

Missions Sunday 2026

Mission: Joining Jesus in Seeking and Saving the Lost

We've had the privilege today of hearing from our mission workers and their stories remind us that God is at work around the world. But mission isn't just something that happens overseas. The question for all of us is: **What does Jesus say about mission?**

Mission Begins with God's Heart

Jesus says in **Luke 19:10**:

"The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Everything begins here.

Jesus came because people are spiritually lost—not simply far away geographically, but far from God. The lost person may live on the other side of the world, or they may live next door. They could be a colleague, a friend, or a family member.

Mission begins with God's heart for people. The stories we've heard today are simply expressions of that one truth: **God loves people and wants them reconciled to Himself through Jesus Christ.**

The Harvest Is Ready

Jesus also tells us:

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." (Matthew 9:37)

The problem isn't that people aren't ready; Jesus says the harvest is plentiful. The challenge is whether His people are willing to join Him.

For some, that means going overseas.

For others, it means crossing the street.

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Not everyone is called to travel, but every Christian is called to participate. Some go, some send, some give, some pray—but all of us are called to care.

Mission Is a Lifestyle

In **Matthew 28**, Jesus commands us to make disciples of all nations.

That certainly includes going to the ends of the earth, but it also means living as disciples wherever God has placed us. **As you go...**

Charles Dickens wrote about a woman called Mrs. Jellyby in *Bleak House*, who was passionate about helping people thousands of miles away in Borrioboola-Gha.

She writes letters, raises support, and talks endlessly about helping people there while neglecting her own family. Dickens wasn't criticising mission—he was reminding us not to overlook the people right in front of us.

Jesus had a global mission, but He always stopped for individuals. He ministered to crowds, yet He paused for blind Bartimaeus, for Zacchaeus, and even went out of his way for the woman at the well - **Mission starts where we stand.**

We Don't Do This Alone

Before Jesus returned to heaven He said:

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

Mission isn't driven by guilt or pressure. It's empowered by the Holy Spirit.

The missionaries we've heard from today aren't superheroes. They're ordinary people serving an extraordinary God—and the same Holy Spirit who empowers them also empowers us.

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Faith Must Be Seen - Mission

Finally, James reminds us that faith without deeds is dead.

James 2:14-17 Faith and Deeds

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

We're saved by grace through faith alone, but genuine faith is never inactive. If we believe Jesus came to seek and save the lost, we'll care about lost people. If we believe the harvest is plentiful, we'll pray, serve, give, and share the gospel. And if we believe God loves people, we'll demonstrate that love in practical ways.

So, the question isn't simply, *"Do I have faith?"* but *"How is my faith being seen?"*

Who is God asking you to reach?

Who is He calling you to serve?

What step of obedience is He asking you to take?

Let's be a church that not only believes the gospel but demonstrates it—joining Jesus in His mission of seeking and saving the lost.

If today's stories have inspired you, I'd encourage you to speak with **Chris, Aaron, Mike, Kate**, and **Caitlin (Mark and Kim)**. Let them share more of what God is doing, and ask how you can **pray, support, serve, or perhaps even go....**

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Because as the Father sent Jesus, so Jesus sends us—empowered by the Holy Spirit—to proclaim the gospel and demonstrate the love of God.

Let's pray.

Community Group Questions

1. Who are the "lost" people God has already placed in your life?

Think about your family, neighbours, colleagues, or friends. Is there one person God is prompting you to intentionally pray for or build a deeper relationship with?

2. How are you participating in God's mission?

Jesus calls every believer to be involved. Are you currently *going, praying, giving, encouraging, or sending*? Which area could you grow in?

3. Are you overlooking the people closest to you?

Like Mrs. Jellyby in *Bleak House*, it's possible to care about distant needs while missing the opportunities right in front of us. Who might God be asking you to notice this week?

4. Are you relying on the Holy Spirit or your own strength?

Sharing your faith can feel intimidating, but Jesus promised the Holy Spirit's power. What would change if you approached mission with greater dependence on Him?

5. How is your faith being seen?

James reminds us that genuine faith results in action. What practical act of love, generosity, or service could demonstrate the gospel to someone this week?

6. What is your next step of obedience?

Rather than asking God for a long-term plan, ask Him, "What's my next step?" It might be inviting someone for coffee, offering to pray with them, supporting a missionary, or sharing your testimony.

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7. How can our church better reflect God's heart for the lost?

Consider how you can help create a culture where reaching people is everyone's responsibility. How could your community group, ministry team, or family become more outward-looking?

Maybe pray this prayer together...

"Lord, break my heart for what breaks Yours. Show me one person to love, one opportunity to serve, and give me the courage and power of Your Holy Spirit to join You in seeking and saving the lost. Amen."