



SESSION 2: GOSPEL IN COMMUNITY
CHURCH INTO COMMUNITY VS.
COMMUNITY INTO CHURCH

MAIN TEXT:

"Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:15–16, NIV).

KEY TEACHING POINT: WE NEED TO REMEMBER THE IMPORTANCE OF *GOING OUT* AS A PART OF THE GREAT COMMISSION.

OPENING DISCUSSION:

In the Great Commission, Jesus tells us to GO. Use this opening question as a way to evaluate (but not criticize) whether we are better at going to people or waiting for people to come to us, our building, our ministries, or our groups. Discuss ways we can start the process of thinking *outward* instead of *inward*.

Do our ministries and activities at Hillcrest lean towards going into the community or expecting the community to come to us?

GOING OUT -----COMING IN

OUTLINE: BEING IN THE COMMUNITY

Look at each of these verses and discuss whether it is talking about the church *going into the community*, or *the community coming to the church*. Assign different people to read each verse, if possible.

- **IT IS A SENDING.**

Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to **send out workers** into his harvest field" (Matthew 9:37–38, NIV).

- **IT IS A COMFORTING.**

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and **I will give you rest**" (Matthew 11:28, NIV).

- **IT IS AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.**

"I tell you, whoever publicly **acknowledges** me before others, the Son of Man will also **acknowledge** before the angels of God" (Luke 12:8, NIV).

- **IT IS A TRUST.**

"When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, **do not worry** about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say" (Luke 12:11-12, NIV).

- **IT IS GOOD NEWS.**

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have **eternal life**. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him (John 3:16-17).

- **IT IS A BEHAVIOR.**

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, **if you love one another**" (John 13:35, NIV).

- **IT IS EXPECTED.**

"This is to my Father's glory, **that you bear much fruit**, showing yourselves to be my disciples" (John 15:8, NIV).

- **IT IS EMPOWERING.**

"But **you will receive power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8, NIV).

- **IT IS A GIFT.**

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23, NIV).

- **IT IS A LIFE GOAL.**

However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace (Acts 20:24, NIV).

FINAL DISCUSSION

⇒ As you have looked at all these verses, how have they affected your thinking in reaching out into the community?

⇒ What personal barriers prevent us from going out into the community?

⇒ What is the balance between what we do to go out into the community vs. what we expect from the community coming to us?

⇒ How can we make it a life goal to finish our race in sharing the good news with the community?