

Ministering Through Relationships

SESSION 1: Why do we serve others?

1. Our overall Purpose and Design:

a. **Design:** Design according to (Genesis 1-2)

- i. We are created to be God's **representatives!**

God's **image bearers** are multipliers of His goodness and truth.

1) **Rule**= leading by exercising caring authority (i.e. Naming of the animals was an act of authority and dominion) see *Genesis 1:26-28; 2:20*

2) **Cultivate** = subdue...control and utilize the resources and beauty of the earth for our own benefit and joy. see *Genesis 2:15*

3) **Multiply** = creating offspring...image bearers like ourselves, creating representatives, replicating DNA **AND** the goodness and truth of God as Creator. see *Genesis 1:27-28, 2:24-25*

b. **Purpose:** our purpose is to **GO** out and be a **WITNESS** of the Gospel

- i. The Great Commission

¹⁷ And *when they** saw him, they worshiped *him*, * but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus approached *and** spoke to them, saying, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore, **go*** *and** make disciples of all the **nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you, and behold, I am with you all the days until the end of the age." W. Hall Harris III et al., eds., [*The Lexham English Bible*](#) (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012), **Mt 28:17–20**.

Key Observations/Notes:

- ii. ...as **ambassadors**

¹⁷ Therefore if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; the old *things* have passed away; behold, new *things* have come. ¹⁸ And all these *things are* from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ, and who has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ namely, that God was in

Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.²⁰ Therefore we are **ambassadors** on behalf of Christ, as *if* God were imploring *you* through us. We beg *you* on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.²¹ He made the one who did not know sin *to be* sin on our behalf, in order that we could become the righteousness of God in him. W. Hall Harris III et al., eds., [The Lexham English Bible](#) (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012), **2 Co 5:17–21**.

Key Observations/Notes:

2. Jesus modeled and commanded to love.

³⁴ “A new commandment I give to you: that you love one another—just as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples—if you have love for one another.” W. Hall Harris III et al., eds., [The Lexham English Bible](#) (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012), **Jn 13:34–35**.

¹² This is my commandment: that you love one another just as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this: that someone lay down his life for his friends. W. Hall Harris III et al., eds., [The Lexham English Bible](#) (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012), **Jn 15:12–13**.

The nature of this love is **sacrificial!** It cost us something.

Key Observations/Notes:

3. Service is the best demonstration of love.

Sacrificial love is necessary in creating a **space** for the Gospel to be **displayed** and **understood** in someone’s life. (This “space” can be called relationship.)

Sacrificial love is risky because it requires vulnerability in order to be seen as genuine by the person receiving it.

How is sacrificial love risky? It's sacrificial...it costs something, and it hurts, requires vulnerability and resource because it is getting it paves the way for the Gospel to the core of who people are and RESTORES image bearing! Sacrificial love/service creates a space for the Gospel to work in people's lives. Service = clear image bearing (being like God). Jesus was the flesh and blood of God (the incarnation). He was the perfect Adam that modeled intended image bearing (design/purpose).

As image bearers, we are the flesh and blood of God!

Ministry is encouraging and facilitating presence of the Gospel in others' lives:

- i. Are they looking for God?
- ii. Can they recognize God?
- iii. Do they recognize their need for God?
- iv. Do they understand the value of God's Gospel?
- v. How are you modeling these things for others?

¹⁸ Just as you **sent** me into the world, I also have **sent** them into the world. ¹⁹ And for them I sanctify myself, so that *they* themselves also may be sanctified in the truth. W. Hall Harris III et al., eds., [The Lexham English Bible](#) (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012), **Jn 17:18–19**.

²⁰ And *when he** had said this, he showed *his** hands and *his** side to them. Then the disciples rejoiced *when they** saw the Lord. ²¹ So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you. As the Father has **sent** me, I also **send** you." ²² And *when he** had said this, he breathed on *them** and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. W. Hall Harris III et al., eds., [The Lexham English Bible](#) (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012), **Jn 20:20–22**.

Key Observations/Notes:

SESSION 2: How do we serve others?

1. Confessing my own **hardness** and **prejudice** helps us see people how God sees them.
 - a. Do I embrace and have I committed to being a representative of God?
 - b. Do I view those I minister to as image-bearers that I help image-bear (represent) God well?

Reflections:

2. Loving others and leading others in the Gospel must be done in the context of **godly relationships**.

Godly relationship = creating “space” to step into the lives of others by **discovering** and **walking** in their “story”.

Intentionally discover someone’s story.

EXERCISE: Have them come up with a real name student in their ministry.

Those who are easy to love vs those difficulty to love? What is the difference? (personality, perception, commonality, spiritual interest, an ability to see a need for the Gospel...is the Gospel being made attractive to your students.

¹⁷ And *when they** saw him, they worshiped *him*, * but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus approached *and** spoke to them, saying, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore, **go*** *and** make disciples of all the **nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you, and behold, I am with you all the days until the end of the age.” W. Hall Harris III et al., eds., [The Lexham English Bible](#) (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012), **Mt 28:17–20**.

We must build **relationships** and **connections** with others in order to set up a space for the Gospel to be **introduced** and **cultivated**.

Key Observations/Notes:

3. **How did Jesus build relationship (connection) and create space for God to work in?**

- i. **DISCOVER**....their story.
 1. Peter: Matthew 4:18-25; 8:14-17, Luke 5:1-11, John 1:35-51
 2. Matthew: Matthew 9:9-17, Mark 2:14-22, Luke 5:27-32
 3. The Twelve: Mark 3:13-21, Luke 6:12-19, John 1:35-51
- i. **SHOP**...in their story
 4. What’s important to them? What do they value? Experienced?

5. Recognizing needs to create opportunities for **connection** and **trust**.
- vi. **INTERSECT** their story with God's Gospel story. (What is God's story...bible timeline/metanarrative)

Identifying my unique design (personality theory).

1. Using who I am to love others.
 - a. Evaluating your strengths and blind spots in your personality.
2. Understanding who others are to create a better space for God.
 - a. How do others perceive and process your personality?
3. How can your understanding of who you are help put others in line with who God is and what God is doing?