

40**days of community**What on earth
are *we* here for?

Reaching Out Together

We're Commissioned to Reach Out Together

In one of the most memorable stories from the life of Jesus, the crowd that had gathered to hear His teachings had become hungry. When Jesus' disciples advised Him to send them away to their own homes to eat, Jesus said "no, you give them something to eat". His response provided a model for us as we seek to establish relationships with those who need Jesus. We must seek to meet their practical needs so that a "door" to the gospel might be established. If we are serious about helping them experience the kindness of Jesus, we will do more than just tell them that Jesus loves them; we will demonstrate this love by our actions. As with God's other purposes for our lives, it is much easier to do this together, rather than alone. Once we assess the needs of

those who have been placed in our path, we can take inventory of our resources together. As a group we will be better able to show them the kindness and love of Jesus. Sometimes the love that Jesus shows to them through us will be in the form of hospitality. There are few things as powerful as inviting someone into our homes. At other times, we will simply show them acceptance as we take time to talk with them, and listen to them. It also helps to build friendships with those who need Jesus, because the first step of inviting someone to Christ is to invest in a relationship with them. In all of these areas, though, there must be more than talk; we must actively provide practical help to those who don't know Jesus.



**Discovering God's purposes
for our lives works
better together**

Even Jesus, who had all the "spiritual" answers, humbled Himself to wash feet, touch lepers, cook breakfast, and hang out with "sinners". We can be Jesus to someone else when we offer the same type of service to others. Eventually, when they ask us why we are doing it, we can tell them that it's because of Jesus' kindness to us. As we thus reach out together, we will effectively bring in the kingdom that Jesus came to establish.

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- Worship—You were planned for God's pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God's family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

Study Questions for Next Week

(To be used as a companion to the "Better Together" devotional guide)

Day 8—Read Colossians 4:5. What are some opportunities that you can make the most of to share Jesus that may come your way today? How can you prepare yourself for that?

Day 9—Read Philippians 1:27. Who is one person that you might have the opportunity to reach for Jesus? What are some ways your 40 Days group could help you build a relationship with them that might help them know Jesus personally?

What Matters Most—Study Questions

Day 10—Read 1 Peter 4:9. How would you define “hospitality”, and why do you think it is so powerful? What barriers keep you from being more hospitable?

Day 11—Read Romans 15:7. What are some ways that make you feel accepted by others? How can you extend that same acceptance to someone else today?

Day 12—Read 2 Corinthians 5:20b and Romans 12:16. How does God treat us like His friends? What is one step you could take to becoming a friend of someone who doesn't know Jesus personally?

Day 13—Read 1 John 3:18. How does serving someone in a practical way open a door for sharing Jesus with them? Think of one practical way you could help someone who doesn't know Jesus.

Day 14—Read Colossians 3:17. Of the 5 ways listed on pgs 65-66 of representing Jesus, which one do you need to work on most?

Scripture to Remember

“Be wise in the way you act with people who are not believers, making the most of every opportunity.”

Colossians 4:5 NCV

Celebration Fellowship

*Reaching—
Restoring—Raising Up*

We're on the web

www.celebrationnet.com

Life Group Questions—Reaching Out Together

(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. Would you rather receive a handful of cash, or a gift? Why? Which does God do for us, and how are we to let the money He gives us have a lasting effect?
2. Talk about some of things, including money, that we have to give to God through Celebration Fellowship. How can we be sure we give the “first-fruits”?
3. Why does God want everyone to participate in giving, rather than just those who are wealthy? In your opinion, which group has less trouble with giving?
4. Share some of the reasons that we should be motivated to give? Get personal.
5. Would you consider yourself an abundant giver, and a willing giver to the Lord? What are some ways that we can know this, and how can we grow in this?
6. Discuss anything else that impressed you from the message today if you have time.