

MAY MISSION MONTH

STUDY QUESTIONS on 'CROSSING THE STREET'

May 7 – 'Sent Like the Son' - John 20:1-23; Mark 1:9-15

1. What stands out to you in these passages?
2. Is there anything that makes you uncomfortable? Where do you think that discomfort comes from?
3. In John 20:21, Jesus tells his disciples, 'As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.' What is he sending them to do? What is similar and what is different between what Jesus came to do and what he calls us to do?
4. At Jesus' baptism in Mark 1, the Father declares to his Son, 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased' (v11). Jesus was then able to stand firm under temptation. In what ways does our security in being children of God, help us when we are called to step out from our comfort zones?
5. What does being sent mean to you in your life?
6. We are not sent alone. Not only are we in partnership with each other, but Jesus said to the disciples, 'Receive the Holy Spirit ...' (John 20:22). How does the Holy Spirit partner with us?
7. How are you challenged to engage with the world around you differently through the lens of being sent like the Son, loved by the Father, and empowered by the Spirit?
8. In the stories from our Global Mission partners that you heard last Sunday, how have people responded to God's call in their lives? What impact are they making in their context?
9. Who is someone who inspires you as they live out their call? What can you learn from them?

May 14 – 'Meeting People Where They Are' – John 4:1-38

1. In Jesus, God broke into human history within a particular culture and context and engaged with people in that context, such as the Samaritan woman. He met people where they were. What were some of the characteristics of the culture in Jesus' day? In what ways is this different from our culture/society today?
2. Why were the disciples surprised about Jesus encounter with this woman?
3. What was Jesus' motivation for engaging with the Samaritan woman? How did this impact their conversation?

4. In what ways did Jesus' non-judgemental love break down walls and opened up opportunities to share the Gospel?
5. This story of Jesus calls us to cross the street. What streets do you need to cross in your life in order to meet people where they are?
6. What is stopping you from crossing the street in your life? Are there any new steps you can take this week?
7. What brings you life, joy, encouragement or hope in the way that Jesus engages with the Samaritan woman?
8. In the mission stories we heard last Sunday, what examples did you see of our mission partners meeting people where they are?
9. Who is someone who has met you where you are? What can you learn from them?

May 21 – 'Modelling the Love of Jesus' – Luke 7:11-17

1. Nain was a small, out of the way, town that differed from some of the larger towns Jesus visited. Sometimes the places and people that God calls us to minister are among those who society see as smaller or insignificant. Who does Jesus take with him on this visit through Nain?
2. In verse 13 we read how Jesus saw the woman. He saw her despair, her pain and the hopelessness of her situation in that culture and shows compassion towards her. How does he respond to this woman's situation?
3. How did the mother and son react to Jesus?
4. What needs or injustices do you see in our community? In the world?
5. Are there any that you shy away from actually seeing? Why do you think that is?
6. How did we see our mission partners model the love of Jesus in the stories we heard last Sunday?
7. What is your natural response to the injustices or needs you see around you? Do you think this models Jesus' heart?
8. How is God prompting you to see, feel and act? What are your next steps?

May 28 – 'Being the Good News Together' – Luke 10:30-37

1. In this familiar story of the Good Samaritan, why do you think religious leaders decided to pass by, even though they saw the needs of the injured man?
2. How did the Samaritan respond?

3. Why was Jesus commending the actions of the Samaritan?
4. The Samaritan didn't do this all alone. Not only did he attend to the injured man's wounds, he funded his ongoing care and enlisted the innkeeper to care for him. How do we work alongside our mission partners in bringing the good news of Jesus to others around the world?
5. How have you experienced others 'being the good news' in your life?
6. What do you find encouraging in the story of the Good Samaritan? What do you find challenging?
7. What's been your experience in partnership in the Gospel?
8. Reflecting on the full 'Crossing the Street' series, what are your next steps in mission engagement and partnership? In our local community and around the world?