



## THE CHURCH HAS LEFT THE BUILDING: Stop Going To Church

Pastor Derek Sanford

July 5, 2020

### Life Group Discussion:

#### Encouragement: (15 minutes)

This time when we have not been able to worship together in person has been challenging but also encouraging. Share some ways you have been encouraged during this time.

#### Scripture: (30 minutes)

[Acts 16:25-34](#) (break this down into 4 sections and discuss each one)

1. verses 25-26—What evidence do you see of Paul and Silas holding a worship service there in prison? How can you lead worship in your everyday life, even in hard times?
2. verses 27-29—Why didn't Paul and Silas take the opportunity to escape? What effect did their actions have on the jailer? How do your actions affect those around you?
3. verses 30-31—When they said 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved' did that mean just believing Jesus exists? What kind of belief does it take to be saved? When someone asks you, "What must I do to be saved?" how will you answer?
4. verses 32-34—What other elements of worship that we usually see inside a church are seen here? How did the jailer's belief affect his whole household? How does your belief affect your household and family?

#### Prayer: (10 minutes)

Leader- Let God's presence lead you as you worship. Ask everyone to share a sentence prayer focusing on asking God to help us be the church. (Optional Prompts: Jesus lives His life in us. Jesus wants to love people through us. Jesus came to look for and save the lost.)

#### Next Steps: (2 minutes)

Who are you "being the church" with right now? Share so you can pray and hold each other accountable. —How can you as a group encourage each other in this?



## The Church Has Left the Building: Missional Movement

Pastor Derek Sanford

July 12, 2020

### Life Group Discussion:

#### Encouragement:

This sermon series is encouraging us to BE the church, rather than viewing the church as just a space or building. Leader – what is one positive way you’ve seen someone BE the church during this pandemic. How did it encourage you? Ask another group member or two to share as well.

#### Scripture:

**Matthew 28:18-20**

This passage is Jesus’s great commission to his disciples (and to us) and details what should happen on earth once he returns to his Father in Heaven. We know that as followers of Jesus just as he sent the disciples out to spread the gospel, he also sends us.

1. What are the specific directives given by Jesus? What are we called to do?
2. In his sermon, Pastor Derek taught that the goal of the mission is for God to be glorified. With that in mind, how might you make disciples in a way that glorifies God?
3. As Pastor Derek encouraged us to do at the end of his sermon, think about the 3 places that you feel God has sent you to live out your mission. What is “easy” and what is “challenging” about living out the great commission in those spaces?

#### Prayer:

Have one or two members pray over the group in a prayer of commissioning as everyone goes out to their unique mission field to live out the calling of making and being disciples of Jesus.

Pray: We will go where God has sent us to love His people and share the good news of forgiveness and salvation.

#### Next Steps:

Commit to intentionally praying for the people in your spaces who need to hear about Jesus.

Write down a name of someone in each of those spaces and put it somewhere that you’ll see as you go about your day.



## The Church Has Left the Building

Pastor Derek Sanford

July 19, 2020

### **Virtual Life Group Discussion:**

\*Leader Tip: Watch [this video](#) from The Bible Project on the book of Jonah to prepare for any questions your group may have.

### **Encouragement:**

Ask your group members if anyone has an example of a time when God used something unexpected or even bizarre to open a door or teach them something.

### **Scripture:** Read [Jonah 3:1-10](#)

This story has a lot of similarities to Acts 8 and Pastor Derek's sermon— God sent Jonah far from home to reach non-Jewish people; former adversaries became allies; and God's message brought healing and ultimately joy.

Nineveh was the capital city of the Assyrian empire, an enemy of Israel. Jonah was reluctant to go, but Nineveh was eager to repent. What kind of assumptions do we make about others that hold us back from sharing the gospel with them?

Pastor Derek talked about how persecution pushed the church to areas it otherwise wouldn't go. In this story, we see that God has used similarly unexpected tactics to advance his kingdom. What kind of unexpected doors has COVID-19 opened and how can we obediently use this "the church has left the building" moment to spread the gospel and to strengthen our relationship with God?

### **Prayer:**

Spend time silently in confession for being reluctant to go places where God created opportunities. Then as a group, pray for open ears to hear from God and open hearts to go where he calls.

### **Next Steps:**

What's one thing you can do this week to be an agent of healing and joy?



## The Church Has Left the Building: Transforming Traditions

Pastor Derek

July 26, 2020

### Virtual Life Group Discussion:

#### Encouragement:

Share something NEW that you have learned about God this week. Maybe you read a scripture passage and saw it from a different perspective or maybe He answered a prayer in an unexpected way. Or perhaps you witnessed a miracle! Ask a couple of volunteers to also share something new they learned/saw as they sought out time with God.

#### Scripture: Read [Romans 14:1-4 and 10-19](#)

Paul's letter to the Romans gives some specific instruction on practical Christian living, including the sometimes tense navigation of Jews and Gentiles worshipping together. The traditions and practices of the Jewish faith ran deep making it difficult for some Jewish Christians to fully embrace the freedom of the gospel. Quite simply, the Jews and Gentiles came at their Christian faith from different perspectives.

- 1- Based on Paul's instructions, how should a Christian interact with other believers that are in different places in their faith walk?
- 2- Since Jesus came to remove the ultimate barrier between each of us and God, why do you think believers are so often tempted to build or maintain barriers in the form of rules or traditions, expectations or hierarchies?
- 3- It is not inherently bad to honor history and traditions. How can we do so without allowing them to become barriers or stumbling blocks for transformation and growth?
- 4- What are some stumbling blocks that you have encountered along your journey? How have you overcome them?

**Prayer:** Read [Isaiah 43: 18-19](#) and ask God to give you eyes to see and ears to hear the new things that He is doing in this time and place.

**Next Steps:** Challenge yourself to spend time with someone who is at a very different place in their faith journey and be open to seeing your own faith transformed by a different perspective.