



BEGIN WITH YOUR EXPERIENCE

Our Life Questions at Christ Community are also sometimes called our “Mission Measures”. We don’t measure the success of our mission primarily through attendance and money, though that often looks like success. We want the primary measure of our mission to be spiritual growth and multiplication of disciples who love Jesus. But, that can be harder to measure. Our Life Questions are our best effort to keep that mission measure our priority. You could share a story about when you saw dramatic spiritual growth in your life and what evidenced that growth.

A LOOK IN GOD’S WORD

Begin by assigning each verse to someone in the group before you begin. Everyone’s involvement here will be fruitful. Pause as needed to help the group connect the concept in the verse to the life question. BEFORE you READ – encourage people to do some self-reflection as the verses are read. Consider what the Spirit is wanting them to hear, feel, and apply from that verse in their life.

MY LIFE- OUR MISSION

Pray together. Ending this study in thoughtful prayer gives the Spirit opportunity to apply what each person has encountered in God’s Word. This is also a good reminder that the life questions are not a “Spiritual Check List”, but are helpful prompts in each person’s walk with God. As a group – let’s spur each other on to take a step of obedience in response to the Spirit’s prompting.

Announcements:

Connect Groups: We do have about 30 people this fall who are looking to get into a group, maybe more after Sunday! Do you know someone who could be leading a group? Could your group grow and multiply? Pray and consider how we can connect more people to life defining relationships in Christ.

CARING FUND Hundreds of residents of Ames who qualify can receive financial assistance with rent, utilities and related living expenses. This fund allows us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the community. When giving online, simply select "Caring Fund", or by check, please include "Caring Fund" in the memo. Special “Benevolence” envelopes can also be found at the Start Here desk.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS for HAITI We are packing and sending gift bags to elementary children in Haiti. We will be distributing the bags on September 10 and 17 brought back, filled, on October 7. Our Haiti Mission team will be distributing them as part of our ministry in November. Contact Marcy Ryken with questions. ryken6@hotmail.com.

Bolivia Recap - Our Bolivia Clean Water team spent 10 days in Bolivia, providing wells and water filters for people with our missionary partner, Danny Beams. Sunday, September 24 at 4:30pm in room C3/4 the team will present about their adventures, as well as how God is working in Bolivia through the Beams and their ministry, Agua Yaku.



CONNECT GROUP STUDY

INTENTIONAL: What Jesus can do through purposeful disciples

Intentional #4
David A. Staff, Teaching Pastor

INTRO: This week's teaching addressed how Christ Community Church measures "success in the accomplishment of our mission." We are successful when we --as individuals on a team -- are intentionally "living the mission", growing in living the experience of our **LIFE QUESTIONS**.

BEGIN WITH YOUR EXPERIENCE

As you think about your everyday life, think either about (a) **What do you regularly "measure" in your life** (example – do you track the growth of your investments? Keeping an eye on personal weight loss? Lowering your golf handicap?), or (b) **How are you regularly "measured"** (ex. – frequently "tested" in school? Your sales performance? Employee evaluation?). Share an example from your life. Then, to get things going, kick around the following --

- **Why do we measure things?** What's the value of doing so?
- **Do you think it is important to measure your spiritual growth?** What makes measuring this challenging?

LIFE QUESTIONS IN THE WORD

To measure how effectively we CCC team members are participating in our mission, we ask disciples to answer 6 life questions. These were reviewed in this week's INTENTIONAL SERIES teaching (#4 INTENTIONAL about our discipleship measures). Take a moment to review each question and read together the accompanying Scripture:

- DEPENDENCE: Is the Spirit flowing through me? [John 7:37-39, Eph 5:18]
- INTERACTION: Does God make my day? [Mark 1:35, John 15:7]
- FELLOWSHIP: Who shares my tough stuff? [Hebrews 10:24-25, James 5:16]
- MULTIPLYING: With whom am I fishing? [Matthew 4:19, 2 Timothy 2:2]
- READINESS: How worn is my welcome mat? [Luke 19:10, 2 Cor 5:20]
- GENEROSITY: How are my investments doing? [Matthew 6:21, 25:23]

Have each person take quick personal inventory, asking

- Which one of these questions comes most easily for you in your walk with Christ?
- Which one of these questions represents a growth-challenge in your walk with Christ?

A pioneer in family and men's discipleship, Dr. Howard Hendricks would often tell students he mentored, "My greatest fear is not that you will fail, but that you will succeed in doing the wrong thing." **Choose a question** that you believe *will help you succeed in living out* our mission of connecting people to relationships in Christ. Discuss how you would like to improve in "growing" **in that question**. Is there a simple plan of action that will help you grow here?

MY LIFE - OUR MISSION

Let's finish with a word of encouragement. Jesus described a group of people like us in a remarkable way: *You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket. It goes on a lampstand to give light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and come to recognize and glorify your Father who is in heaven* (Matthew 5:14-16).

Do something a bit different as you finish. Get on your knees together as a group (as many as are physically able), and ask the wonderful Holy Spirit to grow you in living out these 6 spiritual growth areas. Pray sincerely and passionately for yourself (in the question you targeted) and for others in your group. Don't be afraid to confess any sin that has kept you from being a passionate disciple. Ask God to fill you afresh and anew with His Wonderful Holy Spirit...to be that light Jesus promised you are.