

## Message Handout

### Christology

Scripture Luke 24:13-27; 36-49

Creed: "We are endlessly pursuing our understanding of who Christ is as the foundation of our church. Our identity is first shaped by our understanding of Jesus as foreshadowed in the Hebrew scriptures and then fleshed out in his birth, life, death, resurrection and promised second coming. We know that one of the greatest temptations of a church is to create a God in our image that we can bow down and worship in an act of religious self-service. The further we are away from Jesus, the further away we are from a vibrant church."

### Missiology

Scripture: John 1:14; 17:18; 20:21

Creed: We understand that our God is missional in nature. Misseo is simply the Latin word for sent. God sends his Spirit, his Torah, his prophets and finally his Son in pursuit of humanity. Joshua Abraham Heschel calls it God in pursuit of man. The scriptures make the claim that as the Father has sent the Son, so the Son sends the church (John 17:18; 20:21). So our identity as the church is rooted in a sent nature in which we are to be and to do for our world what Christ did for his. Just as Jesus became flesh and blood in a specific context so the church as well becomes the hands and feet of Jesus in a specific context. At its core we don't believe that the church is attractional (though it may be attractive) in nature but sent in nature.

### Ecclesiology

Scripture: A Body (1 Cor 12:27); A Bride (Rev 19:7); A Temple (Eph 2:20-22)

Creed: As the church we are sent into a specific context as the body of Jesus. Ecclesiology, the shape of the church, is the result of following Jesus into our city and doing what he would do. While there are the normal practices of the historic church, baptism and eucharist, we believe that a church focused on mission will have no specific strategy or method that all churches should follow. This creates a lot of room for flexibility in how things are done. If our ecclesiology does not cause us to look sacrificial like the cross and full of hope like an empty tomb then it needs to change.

Next Sunday: We will begin our study of Christology in be in Philippians 2:5-11 for the next four weeks.

Thursday Night Discussion: 1631 San Jose Street – 7PM

These are questions meant to spur discussion amongst us when we gather together for our midweek gathering. If you could invest 20-30 minutes ahead of time working on these it would probably greatly contribute to the quality of our conversations!

*Get to Know You Questions:*

Q. Can you think of a time that you got lost or went outside of your comfort zone growing up? How did it feel? What did you learn?

Q. What are some of the good things that you are giving up to join this church plant? What do you hope to gain?

*Investigating the Story Questions:*

Q. In these areas of Christology (Jesus); Missiology (Mission); Ecclesiology (Church) which one do you resonate with the most?

Q. What has been your understanding of what the church is when you were child, when you were a teenager to today? What things have stayed the same, if any? What things have changed, if any?

*Community Building Questions:*

Q. Can you think of anyone who would like to join a church plant? It may be too early to ask them to join the team but we can begin praying for them.

Q. What do you think would be some good team building events? We'll definitely have a lot of time to read the bible together and pray together (we will even begin some missional activities together in a few weeks) but do you have anything else you could see us doing that would help bring us together?:  
eg. Wii bowling, Movie Night, BBQing...Real Tennis...etc...

**Going Deeper:** If you have time these would be great things to check out!

*Book:* The Shaping of Things to Come – Rob has copies to borrow

*Youtube:* Michael Frost on Missional – video is on our blog

*Blog Post* on Healthy Church by Ed Stetzer: Link is on our Blog

*Bible:* Read the Book of Acts this week (it's awesome!!)

**Prayer this Week:**

*Spiritual Warfare:* Meditate on Ephesians 6 and pray for our new community.

*Wisdom and Discernment:* There are a lot of decisions made during this time that are going to have a long term impact.

*Growth:* We are looking to grow to 20-30 people on the launch team before we go live. Let's pray that God would bring the right people to come aboard onto the team.

*Structural Backbone:* Finding the right financial person to help us get on the governments good side; Working on finding a denomination or church network for a theological/financial umbrella.