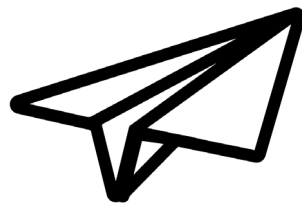


## STUDY 4

# SEND

SENDING & SUPPORTING  
AMBASSADORS FOR JESUS



Our last word may at first seem a little unusual when describing how we as a church want to keep growing. But according to the Bible it's an activity that is essential to growing the church.

God calls all of us to have a role in and be a part of his global mission. We are participants in the bigger story, in God's plan to bring redemption to all peoples. And that includes intentionally and deliberately sending people out from us to be sharing Jesus in other parts of Brisbane and the world. And also being prepared to be sent out ourselves.

But what exactly does that look like? And how can we as a church be intentional in sending people out?

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# THE FIRST SENDING

## Read Matthew 9:35-39

1. What strikes Jesus as he teaches around the small-town synagogues of Judea?
2. The 'harvest' is a metaphor for people who need to be gathered to Jesus. What motivates Jesus to send out his disciples into the 'harvest field'?

What motivates you to share the gospel with people around you?  
 What would change if you had more compassion for those who are 'lost'?

3. "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." What is the solution Jesus offers to this problem?

What would it look like to intentionally pray for workers to be sent out... or even pray for ourselves to be sent out?

## *Matthew 9:35-39*

<sup>35</sup> Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. <sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup> Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Jesus identified the need for workers to be sent out to tell the world of the hope and life he offers. And so he sends his disciples out to do just that. It's a command Jesus repeats in his final words to his disciples, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations" (Matt 28:19). And it's an action that unfolds throughout the rest of the New Testament.

Jesus is in the business of sending people out to the ends of the earth; to be on mission, telling others about him. And if you're a follower of Jesus, then you have a role in Jesus' mission too!

**Romans 15:23-24**

<sup>23</sup> But now that there is no more place for me to work in these regions, and since I have been longing for many years to visit you, <sup>24</sup> I plan to do so when I go to Spain. I hope to see you while passing through and to have you assist me on my journey there, after I have enjoyed your company for a while.

**Ephesians 6:18-20**

<sup>18</sup> And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. <sup>19</sup> Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

**Philippians 4:14-16**

<sup>14</sup> Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. <sup>15</sup> Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; <sup>16</sup> for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need.

**2 Timothy 2:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

**STILL SENDING...**

- Split up into pairs and give each pair one or two passages in the sidebar to look at. Then have each pair read their passages to the group and share their findings.

	<i>Who/What's being sent?</i>	<i>Who's doing the sending?</i>	<i>What's involved in being sent?</i>	<i>What's costly for the ones sending?</i>
Rom 15				
Eph 6				
Phil 4				
2 Tim 2				



5. As one who has been sent out to teach the gospel, Paul calls on the churches to be sending churches. Churches that are actively involved in partnering with him by sending financial gifts, people and other practical gifts to see the advance of the gospel. What holds us back from sending out people from MPC and supporting others? (eg. financial burden, loss of close friends, apathy)
  
6. In Ephesians 6:20, Paul describes himself as an 'ambassador' (he uses the same language in 2 Corinthians 5:20). What do you think he means by this?
  
7. MPC has a long history of sending individuals out into Brisbane and the world, planting new churches, training future ministry workers, and supporting mission partners. But we also want to be a church that's prepared to be sent ourselves as ambassadors of Jesus. What do you think it would look like for you to be an ambassador of Jesus in your workplace, neighbourhood, university, and amongst your friends?
  
8. What would it look like if all of us were being sent into our community with the gospel?





## INVITE

Inviting others  
to follow Jesus  
with us



## GROW

Growing more  
like Jesus



## LOVE

Loving with a  
servant heart



## SEND

Sending and  
supporting  
ambassadors for  
Jesus

Invite, Grow, Love, Send - these are the Big Four that summarise what we should be focused on as a church. We've seen it from Jesus himself. We've seen it in the early church from Paul's letters. They should also be the focus of our church today. Hopefully this series has helped you start to think through how it might help our mission together as a church to focus on these four things. But it's only a start...

The rest of the year's teaching program will help us think through our focus more deeply. Next week we start a sermon series - *9 of the Best Things Jesus Ever Said* - which will be especially good to **INVITE** people to hear. While that's happening on Sundays, Growth Groups have a chance to do four weeks of practical training on **INVITING** others to follow Jesus with us.

After Easter, Sundays and Growth Groups will work through Colossians in *Grow Where You're Planted*. That's our chance to dig deeper on what it really takes to **GROW** more like Jesus together.

In the second half of the year we'll do *The Spirit of Love*, a series that traces the centrality of **LOVE** to God's plans for the world throughout the whole story of the Bible. That's where we'll work through more deeply how we can **LOVE** everyone like Jesus has loved us.

Finally, we'll look at Paul's second letter to his ministry apprentice Timothy in *Sent by Jesus*. That's where we can go deeper on who we should **SEND** out, how we should be preparing them, what we should be sending them out to do.

Our prayer as a church should be that we really can focus on these four things, for our own good as a church family, and for the glory of Jesus. Let's be praying that together throughout the year.