

# sermon study summary

November 26 / 27, 2023

## Vision Address

Speaker: Dr. Henry Schorr

This weekend we opened the New Addition to Central Campus! We gratefully recollect God's faithfulness to us over the last 65 years as we serve Him by impacting thousands of lives and helping them to come to the Jesus we know and love! Prayers, sacrifices, time, talent and money, from generation to generation, laid the foundation for God's work through our Church. HE gave us the vision and mission to be ONE CHURCH, and He has blessed us abundantly!

We are called to 'Missional Living'! Pray. Care. Share. Invite. This is missional living. When we pray for our people of peace, we invite God to do in their life what we can't do. When we cultivate a friendship with our people of peace, we sincerely care for them. At God appointed times, we share how Jesus transformed our life and introduce them to God. Then we invite them to our homes, to our community groups, to our Come and See weekends to help them find answers to spiritual questions, and to introduce them to the truth and family of God.

Our collective prayers, gift of time and God-given talents, as well as financial donations, resulted in us seeing hundreds of people come to faith in Christ, yearly. Missional living involves pursuing relationships, and we strive to emulate Jesus who had a close relationship with His heavenly Father and He lived a life of mission with his disciples. We're created to be in relationship with others. It takes courage to step out in faith, become an active member of our Church, and our faith comes alive with God using us to impact the lives of others through caring for and serving them in various ways.

'Ask not what 'Church' can do for you; rather, ask what you can do for 'Church'. We need many more 'servers' for growing ministries in ALL our campuses. Tens of thousands of people, who do not know Jesus, live around us, some who may be our family members, neighbours, workmates or schoolmates. Jesus came to seek and save the lost; He told his disciples, 'As the Father has sent me, so send I, you'. We Christians are not in heaven yet, because it is only on earth that we can bring others to Christ.

If our primary focus is for comfort, safe from evil, chaos and confusion, and we focus on stockpiling wealth for ourselves, none of that will mean anything when we die. Meanwhile, we'll be miserable and bored because we've missed the very reason God created us and placed us in Calgary during this particular time in history! It takes time, courage and faith to live a life of mission, and only this will awaken and grow our faith, enrich our prayer life and increase our dependence on God, which results in greater love, joy and peace. When we, our families, or small groups of friends pursue, with our heart, soul and mind, the mission God has called us to, GOD IS GLORIFIED TO THE UTMOST! He created us for a relationship with Himself.

Let us choose to invest our lives in glorifying God, and be in agreement with C.T. Studd who said: 'Only one life, 'twill soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last.' Let us fully embrace the words of Jesus when he said, 'What will it profit a person if he gains the whole world and yet loses his soul?' CHURCH, LET'S DO THIS TOGETHER!

We will NOT be the generation that shrinks back, plays it safe and turns inward, saying NO to all God wants to do in us as individuals and as a Church. Let us, like those who have gone before, step out in faith and leave a legacy of faith for all those who come BEHIND us as we live, serve and give to those the Lord puts in our path! Let's ask the Lord what He's saying to us and what He calls us to do about it. God bless you all!

# sermon study guide

## IN – PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. Share one thing you have built. It could be an art piece, a craft, a building, or anything from music to stories. Which did you enjoy more the build or the completion of your project?
2. When was the last time you came to the edge of something new? A new start? A new journey? A new project? Describe it to your group.

## UP – PURSUE GOD

Read Deuteronomy 6:10-25.

3. When is it easiest to forget our God? What steps can we take to remember our God every day?

Read Matthew 28:16-20.

4. When Jesus told his followers to go and make disciples, what specific instructions did he give? What does following those instructions look like for us today?

## OUT – PURSUE MISSION

5. Who around you, in your church, neighbourhood, province, country, and world have needs? What are they?
6. Do you have an unspoken vision for the people in your community? What is it? Why has it gone unspoken? Discuss what resources you as a group with God can pool to enable your vision.

### For Personal Reflection / Prayer:

***What does living missionally and going and making disciples mean for you personally? What steps do you need to take in order to serve God and the people of your church and community? Pray about this, tell someone about your steps, and start taking action. Talk to your neighbours, join a ministry at church, or join a missions group.***

## THE WORD (NIV)

### Deuteronomy 6:10-25

<sup>10</sup> When the Lord your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, <sup>11</sup> houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, <sup>12</sup> be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

<sup>13</sup> Fear the Lord your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name. <sup>14</sup> Do not follow other gods, the gods of the peoples around you; <sup>15</sup> for the Lord your God, who is among you, is a jealous God and his anger will burn against you, and he will destroy you from the face of the land. <sup>16</sup> Do not put the Lord your God to the test as you did at Massah. <sup>17</sup> Be sure to keep the commands of the Lord your God and the stipulations and decrees he has given you. <sup>18</sup> Do what is right and good in the Lord's sight, so that it may go well with you and you may go in and take over the good land the Lord promised on oath to your ancestors, <sup>19</sup> thrusting out all your enemies before you, as the Lord said.

<sup>20</sup> In the future, when your son asks you, "What is the meaning of the stipulations, decrees and laws the Lord our God has commanded you?" <sup>21</sup> tell him: "We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, but the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. <sup>22</sup> Before our eyes the Lord sent signs and wonders—great and terrible—on Egypt and Pharaoh and his whole household. <sup>23</sup> But he brought us out from there to bring us in and give us the land he promised on oath to our ancestors. <sup>24</sup> The Lord commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the Lord our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today. <sup>25</sup> And if we are careful to obey all this law before the Lord our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness."

This week's writers: **Asha Phillips, Elsa Henderson, Mark Eckstein, Sandra Somers, Jorel Quemuel, and David McMillin**