



Member Guide Week 1

SERMON RECAP: WHAT DID THE TEXT MEAN? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

In the sermon this week we learned that God displays His power, authority, and mission through the vessel of the local church.

- Did this sermon align with your current perspective of the nature of God and the role of the Church? How or why not?

WARM UP

When shopping at the mall, what is most likely to attract your attention from the shop window?

- Clothing introducing the latest fashion
- The newest shoes
- Gadgets
- Hobby related gear (i.e. hiking, sports, hunting, cooking etc.)

What is it about those items on display that attract you? What do you believe your attraction to those items reveals about you?

THE TEXT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

ACTIVITY: Part 1

Goal: Discover what Scripture teaches about God's power, authority, and mission.

1. Divide the group into 3 groups
2. Each group will spend the next 10 minutes looking through Scripture for verses that teach on God's power, authority, and mission. Then, as a group they will present their verses to the whole group and explain what each verse reveals about their attribute (God's power, authority, or mission).
3. Assign each group 1 of those attributes (group 1-God's power, group 2-God's authority, group 3-God's mission) Groups can use the internet, their Bible etc. to search for verses

ACTIVITY: Part 2

- Once the 10 minutes is complete, spend the next 10 minutes having the groups report back to the large group.

ACTIVITY: Part 3

- Once all groups have presented their findings, spend the next 10 minutes having the groups go back and prepare a response to the statement below while keeping in mind God's power, authority, and mission.

"I believe in Jesus but I don't need to be a part of a church."

- Once the 10 minutes is complete, have a group representative from each group present their response to the large group.

DIGGING DEEPER

READ:

Ephesians 1:21

In light of Eph. 1:21 what should be the Christ-followers response to the ISIS/ISIL conflict in the Middle East? What is the role of the Church?

CLOSING THOUGHT

Christ-followers are meant to live a life that fully displays the power, authority, and mission of God. But we're not there yet. God is still working on each of us and it is up to us to submit our lives to Jesus daily. Be encouraged by this story from the 19th Century during the time when alcohol abuse was rampant. There was a Russian-Orthodox priest named John of Kronstadt. His peers wrote about him,

None of the priests ventured out of their churches to help the people. They waited for people to come to them. John, compelled by love, went out into the streets. People said he would lift the hungover, foul-smelling people from the gutter, cradle them in his arms and say to them, "this is beneath your dignity. You were meant to house the fullness of God."¹

¹ Smith, James Bryan, *The Good and Beautiful God* (Downers Grove, Ill: IVP Books, 2009), 162.