



P.A.S.S. Questions For Sunridge Life Group Leaders

For the week of March 30-April 5, 2014 – #gracetogo (Matthew 28:16-20)

P - participation (get everyone involved in the dialog)

1. In your world, where have you seen God's glory (His infinite worth and beauty) displayed?
2. Is the idea that a Christian is called to serve as a missionary to family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues new to you? How do you feel about that?

A - application (makes it personal)

3. Who do you know in your life right now who has a tangible need that you could meet?
4. As a home group, study group, or interest group how could we "*seek the welfare of the city*" (Jer 29:7) together? (Serve at The Brook together? Serve a neighbor with a need? Offer to babysit? Throw a block party on your street?)

S - scripture (thinking biblically is a learned behavior! :-)

5. Using the Cheat Sheet, review the components of a missional church.
6. How might our view of the Bible change as we realize it's a book about God and not about us? (Although it's written for us.)

S - sharing – As there is time over the next couple of months, review the updated values of Sunridge.

- Do they reflect who we are?
- Where are we strong?
- Where do we need to grow and develop?

Grace To Go (#gracetogo)

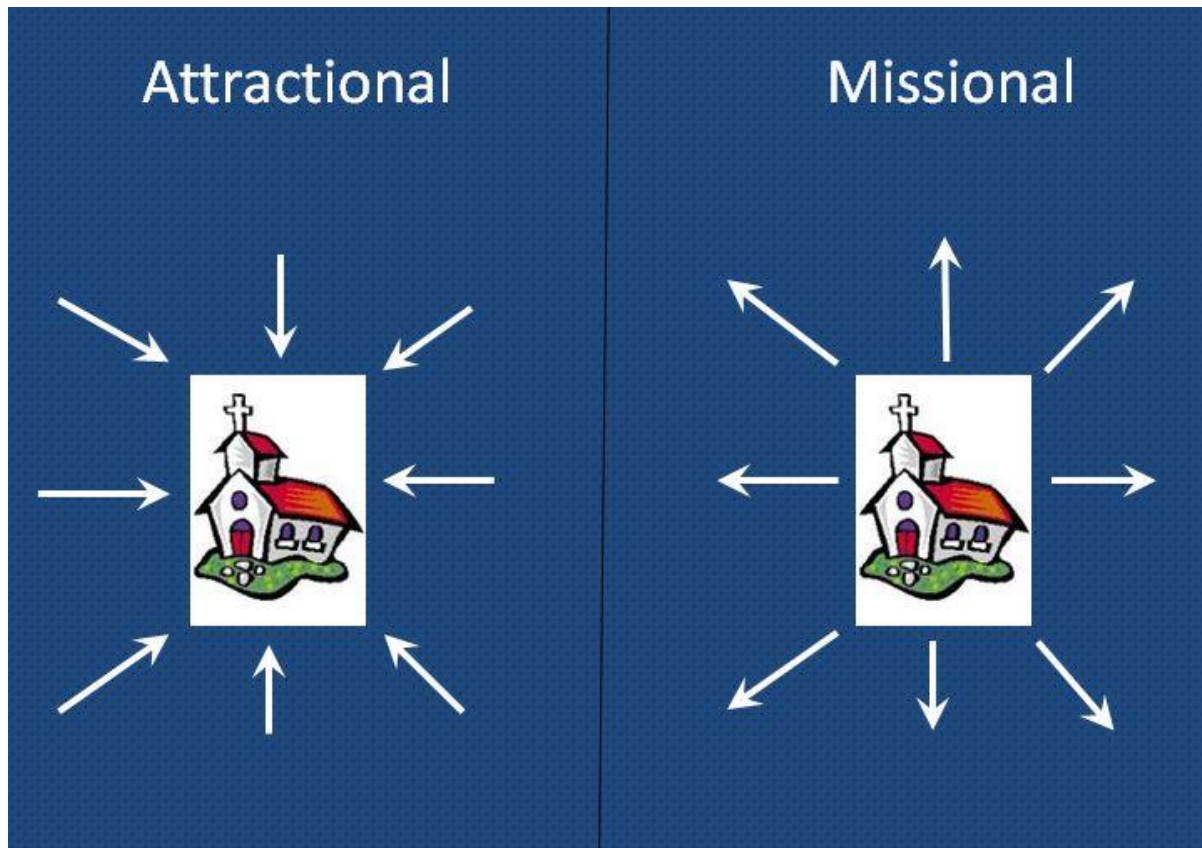
March 30, 2014

I. INTRO

- A. We're going to begin something new today – each sermon will be accompanied by a Twitter hash-tag. (#gracetogo) If you have a question or a comment about the sermon you can post to the hash-tag on either Twitter (@sunridgechurch) or the Sunridge FB page (www.facebook.com/sunridge) and we will engage over any questions the same day. Sometimes we'll post a link to a helpful resource...
- B. Today we'll be talking about #gracetogo – and we'll be in one of the most famous Bible passages – Matthew 28:16-20. This passage is referred to as The Great Commission. But first, let's watch a clip that will help us to see where we're headed today → Blues Bros Clip.
- C. Today – Matthew 28:16-20 *"Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ **Therefore go** and make disciples [not converts] of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey¹ [Lit. "to guard"] everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*
- D. I'd like to zero in on Matthew 28:19...**Just the first two words...**
1. What does it say? *"Therefore GO"*
 2. "What does it mean for us to go?"
 3. There are two types of churches:
 - a. **Attractional Church** – An attractional church seeks to bring people through the doors on weekends for preaching and teaching, with a high degree of excellence and cultural awareness.

¹ NASB: *observe*.

- b. **Missional Church** -- A missional church is a church that is allowing itself to be shaped by participation in God's mission and seeking to be engaged with the non-Christian culture that surrounds it.



- c. **I would like to suggest to you this morning that God wants Sunridge to be **both** attractional AND missional. [engaged w/ the non-Christian culture in the Temecula Valley and beyond]
- d. Today I'd like for us to consider what it means to be a Missional Church. We're calling it #gracetogo

II. BODY

A. God has a **MISSION**, a **MEANS**, and a **METHOD**

1. What is God's mission? God's MISSION is the manifestation of His own glory.
 - a. What does **manifestation** mean? It means to exhibit or display.
 - b. What is God's glory? The public display [or, radiance] of God's infinite beauty and worth. It's a glimpse of eternity crashing into (or, intersecting with) the

present. [a beautiful sunset, the northern lights, one of your children sound asleep in their bed – and then there are the more profound encounters]

1) Isaiah 6:5ff - *"Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips..."*

2) Luke 5:8 – (Peter) *"Depart from me for I am a wicked man!"*

c. Here are two more snapshot verses:

"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." --Habakkuk 2:14

"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory...full of grace and truth." –John 1:14 [There was an in-breaking of God's power that accompanied the ministry of Jesus. We can think of it as a down-payment of what is to come.]

d. God's mission is that He might be **known** and **enjoyed** above all things.

e. One way to illustrate the **mission of God** is for us to think of the Trinity – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

1) Jesus Himself identifies the Trinity in our Matthew 28 passage today when He tells the disciples to *"baptize in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."*

2) Certainly the Trinity is a great mystery...someone described it as trying to understand a cube in a 2-diminsional world.

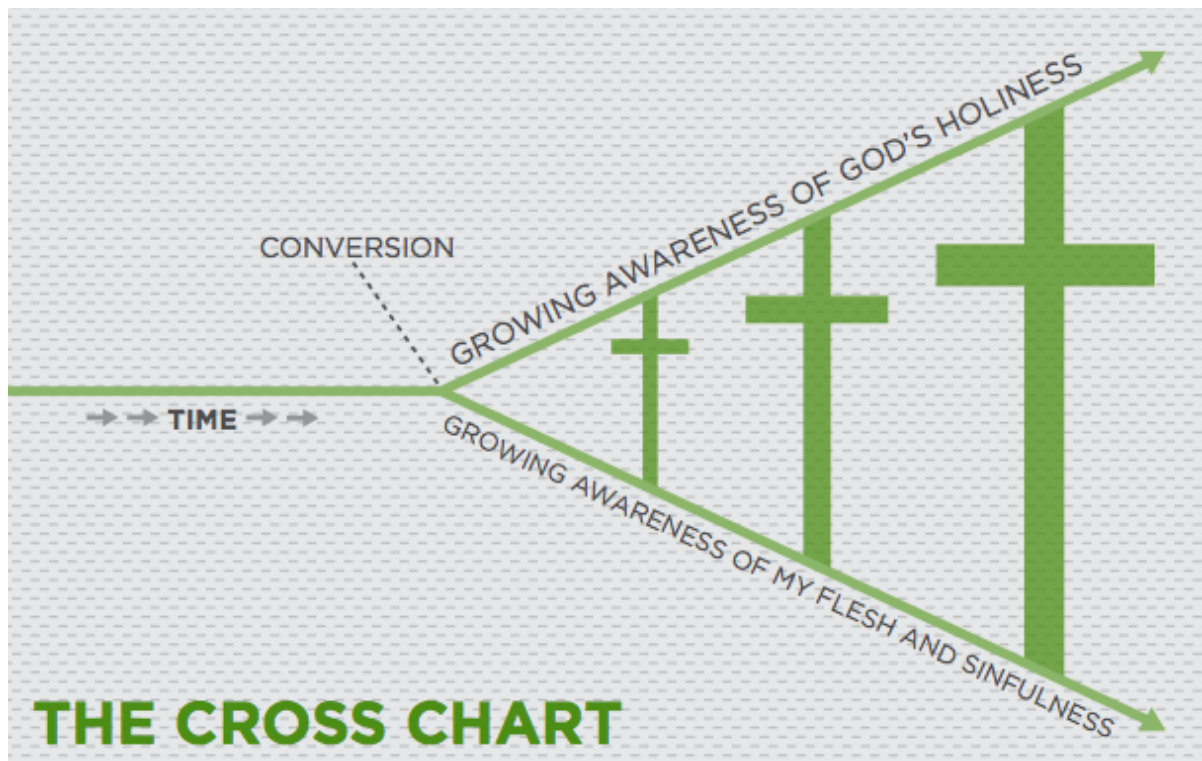
3) One author just begins with the obvious - stating the Trinity means that God is, in essence, **relational**. Three persons in dynamic orbit about each other, a dance of [perfect] love, [perfect] delight, and [perfect] adoration.²

4) So, one way to think of God's mission is that we, that humanity, has been invited back into the divine dance to re-engage Shalom -- undefiled harmony with God.

f. Which brings us to our next point...

² Tim Keller. *The Reason For God*: 223.

2. What is the MEANS of God's mission? The MEANS of God's mission is Jesus Christ and the work He did on the cross.
- The Bible refers to this work as the gospel...
 - The gospel is the *good news* that Jesus died and rose from the dead to restore our relationship with God.
 - Last week we said that the first mention of the gospel was way back in Genesis 3:15, right after Adam and Eve sinned, God sought them out and set in motion a plan for redemption.
 - The Genesis 3:15 gospel promise becomes an organizing theme for the whole rest of the Bible -- and the rest of human history.
 - We never outgrow our need for the gospel, which is necessary for both salvation and transformation.



- The gospel stands at the center of God's redemptive plan, and in it we see God most clearly for Who He is and what He has done.
3. This brings us to our third point -- What is the METHOD of God's mission? The METHOD of God's mission is you and me – the Church.

- a. Mission is not just an activity carried out by special people in faraway places – Mission is the character of the church in the Temecula Valley.
- b. In a nutshell, We (the Church) are all called to live as missionaries within our current sphere of relationships. What does this mean?
 - 1) It means that we are to be thoughtful and prayerful about how to live out the mission of God before our family, friends, neighbors, co-workers – all our social networks.
 - 2) Beginning to see ourselves as missionaries represents a profound learning curve for most Christians and most churches.
- c. Here's a verse that is powerful: *"Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf; for in its welfare you will have welfare."* --Jeremiah 29:7
- d. An essential part of our calling as a church is to actively seek the welfare of the valley and beyond.
- e. Missional churches are characterized by a great deal of respect for those who don't believe – missional churches and missional people take the time and effort to connect the gospel to base-line cultural narratives, hopes, problems, aspirations of our neighbors and co-workers – because we inhabit the same world.
- f. I will conclude by identifying three simple ways to begin being missional:
 - 1) Be Interested
 - a) Are you fully present when you have even a brief opportunity to speak with your neighbors and colleagues?
 - b) Listen deeply and reflectively. And I would add, steer away from giving too much advice. In your interactions let people know that you heard what they said and that you empathize with them.
 - c) Laugh with those who laugh and weep with those who weep.
 - 2) Be Incarnational (Are you real?)

- a) Sometimes we Christians think we have to put a façade up and pretend that everything is wonderful. I guarantee you, most people see right through that.
 - b) Are you honest and appropriately real with the people in your social spheres?
 - c) Let people see you struggle and doubt – like the disciples in Matthew 28.
 - d) And be generous with people. It's better to make a mistake by giving than to make a mistake by withholding. [Subway/Jared]
- 3) Be Intentional (Are you willing?)
- a) Does the kingdom of God flow through your life to other people?
 - b) Do you believe that God has called you to bring the kingdom of God into your family and social spheres?
 - c) If you're more introverted, here's a way to engage: ask questions...talk about common experiences, ask for help or advice, inquire about the lives of those whom God has placed in your life.

III. CONCLUSION

- A. So, God has a MISSION (to be known and enjoyed above all things), a MEANS (the gospel – that we never outgrow), and a METHOD (you and me).
- B. It's been said that we serve a missionary God. The Father sent the Son, the Son sent the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit sends us.
- C. Here is what I absolutely KNOW to be true: God is already at work in the lives of every person you know. Where can you be an encouragement? Where can you be redemptive?