



## small groups

*Discussion Guide*



# Becoming Missional

*1 Corinthians 9:19-23*

## Ice Breaker

*(5 minutes)*

We got to hear from Dr. Sukhwant Bhatia in this Sunday's service. Sukhwant is the founder of Seek Partners International, a mission organization in India. He traveled more than 8,000 miles to reach Dallas.

### Discuss

- What's the farthest trip you've ever taken? What do you remember most about it?
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## Lesson Review

*(40 minutes)*

**Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23**

Jay began with a story about his neighbor Kyle. He said he lived next to Kyle for years without giving much thought to his spiritual wellbeing. Jay called this our “awareness challenge.”

### **Discuss**

- Who did you think of when Jay talked about the “awareness challenge”? Who lives, works or plays near you but whom you haven’t much considered from a spiritual perspective?

This week’s Life Mark is “Lovingly pursuing those far from God.” Jay laid out three steps in doing that.

## **1. BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITHOUT AN AGENDA**

This means investing in people for their own sake, not for the sake of winning souls. Jay told a story about a neighbor who saw through his insincere attempts to help him fix his car.

And this means meeting people on their turf. Jay said, "What if you chose to be outnumbered by people far from god? What if we became the Christians who exchange the holy huddle for the Matthew party."

The concept of a Matthew Party comes from the story of Matthew’s conversion. (Matthew is also called Levi in the Gospel of Luke.) It’s an evangelism tool popularized by the Salvation Army and several churches.

### **Read Luke 5:27-32**

### **Discuss**

- In what settings do you often find yourself outnumbered by unbelievers? How can you find more of those settings?
- What are the dangers of exposing yourself or your family to such settings?

## **2. PUT IN A GOOD WORD FOR JESUS**

### **Read Romans 10:17**

For someone to believe, they eventually have to hear about Jesus’ sacrificial love for them. At North Point Church in Atlanta, members look for opportunities to do this disguised in what they call “The Three Nots”

- “I’m not from here.”
- “Things are not going well.”
- “I’m not prepared for this circumstance.”

Jay described a scenario in which a Christ-follower used that last “not” as an opportunity to share what he had learned about fatherhood from Christian teachings.

### **Discuss**

- When was the last time you heard someone share one of the “nots”?

### **3. MAKE IT A TEAM EFFORT**

People belong before they believe. Before someone is going to surrender their life and destiny to Jesus, they are going to need to check out the community of other people who have done so. They’ll need an invitation to church. Jay said they need two things at this point: a nonthreatening place to observe and think, and time to do so.

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## **Application**

*(15 minutes)*

### **Discuss**

- Think of the people you know who are far from God. Are any of them ready for an invitation to church or small group? (Note: If you haven’t taken Steps 1 and 2 above, then the answer is probably, “No.”) Prayerfully consider which relationships you might invest in. Pray for them with your group.

## Life Marks

As we have moved through this series, we've built a list of six characteristics of a mature disciple. Here's the complete list of our Life Marks:

A mature disciple of Jesus is:

- Regularly engaged in time with the Father
- Wholly devoted to God's perfect will
- Graciously disposed toward all
- Intimately connected to a few
- Responsive to the needs of others
- Lovingly pursuing those far from God