

New MISSION

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

Acts 2:42 NLT-SE

- **RECAP:** New FOCUS & New TIME

- **New FOCUS...**LUKE 8:22-25 ~ **“Let’s cross to the other side”**

- **Jesus is taking weak things and strengthen them!** Our assignment hasn't changed. We are not abandoning what we've been doing to do something different. Everything we've learned as a people has prepared us to be where we are. Now, we are being given a new discipleship challenge, one we're not quite prepared for, but one that will help prepare us for where we are headed. Currently, ***we are getting into the boat, making ourselves ready to cross over.***

- **Strengthening Individuals**
- **Strengthening Families**
- **Strengthening Congregations**

- **New TIME...** ZECH 4:10 NLT-SE ~ **“The LORD rejoices to see the work begin, to see the plumb line in Zerubbabel’s hand.”**

- **Adjusting to Change...**We feel now is the time to make Evangel accessible to more people ***as we transition toward the new “Strengthening” focus.*** Moving to Sunday mornings is an important piece of that puzzle, allowing families to have their evenings together, especially families with children.
- **Aligning with Our Assignment...**As we begin to look at new ways to express ourselves as a congregation, we will need to ***adjust the way we do ministry.*** One of those adjustments would be to take the time we have together when we gather and divide it into thirds; spending a third of our time in ***worship***, a third teaching the ***Word***, and a third ***ministering*** to each other and to the Lord. ***The one thing that binds it all together is our determination to spend 100% of that time enjoying the Presence of God!***
- **Addressing the Need...**As we seriously look at ***how we are investing our time***, we should constantly be seeking insight and wisdom as to how we should engage with those in need. This focus on ***meeting people’s needs***, not just keeping the church doors open, will keep us fresh and involved in the amazing things God is doing all around us!

- **Time For Change - Week 3 ~ New MISSION**

- **What does it mean to be “missional?”** What is the difference between vision and mission? Is Evangel a missional community?
 - A **MISSIONAL COMMUNITY** is a *family of missionary servants* who make *disciples*, who make disciples.

- **Family...**A missional community is a group of believers who live and experience life together as a family. They see God as their Father because of their knowledge and love for Jesus Christ and the transformation in their lives that's come through the work of the Holy Spirit. They have and know God's love, so they love each other, sharing their money, time, resources, needs, hurts, successes, etc. They know each other's stories, and are familiar with each other's strengths and weaknesses.
 - ¹¹ He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. ¹² But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³ They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but **a birth that comes from God.** (John 1:11–13 NLT-SE)
 - ¹⁰ **Love each other** with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. ¹¹ Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. ¹² Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. ¹³ When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. ¹⁵ Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ **Live in harmony with each other.** (Rom 12:10–16 NLT-SE)
- **Missionaries...**Like Jesus, the family of God has been sent into the world to proclaim the good news of the kingdom - the gospel. A missional community is more than a bible study or home group that cares for believers. A missional community is made up of Spirit-filled and Spirit-led people who reorientate their lives together with the goal of making disciples in the neighborhoods where they live their lives. This means people's schedules, resources, and decisions flow out of a desire to reach people together.
 - Again he said, "Peace be with you. **As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.**" (John 20:21 NLT-SE)
 - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, **telling people about me everywhere**—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8 NLT-SE)
- **Servants...**A missional community serves those around them in the same way Jesus would serve them. In fact, He is serving them...through us! As we serve people this way, we give them a visible, tangible witness to God's kingdom and the power of the gospel that can change their lives. People who watch how missional communities function can come to only one conclusion - there must be the gospel of the kingdom of Jesus Christ!
 - ²⁵ But Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. ²⁶ But among you it will be different. **Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant,** ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. ²⁸ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but **to serve others** and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Matt 20:25–28 NLT-SE)
 - For **you are free**, yet you are God's slaves, so don't use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. (1 Pet 2:16 NLT-SE)

- **Disciples...**Are you still teachable? Do you still hang on every word that comes from our Rabbi, Jesus? God's Spirit is always ready and willing to teach us whatever we need to know to live a life that is pleasing to God. Jesus commanded us to make disciples who believe the gospel and then make more disciples!
 - ¹⁹ Therefore, **go and make disciples of all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ **Teach these new disciples to obey** all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matt 28:19–20 NLT-SE)
- Our goal is to experience **MISSIONAL COMMUNITY**, that being our primary structure for making disciples. A great example of how a Missional Community works out discipleship is SOMA Church in Tacoma. Here's how they look at Missional Communities...
 - **GATHER: Going Up More...**Can you ever get enough of God? I hope not. Seeking Him and His Presence is worth everything we are willing to invest to that end. Time in prayer, fellowship, and in serving others is "priceless." We always want to stay hungry for more of God and what He says is vitally important.
 - **GROW: Going Through More, Together...**As things in the world become more confusing, more desperate, and the world is assaulted by increasing darkness, we will be presented with a choice. Will we choose to go through difficult times, or around them? We are being prepared to advance the Kingdom of God and to do it together.
- **Five Components of a Missional Community...**When these components are all strong the missional community will grow healthy, growing as disciples and making new disciples.
 - One: **The Family Meal...**This is a time to share a family-style meal with Jesus at the center. It's more than simply eating together. It's clear that it's Jesus you're gathering around and He is the one who makes you a family. Family Meal Night is a great time to encourage one another, pray, and cast vision for the mission of the group.
 - Two: **Missional Living...**It's all about intentionally creating space to show and share the gospel with those your missional community is trying to reach. It should fit the rhythms of your neighborhood. Perhaps it's a game night or backyard cookout that you can invite neighbors or friends to. Or maybe a trip to the park where you can build relationships and get to know new friends. Whatever it is, creating intentional space should be consistent, and you missional living should be relational, long-term, and low-key.
 - Three: **Serving Together...**This is not something we do to cross serving off our spiritual check-list. We are servants of Jesus who are called to serve "the least of these." Every missional community should be regularly serving and meeting the needs of the needy, inside and outside the group.
 - Four: **DNA...**This is one way to dig down deep in our care for one another as disciples. These are small groups of 3-4 people (men with men, women with women). This is not just a small group meeting or bible study. This is where we are transformed by God's word, confess sin, and are committed to one another's personal growth as we follow Jesus. DNA is an acronym that stands for Discover, Nurture, and Act.

- **Five: Sunday Gatherings**...A lot of people look at Sunday services at the “front door” to the church. For people who value missional communities, Sundays are a place for people who have been being the family of God and living on mission in a broken world to retreat and be renewed by the Power and Presence of God. We need to hear the truth of God’s word being preached. We need to be ministered to by the Spirit of truth as we worship together. And we need to be reminded of the gospel we share in the Lord’s Supper together. Sunday’s aren’t optional. They are the place where missional communities are encouraged, shaped by the word of God, and recommissioned to the mission of making disciples every week.
- **GO: Going Out More**...As much as we feel the need to press in with God, there should be an increasing stir within us to go out. We have been being prepared by the Lord to not just grow as a congregation, but to grow in our relationships with those outside Evangel. We are to be salt and light in our community; innovators in seeing the Kingdom of God expand in our region, and providing Holy Spirit inspired solutions to the world’s problems. This is living life “on mission” all week long. “This is how you’ll know you are my disciples, by your love for one another!”