



# PURSUE GENEROSITY

FALL SERIES SERMON STUDY GUIDE

'Pursue Generosity' –You are Sent

Pastor Kent Priebe

November 1 / 2, 2014

## THE MAIN THING:

Everyone who calls on Jesus' name will be saved, so all need to hear the Gospel message. Jesus' followers are SENT to tell others about Him. (Rom 10:13-15) Every Christian has a part in helping others know Jesus as their Saviour.

## **PURSUE RELATIONSHIP: *Opportunities to connect and pray as a group***

1. What story from the Centre Street Church partners' presentations impacted you? Or, consider missionaries you know and share briefly what God is doing through them.
2. How effective would the Gospel message be if you could not read it in your own language?
3. Who first told you about Jesus? What impact did that have on your life?

## **PURSUE GOD: *Time that is devoted to the Word of God***

### **Observation and reflection**

1. Read Romans 10:1-17. Imagine you are an individual who is hearing these verses for the first time. What questions/observations do you have about these verses? What do these mean for you?
2. Romans 10:13-15. Read the passage in two different versions (or languages). What importance is there that these verses have origins in the Old Testament? (Joel 2:32 and Isaiah 52:7)
3. Read Paul's questions in vv. 14-15. Read them again in reverse order. Discuss the process of sharing the Gospel. How do these verses emphasize the importance of being sent? Where in this process is generosity required?

### **Application**

1. What is God inviting you to do for His kingdom? How can these verses (Matthew 9:37; 28:19; Luke 10:2; John 4:35; Acts 17:26) encourage you to respond to the urgency of His call? What challenges confront you?
2. How can you be generous in the process of making Jesus 'equally and easily accessible' to others?

## **PURSUE MISSION: *Seek to be the community of God's people in your community***

Check out <http://www.cschurch.ca/hampers/> for information about providing a Christmas Hamper. If you know of a household needing a hamper, contact your Community Pastor.

### **Resources**

Map of world outreaches: <http://greatcommission2020.com/>  
Sharing your faith: [thelife.com](http://thelife.com)

## **THE WORD (NIV)**

### **Romans 10:1-17**

Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. <sup>2</sup> For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge.

<sup>3</sup> Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.

<sup>4</sup> Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

<sup>5</sup> Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: "The person who does these things will live by them."<sup>6</sup> But the

righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) <sup>7</sup> "or 'Who will descend into the deep?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

<sup>8</sup> But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim:

<sup>9</sup> If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. <sup>11</sup> As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." <sup>12</sup> For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, <sup>13</sup> for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

<sup>14</sup> How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? <sup>15</sup> And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" <sup>16</sup> But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" <sup>17</sup> Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

### **Matthew 9:37; 28:19**

<sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few....<sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...

### **Luke 10:2**

He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

### **John 4:35**

Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.

### **Acts 17:26**

From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.



We love to hear stories about God at work in the world, where His kingdom is expanding, where Jesus is real and God's Spirit is at work. Jesus says people are ready now to hear, to believe in and to follow Him. (Mt 9:37, Lk 10:2, Jn 4:35) Hearts and minds are open and ready to hear about God.

Do we believe Jesus or do we think He was talking only to people of His day? Why are people open to the Gospel in countries where they are persecuted or repressed? Why do people surrender their lives to Jesus when that is prohibited and they may face death?

This seems to be a period in history when special urgency is needed, when people are searching for answers to crushing problems and fears. It is incredible that people are coming to faith in Jesus in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, China, India, Egypt, Ethiopia and Cuba. Churches in Ukraine grow in numbers and train leaders to plant churches in Europe. Here in Calgary, a young student from China who was searching, asked Deb Oggy for one-on-one time last Monday. As they talked, he surrendered his life to Jesus and Deb introduced him to a Bible study group to be discipled. Do we live our lives aware that people right around us are open to talking and hearing about Jesus?

In Rom 10:13-15, Paul says that Jesus is easily and equally accessible to everyone who calls on His name. Paul raises questions about this: How can they call...? How can they believe...? How can they hear...? How can they tell...? How can they go if they are not sent? Paul's logic has a sobering reality: IF NO ONE IS SENT, THEN NO ONE WILL BE SAVED.

A follower of Jesus is "one who is sent" This is 'normal' for every Christian—to go where Jesus calls you to go, to say what He tells you to say and to join in helping others come to know Him. Every Christian has a role in God's grand plan to rescue people by introducing them to Jesus.

Every Christian is a SENT Christian. (Mt 28:19)

First, we are sent to our nuclear and extended family.--parent to child, sibling to sibling, grandparent to grandchild, etc. Pray for and with them, talk about Jesus, model that Jesus is real in your life. Explain why you come to church or serve in a ministry. Talk about God's Word and how it guides your life. (The Jesus Storybook Bible and audio CD are excellent resources.)

Second, we are also sent to live in a community of friends, acquaintances and neighbours, the exact place where God has determined for us to live. (Acts 17:26) This is where God wants us to be influences for Him, to live out our faith so that people who come into contact with us will see and hear about Jesus.

Third, some may be sent to a new location—a different job, another neighbourhood, city or province, or even another country. God sent two young men, Aaron and Tanner, to live in downtown Calgary to share Jesus with young professionals who lived and worked nearby. The group in their condo grew from a handful to 50-70. They asked for God's guidance about a bigger space. The four leaders rented a house where up to 100 young professionals continue their mission—to reach out to others with Jesus' message. Their house is known as "Discipleship House."

'Ordinary' Christians live with the awareness that we are sent by Jesus to the people around us. All Jesus' followers are called to live this way, and He will speak and act through us as we depend on Him. When we open our eyes, we will see the fields around us are ripe for the harvest. (Jn 4:35)