San Francisco and we realized we both had a lot of hours to kill in the airport. After he found out that I was a church worker, he thought for a minute and then said, "If I buy you another beer could I ask you some questions?" I figured why not.

He told me his life story, how he had grown up in the Church but was excommunicated when he got his high school girlfriend pregnant. He asked me the hard questions. Is there good and evil? Are there absolutes? Is there right and wrong? He told me how he was searching, he even sent my Kindle a book on spirituality he had been reading and thought I should read too. He didn't believe in absolutes, he wasn't even sure he believed in God anymore. He told me of the deep hurts he had received from those who should've protected him and loved him. I sent him a book from my Kindle by a Christian author on healing from abuse and why God allows bad things to happen.

The hours flew by and I found myself quite enjoying the conversation. As the conversation drew to a close he asked if he could ask me one last question. I said sure. He said, "Do you think we had to meet here for your good or for mine?" I chuckled to myself as he didn't believe in good or evil, yet this question spoke otherwise. I quickly responded, "Both! And for everyone around us who might have overheard our conversation, the bartender, and the other travelers." And he responded, "The people who kept changing out on your other side were listening and looked like they wanted to join in a few different times, so you are probably right." We said our goodbyes and went our separate ways.

As I sat down on the last plane and pulled out my journal my eyes flashed over the words I had written complaining in the last airport--only four short hours ago. I simply laughed! God had plans, divine plans... and I had simply just wanted to get home.

Study 4 — A Christ for All Peoples

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.
– Luke 4:18-19

"...our Lord Jesus was sent by His Father to redeem and restore His people as His own. His people include you and me. His people include vastly more than you and me, His Divine mission encompasses the whole world." – The Great Sending, page 64.

Life Queue

In Jesus there is no shame!



As we Believe, we are Sent...

As sent ones, we are mercy extenders. Whom is God calling & sending you to extend mercy upon? Write a note, send a text, or make a call.

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Read *Missio Dei Catechism* God-created/given means to carry out the *Missio Dei* (XIV. P271-274). Pray Romans 1:16.
- ⇒ In your baptism, God claimed you as His own. Give thanks!
- ⇒ Lord, give me the boldness to fulfill my mission as a "sent one" (apostle) to a world so desperately in need of your good news (Gospel) including my especially those I'm in conflict.

Study 5 — Jesus is the Son of God

And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.
– John 1:34

“Through these two terms (“Son of God” and “Lamb of God”), John tells us what the *Missio Dei* (the mission of God) is – the forgiveness of sins through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, the Son of God.” – The Great Sending, page 67-68.

Life Queue

It is recorded so you believe in Jesus; you will have full life in Him!



As we Believe, we are Sent...

Jesus is active. He took our place. In what way can you *take the place* of someone sacrificially? Consider your time, talent, or treasure.

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Pray a *Missio Dei* Bible reference (P211-218) Thank God for the gift of being Beloved and Sent.
- ⇒ In John’s Gospel, John the Baptizer boldly proclaims Jesus as “the Son of God.” In prayer, list other titles and attributes that reflect the work of Jesus in your life and the world.
- ⇒ Bring to mind the gift of your own baptism. Praise God for this sacramental gift and for the Holy Spirit within you.

Study 42 - A Panoramic View of God’s Love for the World

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands...
– Revelation 7:9

“The panoramic view is clear: the *Missio Dei* involves every believer and assembly of believers in the great sending task of proclaiming the Gospel of Christ to those who dwell on the earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people.” –The Great Sending, page 205.

Life Queue

The panoramic view of God’s love is breathtaking.



As we Believe, we are Sent...

The predominance of drones has exponentially increased in function and usage. If you were to fly just above your neighborhood or spheres of influence, who/where is God calling you to invest and share God’s love? Remember God’s heartbeat of Sending is beating through you!

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Pray a *Missio Dei* Bible reference (P211-218) Thank God for the gift of being Beloved and Sent.
- ⇒ Pray for neighbors you know and don’t know by using www.blesseveryhome.com Receive reminders and much more.
- ⇒ Read Revelation 7:16-17. Pray for God’s worldview, that you may serve the Mission of Christ for saving all people and promising the glory of heaven.
- ⇒ Give thanks for your ministry calling and the hope of renewed engagement in sharing the eternal Gospel of Christ, by reaching across national, ethnic, race, language, class, and gender barriers for His glory.

Study 41 - The Honor is to You Who Believe

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. – 1 Peter 2:4-5

“Shame and honor easily relate to the forgiveness of sin, which indeed is the heart of biblical faith.” – The Great Sending, page 201.

Life Queue

Jesus gives honor instead of shame!



As we Believe, we are Sent...

What steps will you take this week to learn from someone of another culture? People enjoy talking about their culture, customs, country, and family. Will you read a book or article on shame vs. honor cultures?

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Pray that God would provide you with opportunities to listen and learn more about His children who are not like you. Turn your prayer into action.
- ⇒ Ask for God’s forgiveness for the times we view potential witnessing only from our own world view.
- ⇒ Read Ezekiel 36:26. Ask God for the grace to see Christ in the pain of those who have been rejected and shamed, and invite them to a place of honor among His believers.
- ⇒ What are the places of guilt and shame in your life?
- ⇒ Reflect on how the light of God’s forgiveness can bring healing and hope. Thank God for what you’ve discovered.

Study 6 - The Mission of God is Accomplished Through Jesus

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” – John 3:16-17

“The mission of God is powerful. It changes the hearts and lives of people.” – The Great Sending, page 71.

Life Queue

God, the sending Father, the Almighty creator of the cosmos, Sent His son Jesus Christ... to give life to all who believe in Him. (page 243)



As we Believe, we are Sent...

God is relational! Who in your family is disconnected from Jesus, His Church, and/or His mission? Pray for evangelists to bring Good News.

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Pray for the Spirit’s presence, then brainstorm ideas to be a light to those whom you live, work, and play near.
- ⇒ God sent His Son and He sends us also. Pray that in your personal mission field at work, home, school, etc. you would experience a renewed zeal as you continue to share Jesus.
- ⇒ Praise God for his great love for you in sending His Son, Jesus.

Study 7 - Date with Destiny

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. – 2 Corinthians 5:1

“If your date with destiny has been secured, then you are called to God’s mission as an ambassador for Christ. Because there is no greater love, no better destiny, there is no higher calling for us than to bring others to their date with destiny!”
– The Great Sending, page 74.

Life Queue

God’s love in action is wildly beyond our limits!



As we Believe, we are Sent...

God has appointed the times and places we live. Walk your neighborhood and ask long-time residents to help you learn about your neighborhood.

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Read *Missio Dei Catechism* Why is The Missio Dei needed? (IV. P252-254). “God send us beyond ourselves.”
- ⇒ Pray for those whose “earthly home” is leaking or being destroyed by illness or the cares of this world.
- ⇒ An ambassador is: “an official envoy; an authorized messenger”. Read John 20:21. Pray that you might be an effective ambassador for Christ today.
- ⇒ Spirit provide winsome spiritual dialogues.

Study 40 - The Fear of God

And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. – 1 Peter 1:17-19

“The ancient term, *Missio Dei*, is most specific: Jesus turns us out of ourselves to God our Father.” – The Great Sending, page 198.

Life Queue

Is fear fearful? Is fear good? Is fear useful?



As we Believe, we are Sent...

In your neighborhood, add this question to your conversations, “What are you fearful about? What brings you anxiety?” Beloved and Sent one, where are you experiencing fear? What promise of God do you need to hear. Who will you ask to pray over you?

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Ask God to forgive your “turning in on yourself” and failure to love God first. How do you put God first?
- ⇒ Pray for churches by name to be outward focused.
- ⇒ Ponder the phrase, “fear of God.” How do these words make you feel? “Holy Spirit open my heart and mind to the awe of God that comes from this fear.”
- ⇒ Pray for those who are afraid. “Holy Spirit, Holy Comforter, bring good news to those paralyzed by fear.”

Study 39 - Not Yet Seeing, But Believing and Rejoicing

“Set your hope on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” – 1 Peter 1:13

“Christian’ America is gone, and it’s not about to come back. We can grieve what’s been lost, or we can see as never before that faith is all about Jesus Christ.” – The Great Sending, page 194.

Life Queue

Something eternally better is coming!



As we Believe, we are Sent...

Culture-Shift: Think about your neighbor who is not connected to Jesus’ church. What are the expectations of churches or Christians? Ask them. Are there responses affirmed in Scripture? What dialogues could you begin with this information at your church?

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Pray a *Missio Dei* Bible reference (P211-218) Thank God for the gift of Jesus being Beloved and Sent.
- ⇒ Pray for the Church that it might see new opportunities to be an effective witness to the world.
- ⇒ Pray that the Spirit would open your eyes to the opportunities you have to be a Christian witness.
- ⇒ Pray for those who have fallen away from their faith in Christ.
- ⇒ Give thanks that you are saved through Jesus’ sacrificial life and death. With whom can you share this good news?

Study 8 - Born Again...To Bear Witness to the Light

Chapter 2: Engaging Disciples in The Great Sending.
Narrative in the back.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. – John 1:14

“Our life is not just about working, eating, sleeping, and playing. It’s about pointing people to Jesus, the Jesus who was sent to earth by God to be the light of the world.” – The Great Sending, page 79.

Life Queue

Jesus invites you to engage in His Great Sending.



As we Believe, we are Sent...

Walk your neighborhood, your physical one- work one- school one-, consider the stories of people and rediscover God’s burning desire to be in relationship with His creation! You have been born again, you have His power, you get to participate in His Kingdom!

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Pray for people who live in difficult places – those dealing with addictions, depression, loss of job or relationships, suffering from grief or oppressions of any kind, etc.
- ⇒ Several times this week, pray the prayer at the end of Study 8. Then ask the Lord to reveal to you an opportunity to share the love of Jesus with someone.

Study 9 - Calling of the Disciples/ Apostles to Christ's Mission

*And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."
- Matthew 4:19*

"Like Christ, we are called to make disciples, to mend (repair, restore) the nets, to leave our own comfort zones and to go where the world works, lives, plays, and eats." - The Great Sending, page 82.

Life Queue

Empower us in partnership in your Sending!



As we Believe, we are Sent...

We believe God is always working His mission. He partners with you in your relationships. Add this question to your conversations, "Share with me some of your dreams. When you were younger what did you dream of doing?" In what ways can you relate? Share your dreams including mending relationships ultimately.

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Pray for the courage to leave your comfort zone in reaching others for Christ.
- ⇒ In what way has Christ changed your life? Write it down.
- ⇒ Who reminds you to follow Jesus? Thank that person.
- ⇒ Spirit fervently lead me to pursue the *Mission Dei* and your revealed written Word.

Study 38 - A Kingdom of Priests Who Witness

"You are my witnesses," declares the Lord... - Isaiah 43:10a

"By listening to and cultivating a relationship with another person, we can shape our testimony to relate with her or him, in ways that meaningfully connect us." - The Great Sending, page 192.

Life Queue

Cultivate relationships!



As we Believe, we are Sent...

We witness God's generosity. He gives more capital than we can imagine: spiritual, relational, physical, intellectual, and financial. All to provide for us and for us and love our neighbors. Priests serve. Which neighbor is in need? Which capital can you share with them?

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Pray that the Lord would fill your heart with His love, spilling over into your conversations with others today.
- ⇒ Use the following to begin your prayer time: Lord, in what ways might I need to be more observant and attentive to the people in front of, and around me, where you are prompting me to see and hear through your eyes and ears?
- ⇒ "Lord, for what circumstance or for whom do I have compassion?"

Study 37 - A Kingdom of Priests Who Pray

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give it to you.” – John 16:23

“How wonderful that Jesus did not simply instruct us priests to pray for His mission, but that He assures that God will answer!”
– The Great Sending, page 190.

Life Queue

Child of God, you are an agent of God’s saving mission.



As we Believe, we are Sent...

You can never ask too much because you are coming to a King. What is it you need to live SENT more effectively? What do other SENT ones need? Start a conversation on how you can be the answer to one another’s prayers. How can you be an answer to a neighbor’s prayer?

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Pray a *Missio Dei* Bible reference (P211-218) Thank God for the gift of Jesus being Beloved and Sent.
- ⇒ Pray for government and community leaders.
- ⇒ “Lord, may your church intervene in our nation and around the world for those experiencing trouble and hardship specifically those suffering tragedy, suffering with illness and disease, suffering and hardships, poverty and hunger.”
- ⇒ “Lord, please bring to mind the places in my personal sphere of influence for which you are calling me to intercede.”
- ⇒ Using the news headlines for today, pray for people and situations that you notice.

Study 10 - The Disciples are Sent to the Towns and Villages

“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” – Luke 10:2

“How blessed are the sent to be in mission and to go into the towns and villages of this lost world!” – The Great Sending, page 86.

Life Queue

You have been included in a divine mission!



As we Believe, we are Sent...

At 10:02 a.m. alarms will be buzzing on phones across the country! Why? It’s time to pray to our abundant-generous-sending Father who is sending workers, including you, to bring in His Harvest of new eternal relationships. Join us. Set an alarm. Pray each day at 10:02 a.m.

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Satan uses many means in opposition to Christ’s sending. Think about how Satan discourages you. Pray for the strength to overcome these stumbling blocks.
- ⇒ Read Luke 10:2. Urgency exists when the crop has ripened.
- ⇒ What “town” or “village” or “group” or “family” has Jesus sent you to? Pray to see, go intentionally and listen humbly to the people to whom Jesus has sent you.

Study 11 - Come to the Wedding

But they all alike began to make excuses. – Luke 14:18

“This mission has eternal consequences.” – The Great Sending, page 89.

Life Queue

Lead us to be servers of the Gospel!



As we Believe, we are Sent...

God loves people around tables! Who will you invite over to your house or out at a restaurant for a meal?

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Pray a *Missio Dei* Bible reference (P211-218) Thank God for the gift of Jesus being Beloved and Sent.
- ⇒ Think of someone for whom you have prayed but who has made excuses for not hearing a Christian witness. Pray specifically for this person throughout the day.
- ⇒ Ask the Lord to give you the opportunity to be His witness and share a personal story of what He has done in your life with someone.
- ⇒ Jesus wants every seat at his Banquet Hall filled. Pray that today your life and actions invite people to “come and see.”

Study 36 - A Kingdom of Priests Who Serve

Chapter 6: The Great Sending Nature and Culture Narrative in the back.

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. –Romans 12:2

“Having our lives fashioned by God’s choosing us to be His priestly kingdom, His mediators, and using our God-given gifts, we will be better able to represent God to the world. Our transformed lives will lend credibility to our witness...” – The Great Sending, page 186.

Life Queue

He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father. (Rev. 1:6)



As we Believe, we are Sent...

Our citizenship in heaven is first! Our earthly nation’s celebration is one of gathering. Maybe, invite people over. How is God showing you opportunities to leverage holidays for heaven expansion?

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Pray for the other participants in this study – members of your congregation, prayer team, church staff and leaders.
- ⇒ Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what it means to be a living sacrifice and ask him to equip you to live daily as one who has been crucified with Christ. (Galatians 2:20)
- ⇒ Thank the Lord for calling you into this position of royal priesthood, and for all the supports that he has already provided to help you carry out your role.

Study 35 - Acts: The *Missio Dei* and the Beginning of the New Testament Church

And the Word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly... - Acts 6:7. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied. - Acts 9:31b But the Word of God increased and multiplied. - Acts 12:24 So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily. - Acts 16:5 So the Word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily. - Acts 19:20 ...proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance. - Acts 28:31

These passages “are a record of how God’s Word was a multiplying, progressive, and influential power of God at work in the early church. And, it is a multiplying, progressive, and influential power of God at work today.” - The Great Sending, page 179.

Life Queue

God’s Word is a multiplying, progressive, and influential power!



As we Believe, we are Sent...

The early church valued God’s Word, multiplied, and persecution. Today, we often hear a retort, “How could God a loving God-- _____?” As you are sent, remember many times fearing God means leaving the blank, as difficult as it may be when neighboring! God’s got it; just love them with understanding and the Hope of Jesus!

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Reflect on a favorite Bible verse. Thank God for the edification of your faith through the Word.
- ⇒ Think of someone with whom you have shared a Christian witness, ask God to help you continue to serve as God’s missionary.
- ⇒ Pray that the Church might walk “in the fear of the Lord.” Find the book, Fearing God: How the fear of God and our love for God create a trust in God by Nathan Carlson.

Study 12 - The Laborers in the Vineyard

He said to them, “You go into the vineyard too.” - Matthew 20:7

“The reward for every missionary in the Church of Jesus Christ is to participate in the greatest rescue effort in the face of human history, the rescue from sin, death, and hell. There is a lot of rescue necessary before the midnight hour.” - The Great Sending, page 92.

Life Queue

Rejoice with me in God’s overwhelming generosity of grace!



As we Believe, we are Sent...

How is God calling you to get your hands a little more dirty in His Sending? Could you spend a longer time watering your yard or walk your dog strategically to cultivate more conversations/relationships?

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ We do not always think of ourselves as missionaries, but we are! Pray that the Spirit may give you that lens.
- ⇒ Reflect on the generous love of God in your life. Pray for a specific person in need of knowing God’s great love.
- ⇒ Confess the times when we are in danger of “rightful compensation” thinking. Ask for God’s forgiveness.
- ⇒ At what age did you realize that you were called to serve in God’s vineyard? Talk to Jesus about it.
- ⇒ Set your alarm to 10:02 a.m. and join others in praying Luke 10:2.

Study 13 - God's Commission: PropheSied

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" – Mark 1:2-3

"Our commissioning Lord, . . . we can always rely on the power of Your Holy Spirit to assist us in our witness, as John did for Jesus." – The Great Sending, page 97.

Life Queue

You are joined with the Spirit of Jesus in a supernatural forecast!



As we Believe, we are Sent...

Chaos. Disaster. Another natural disaster. These 'supernatural' disturbances are primetime opportunities for casting the love of Jesus in action. How can you, your neighborhood, or church prepare for the next supernatural event to share the love of Jesus?

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Read *Missio Dei Catechism* A basis for the Great Sending in John's Gospel (P225-243).
- ⇒ Our Christian witness does not always bring about immediate results. Pray that today your words and actions reflect your faith.
- ⇒ Pray that the Spirit speaks through you bringing God's comfort, care, and Good News hope to someone.
- ⇒ Through your Baptism you were co-missioned a missionary. "Spirit lead me to prepare, lead me with your words of hope!"

Study 34 - Of Councils, Conflict, Conventions, and the Mission of God

But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of our Lord Jesus, just as they will. – Acts 15:11

"The cover story is about circumcision and obeying God. But the underlying battle is about the mission of God to all people and the behavior of God's people that enables the full and free proclamation of God's saving grace." – The Great Sending, page 176.

Life Queue

"What is God up to?" Join Him.



As we Believe, we are Sent...

Conflict is inevitable in life, but how can it be turned for the *Missio Dei*? Read *The Beatitudes* in the beginning of Matthew 5 and you will hear, "Blessed are the peacemakers." Where is there conflict around you? What is a tangible action to be a light, bring salt, as a peacemaker?

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Reflect on the fences you as an individual have used to keep people in the category of "other" instead of "sister" or "brother". Confess these times and ask for forgiveness.
- ⇒ Contrary opinion can sabotage relationships in families and communities and churches. "God of peace, bless me with wisdom and patience to focus on your will in disagreements."
- ⇒ Disagreement can be a helpful means of introducing fresh ideas and/or strategies for ministry. Pray that the Holy Spirit will bless you with insight to turn disagreements into opportunities.

Study 33 - Owning the Name “Christian”

Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses. – Acts 13:38-39

“Owning the name Christian is not a birthright, but a commission to those of us scattered today.” – The Great Sending, page 173.

Life Queue

The church’s core should always be in motion. (page v173)



As we Believe, we are Sent...

Neighboring: Pass out baked goods. Discover neighbors birthdays and bring them a card and baked goods after a significant event or illness. Send them a gift card for a meal. Find ways to build relationship.

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Reflect on how “being a Christian” means being part of a group in motion. Pray that the Holy Spirit will continuously impress and excite you with what it means to wear that name. Pray that your identity as a Christian is seen through your actions.
- ⇒ Pray by name for the young people and those new to your church. Meet them! Ask God to move in their hearts to “be a Christian” on the move not just “be Christian.”
- ⇒ The gift of faith results in a dynamic and life-fulfilling agenda. “Lord reveal your current agenda for me.”

Study 14 - The Great Sending

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...– Matthew 28:19-20

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”- and that he had said these things to her. – John 20:17-18

St. Augustine prayed: “Give what you command, Oh Lord, and then Command what you will.” – The Great Sending, page 99.

Life Queue

God accomplishes the seemingly impossible.



As we Believe, we are Sent...

The Lord has seen you with His eyes of grace. Write out what it means to you that God chosen you. Share your writing with a friend. Ask them to pray over you for an opportunity to share this with some else.

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Pray today that the hearts of those who oppose Christian faith may be open to hear the Gospel.
- ⇒ Ask God to help you see how you have received all that you need to be an effective witness. Thank God for these gifts.
- ⇒ Whom do you think God is sending you to love. What seems impossible to you about it? Talk to Jesus about this.
- ⇒ Bring to mind the women of faith who have witnessed to you. Thank God for women of faith and their ministry as everyday missionaries.

Study 15 - The Great Christ Sending

Chapter 3: The Christ Sending
Narrative in the back

I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word. – John 17:20

“Prayer drives the mission.” – The Great Sending, page 103.

Life Queue

Despite the world’s opposition, God so loved the world.



As we Believe, we are Sent...

Draw a tik-tac-toe board. Put your name in the middle. Write the names of your 8 closest neighbors. If you do not know them, you are typical. Make it a goal to pray for opportunities to meet them by name. Hang it on your fridge or mirror as a reminder. Prayer drives mission!

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Give thanks to Jesus for including you and your congregation when he prayed before suffering and dying on the cross. Ask Jesus for unity within the congregation and within neighboring churches (name them specifically).
- ⇒ Pray for people in your congregation to be unified in awareness that each one is sent into the world for Jesus.
- ⇒ Pray for your congregation to be a place of encouragement, a people of sending into the world so that the Holy Spirit can make His Gospel impact on people through His church, a hope for the world!

Study 32 - God’s Mission Without Walls

So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. – Acts 10:34-35

“Indeed, God shows no partiality. Consider what that means in your setting and calling in your community.” – The Great Sending, page 171.

Life Queue

As a sent one, be encouraged and empowered!



As we Believe, we are Sent...

People enjoy talking about their kids, grandkids, and self. Add this conversation starter, “What do you believe (or did you believe when you were younger) you are destined to do?” Reinforce it, ask someone today.

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Read *Missio Dei Catechism* Role of confession/forgiveness in participating in the *Missio Dei* (XVI. P276-280).
- ⇒ Reflect on what it means to be used fully in God’s *Missio Dei*. Pray that God might use you today, giving you grace and courage to step beyond the walls which hold you back.
- ⇒ Pray for godly leaders – locally, nationally, globally.
- ⇒ Pray for forgiveness and healing in your life and community for the “walls” of “-isms” and injustice.

Study 31 - God's Mission is to the Whole-Human Family

Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. – Acts 8:5 (NIV)

“The mission of God that has become our mission must now include all members of the human family.” – The Great Sending, page 167.

Life Queue

Jesus' love knows no boundaries.



As we Believe, we are Sent...

Instead of walking your neighborhood today, you are going to walk around the world. Today you read of resistance, rejection, and martyrdom (p167). Go search on the internet “Open Doors World Watch List.” Become educated and pray for believers' across the world living in persecution. God's heart beats through each believer.

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Reflect on the “Samaria” identified in this week's Bible study. Pray for the Lord to open doors to the Gospel there.
- ⇒ Pray for missionaries suffering from persecution. Ask God's hand of protection to be with them and that the Holy Spirit would strengthen their faith to persevere.
- ⇒ Thank God for the missionary example of Philip in God's Word. Pray that the Church might grow through the adversity and persecution of today's world.

Study 16 - Fields Ripe for Harvest

Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” – Matthew 9:38

“The *Missio Dei* is to love and care for those who are hurting, helpless, and lost.” “Through our baptism we are called to participate in the harvest by loving people and pointing them to Christ.” – The Great Sending, page 105-106, 107.

Life Queue

“Who do people say is unlovable?” Well, Jesus loves them!



As we Believe, we are Sent...

Who is hurting in your network of friends or community? Invite friends and neighbors to join you in collecting tangible gifts or host an ice cream party in your front lawn or a kid's lemonade stand to raise funds.

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Pray that you may truly see the hurting, helpless, and lost ones who need to know the love of Jesus.
- ⇒ Pray for the Spirit's presence today that you have the wisdom and courage to share Jesus with someone.
- ⇒ Think of those who are hurting or who are harassed and helpless. Pray for the Lord of the Harvest to send workers to them to bring the Good News and hope to them.
- ⇒ Thank God that you know that He is sending you into the harvest. Ask Him to show you who He is sending you to and to enable you to listen and to share the Good News.

Study 17 - Finding the Lost One

So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. – Matthew 18:14

“Christ not only brings us together in Holy Baptism, but he implores us to search for the one who is lost.” – The Great Sending, page 109.

Life Queue

Who/What is your adversary? Jesus is greater than he!



As we Believe, we are Sent...

May we never be satisfied but always searching. Consider Thanksgiving, Christmas, July 4th, Valentine’s Day... These are days people typically gather together, yet for the lonely these days are exponentially lonelier. Who can you invite to spend time with you?

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Pray a *Missio Dei* Bible reference (P211-218) Thank God for the gift of Jesus being Beloved and Sent.
- ⇒ Every congregation has members who quietly slip out the “back door” of the church and become inactive. Think of someone you know like this and pray for them. Call them.
- ⇒ “May your heartbeat for the lost will beat through our hearts and compel us to respond in love and passion.

Study 30 - God’s Mission Partnerships

Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. – Acts 6:3

While not explicitly stated, Luke shows us that God most desires those who possess a servant’s heart. Perhaps the greatest proclaimers of the gospel are those who know first-hand what it means to ‘wait on tables’. – The Great Sending, page 164.

Life Queue

Who/What is God calling you to wait on?



As we Believe, we are Sent...

Host a sports game watching party, a TV show binge, an art swap night (bring something you are tired of hanging)...

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Reflect on what it means to have a “servant heart.” Pray that your decisions, actions and speech reflect the servant heart of a missionary in God’s service.
- ⇒ Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a prayer partner and pray for God’s Mission.
- ⇒ Do you have prayer warriors gather regularly praying for God’s Mission? Maybe start one.

Study 29 - God's Mission is our Mission

Chapter 5: The Great Sending Multiplication of the Gospel in Acts
Narrative in the back.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." – Acts 1:8

"The mission of God that our Lord has assigned to us as his church is indeed time-sensitive. . . the work of carrying out the mission of God in our world is always urgent, requiring not simply church goers but 24/7 followers of Jesus." – The Great Sending, page 161.

Life Queue

Jesus entered our world to bring us rescue!



As we Believe, we are Sent...

Remember Cheers? Where everyone knows your name. Where are you *regular*? Where could you become regular intentionally to build conversation and Gospel bridges?

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ What does a 24/7 Christian look like? Pray that your life conforms to this ideal.
- ⇒ Pray that God's mission be a contagious time within your life, your family, and your church.
- ⇒ Read the Book of Acts and ask the Holy Spirit for revelation knowledge. Read it out loud as a prayer.

Study 18 - The Seeking God

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.
– Luke 9:10

"Our missionary motivation – as St. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:14, "For the love of Christ compels us" – springs only from a deep and abiding understanding of our God's unconditional love for us and for all people." – The Great Sending, pages 114-115.

Life Queue

"Adam, where are you?" is not a geographical question, but an unconditional relational pursuit!



As we Believe, we are Sent...

Walk your neighborhood, maybe it has been awhile. Pray while walking. Ask for His heart for the wayward. Spirit give me your eyes. Spirit speak when I witness to your love and hope in you!

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Pray every day this week for a person you know who has drifted away from God and His church.
- ⇒ O Lord, we ourselves are lost because we are not able to see the depth of your love and mercy to us. Lead me to passionately and diligently look for the spiritually disconnected.
- ⇒ Thank you for realigning our purpose with your mission.
- ⇒ Loving Father, forgive me for not understanding the depth of your love.
- ⇒ Father, give us the grace and the loving heart to share the message of love to our family members, friends and neighbors. Father, help us also to rejoice with the heavens as the lost come to you.

Study 19 - Christ Completes All

(Jesus) said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem." – Luke 24:46-47

"It's essential to God that every sinner hears this Good News personally and in hearing it, believes and, in believing it, is saved." The Great Sending, page 120.

Life Queue

We simply follow Jesus and where He leads!



As we Believe, we are Sent...

"The love of Christ compels/controls us." Add to your conversations with those connected and disconnected to Jesus, His Church, and His missional kingdom, "What is it that compels/controls you?" "What do you wish would compel/control you?" Pray for an opportunity!

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Reflect on the knowledge that the Lord precedes you in the world to which you are called to proclaim the Gospel. Pray in thankfulness and for the boldness to trust His promise.
- ⇒ You were chosen through baptism to be Christ's personal voice to friends, relatives and neighbors. Pray that your words and actions today are a winsome witness.
- ⇒ Pray that the Holy Spirit would give you burden and heart to boldly and powerfully proclaim the Good News of Jesus.

Study 28 - The Great Expansion of the Faith

*I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service.
– 1 Timothy 1:12*

"May our response today try to parallel that of your saints of the ancient world, as we endeavor to spread the faith as they did, all with the help of your attending Holy Spirit." – The Great Sending, page 157.

Life Queue

Is Jesus just history to you or is His-story your story?



As we Believe, we are Sent...

Statistics matter if they are people. This is expansive, but write the names of the first 100 people who come to mind (neighbors, acquaintances, co-workers, family). Place a cross next to those you are quite certain are followers of Jesus. Circle those whom you are disconnected to Jesus, His Church, or Mission. Pray for each one.

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Christianity is a fast-growing religion in parts of the world. Pray today that the Spirit of God move in your city, that people will come to believe in Christ as their Savior.
- ⇒ We have been commissioned for service, sent by God as missionaries. Pray that your witness be bold and confident.
- ⇒ Suffering and sanctification are the seed of the church – Pray for Christians in places of persecution.

Study 27 - The Basis for our Boldness

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. – Philippians 1:21

“The reality of having the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5) means that we are grafted into His body; we are one with Him ... Our fellowship with one another in Christ strengthens our resolve to be bold.” – The Great Sending, page 152.

Life Queue

Resolve to be bold together! #WeCanDoMoreTogether



As we Believe, we are Sent...

Philippians 1:27-28, “side-by-side”. The disciples went two by two. Who can you ask or volunteer to walk side by side in your evangelistic and neighboring efforts? #InviteSomeoneAlong

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Pray a *Missio Dei* Bible reference (P211-218) Thank God for the gift of Jesus being Beloved and Sent.
- ⇒ Give thanks for the joy of dwelling in the presence of God.
- ⇒ Give thanks to God for your faith family and prayer partners. Who can you ask to join you?
- ⇒ Ask for humble obedience to serve with Jesus to the orphan, widow and stranger.
- ⇒ Pray that you might be “on mission” today – bold, forthright, and confident in your witness.

Study 20 - God’s Mission and Ours

Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me all that I ever did.” – John 4:39

“God has promised a harvest that should encourage all Christians to see themselves as being sent to all peoples to proclaim eternal life through Jesus, the Messiah . . . Our mission is to share our faith in and experience with Jesus.” –The Great Sending, page 123.

Life Queue

You are Jesus’ personal representative in your part of the world!



As we Believe, we are Sent...

Empower us to plant and reap with boldness. Creating spaces of hospitality and community reaps a harvest! Host a tasting game night, a tasting party, coffee/dessert, a movie with discussion afterward.

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ The mission of God is initiated by God. Pray that you see God’s work around you. Pray for opportunities to join God in His work.
- ⇒ Thank you for your unconditional love for all people.
- ⇒ Pray for confidence in planting the seed of hope in Christ.
- ⇒ Ask God to show you who needs help or a kind word. Holy Spirit give me courage and show me what to say/do.

Study 21 - A Prophecy Fulfilled Through Ordinary People

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord! – Luke 2:11 (NIV)

“God still uses common, ordinary people to accomplish the mission begun with the sending of Jesus. He uses you. He uses me. He sends you. He sends me. He blesses you. He blesses me.” – The Great Sending, page 126.

Life Queue

The story of Jesus is for you! Like the shepherds, “Check it out!”



As we Believe, we are Sent...

What makes you excited? Write a list. *God’s heart for the world beats through you.* “God lead me to use one of these to build relationships with others who likewise get excited.”

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Who has shared their faith with you? Give thanks.
- ⇒ We are ordinary people, surrounded by ordinary people.
- ⇒ “Spirit of the living-God provide an opportunity for me to share the love of Jesus in an ordinary way today.”
- ⇒ Reflect on the ways God has gifted you. Pray for the wisdom to use these gifts in the Kingdom.
- ⇒ Read Luke 2:11. You have a Deliverer and a Rescuer!
- ⇒ Read Luke 2:29-30. Ask your Heavenly Father to help you to know Jesus better, living by faith in His Word and trusting He goes ahead of you into the world.

Study 26 - Proclaimers are Sent

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. – Romans 10:17

“From the moment our first human parents ran from God to be their own gods, the Mission of God was at work to give humanity His treasure in Christ.” – The Great Sending, page 148.

Life Queue

“The Mission of God is to give his treasures in Christ to His beloved people, to shine His light of life, warm their hearts with comfort, and open their mouths to *share His Good News with confidence.*” (P148)



As we Believe, we are Sent...

You may not be a *preacher* by vocation. However, you are Sent and you are proclaimer! Frankly, you are Beloved and Sent and have beautiful feet. Who is someone you know who needs to hear the Good News?

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Satan and the world make it easy for us to slip into a “works righteous” mindset. God protect me and lead me to rely completely on your grace!
- ⇒ Lord, awaken me to where I have been “treasure hunting” and trying to win your favor through my actions.
- ⇒ Lord, help me pause now to rest in the rescuing that is mine solely through the work of Jesus Christ.
- ⇒ Lord, where and to whom are You uniquely sending me today to preach the good news?

Study 25 - The Gospel Power

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. – Romans 1:16

“Like Paul, we baptized Christians are given the desire and dutiful joy of being helpers to share the hope in Christ dwelling within us.” – The Great Sending, page 143.

Life Queue

The Good News of Jesus is God’s power of rescue for all!



As we Believe, we are Sent...

Unashamedly proclaiming the Good news of Jesus! Share with a believer why you are so thankful for God’s love in your life. Pray for an opportunity to share with one who is disconnected.

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Read *Missio Dei Catechism* The role of the church. (IX. P261-264). Pray 1 Peter 2:5.
- ⇒ Reflect on what it means to be a construction worker in building the Church. Pray that the Spirit uses your God-given gifts to build the Church.
- ⇒ Lord, is there a relationship or circumstance where I have been cautious or fearful of boldly sharing the Gospel?
- ⇒ Lord, what is a truth from Your Word that I can carry with me now to help me courageously proclaim the Gospel in my words and actions today?

Study 22 - Rendezvous with Jesus

Chapter 4: The Great Sending Essentials
Narrative in the back

*“And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
– Matthew 28:20*

“As any Christian knows, the process of discipleship is lifelong . . . Observance calls for ongoing interaction, for embodying the life of Christ on a daily basis over time.” – The Great Sending, page 130.

Life Queue

#RendezvousWithJesus @Home @Church @Work @Traveling



As we Believe, we are Sent...

Reflect on this: A MLB baseball player with a career .333 batting average will most likely end be voted into the Hall of Fame! Jesus was/is perfect at The Great Sending! He doesn’t look for perfection in you, He has that covered! He desires for you to rendezvous, be intentional & relational, listen, and share. Read Romans 10:14-15.

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Pray that God would lift your spirit today, making your joy in Christ a tangible characteristic of your life.
- ⇒ Read Matthew 28:18-20. Tell the Heavenly Father that it is your desire to know him better, to know more about him and to become a productive disciple of Jesus Christ. Pray for a teachable spirit so that you may grow.
- ⇒ Pray for your family today, lifting each person by name.
- ⇒ Thank God for them and ask God to bless them. Be specific.

Study 23 - Nourishing the Fishers of Men

Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything, you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep." – John 21:17

"Jesus has ended our guilt and shame with his own life and death. He gives us the beginning of each new day to feed others with his Word and tend them with his love." – The Great Sending, page 135.

Life Queue

There is more goodness to come, join with Jesus!



As we Believe, we are Sent...

Just prior to today's passage is John 21:1-14. Jesus says, "Come have breakfast with me." Who will you invite this week to join you for breakfast or coffee before the business of another day?

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Give thanks for a new day to feed others with God's Word and tend them with his love.
- ⇒ "Holy Spirit keep me hungry for the spiritual nourishment and lead me into the life-giving waters of your Word."
- ⇒ "Father thank you for putting into my life under-shepherds who feed me with the life-giving and life-sustaining message!"
- ⇒ Think of specific names of some "lambs" in your life (such as children or adults new to the faith). Pray for them by name.

Study 24 - Holy Spirit, Divine Helper

And I will ask the father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever. – John 14:16

"The words, the witness, the message, and its power are the Holy Spirit's gift in you. – The Great Sending, page 138.

Life Queue

Holy Spirit bring the fire of Divine love among us!



As we Believe, we are Sent...

"Spirit you are with us! You are a divine helper!" What neighbor in your life can you tangibly serve today bringing encouragement in word or encouragement in action?

Prayer Prompts:

- ⇒ Read *Missio Dei Catechism* The role of the Holy Spirit (XIII. P269-271). "Thank you Spirit; you are a divine and helper!"
- ⇒ Pray broadly and then specifically for the world "burdened with over-information and misinformation" (The Great Sending, page 138).
- ⇒ Think about your God-given gifts. Pray that you may use them in sharing Christ's love today.
- ⇒ Pray that you be directed to the Means of Grace (the Word of God preached and taught, and the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper), and that the Holy Spirit help you to understand and to apply those means.