

Video 1: “What’s Jesus Up To?” Mark 1:15 | Book chapter 1

Processing Our Insights:

- 1) Jesus is on a mission. He’s been sent by his Father on a grand adventure to redeem and restore all things. Ever since Jesus broke out of the tomb on Easter Sunday morning, he’s been on the loose out there, pursuing his Father’s redemptive mission; ripening people, preparing people to be reunited with the Father he loves. In fact, that’s what Jesus is up to *right now* in every one of our neighborhoods. And... he invites us to join him.
 - What intrigues you about thinking of mission/outreach in this way?

- 2) In the video, the Finkes say, “Don’t worry. We’re not going to ask you to take a giant leap all at once into being a Neighborhood Missionary. Instead we’re going to help you take a series of baby steps over the next several weeks that will build your confidence and experience in joining Jesus in everyday life.”
 - What do you like about this kind of approach?

- 3) When the Finkes start working with people who are ready to be everyday missionaries, one of the first questions they ask is, “So, how’s Jesus messing with you?” Remember “messing with you” doesn’t mean, “How is Jesus picking on you?” It means, “How is he ‘messing’ with your status quo? How is he ‘messing’ with your presumptions and preferences as a Christian? How is he trying to get your attention?”
 - So, how is Jesus messing with you lately?
 - Why do you think Jesus wants your attention?

- 4) In a remarkably short amount of time, North America has become one of the largest mission fields on the planet. The odds are very good that right now, wherever you live in North America, the people in your neighborhood and workplace are unconnected to a local congregation and may not be connected to Jesus at all. The church today is no longer servicing a community filled with Christians. We are now a church who finds itself in a mission field. And we weren’t trained for that. The mindset and practices of most Christian churches are perfectly calibrated for a culture that essentially no longer exists. This is why so many churches are struggling. There is not one county in the U.S. that has more than 50% of its residents regularly participating in a local congregation. And many counties have dramatically fewer than that.
 - What disturbs you about this kind of rapid change in your community?
 - The good news is that Jesus isn’t struggling or confused. What is Jesus’ response to this change?

- 5) Joining Jesus on his redemptive mission is what the term “**missional living**” means. “Missional living” is simply living each day as if it were a mission trip. The difference, of course, is that instead of being on a mission trip to a foreign land, we are on a mission trip to our own community. We are Neighborhood Missionaries. The word “**missional**” is simply a descriptive word indicating that each part of our daily lives can now be seen as part of Jesus’ redemptive mission in our community.

*Joining Jesus doesn’t add another layer of busyness on top of an already busy schedule. Instead, joining Jesus is something we do in the midst of our busy schedule. Living missionally simply requires a new mission *mindset* and to put some new mission *practices* into play along life’s way.*

- As you think about your own daily life, how do the statements above help you?
- 6) Does the idea of joining Jesus on His mission make you nervous? That’s probably because you have something precisely backwards in your mind like Greg used to. He used to think that he had to go out *for* Jesus rather than *with* Jesus. He used to think that he had to be a Jesus-salesperson rather than what Jesus actually invites us to be: a Jesus-follower. When we are joining Jesus on His mission in the places we live, work and go to school, it will look to our neighbor like we are being a good neighbor. It will look to our co-worker like we are being a good friend.
- What makes you nervous as you think about yourself as a neighborhood missionary?
 - How does the statement above change your mission mindset?

Note: Being a good neighbor or a good friend over time does not guarantee your neighbor or friend will come to have faith in Jesus. However, it does build the foundation of relationship and trust which leads to more personal conversations, including questions about life and faith.

Before We Go

“A-Ha!” Insights to Action: What was the most significant insight you had as a result of today’s video and discussion? Take a few minutes to write down your insight and what you think Jesus might be giving you to believe and/or do as a result. This is your self-identified assignment for joining Jesus in the coming days.

Take some time to share people’s self-identified assignment with the group.

In the coming days *watch for opportunities Jesus will give you* to put your self-identified assignments into play. The next time your group meets be ready to tell the stories of what happened (whether little or large).

Ministering through Prayer: As we prepare to head out on our mission adventure with Jesus, have each person ask the next person, **“How can I help you in prayer?”** After everyone has had a turn to answer, each person then prays for their neighbor. Write the prayer request in the space below so you won’t forget.