

LIFE IN THE AGE OF OUTRAGE

Sunday, November 22, 2020 | Wawasee Community Bible Church | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

Part 5 | **Small Town, Big God.**

Multiple Scriptures

We are **SENT**

*"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me,
even so I am sending you."*

John 20:21

to a specific place Acts 17:26-27

to specific people John 20:21

to **LOVE** people

love God, love people Mark 12:29-31; Luke 10:25-29

love is costly Luke 10:30-37

and **INVITE** them

invite to friendship

1 Peter 4:8-11

hospitality = "...creating a safe and welcoming place where a stranger can be converted into a friend."

to follow Jesus **WITH US.**

Recap...

1. We are **SENT** by a King with a **MESSAGE** to a **FOREIGN LAND**.
2. Disgust halts all **ENGAGEMENT** with a world **LONGING** to be loved like we **ARE LOVED**.
3. There are things we **MUST** get angry about—but always in the **SAME WAY** God gets angry, because we **REPRESENT** his Kingdom.
4. God is **CALLING** you to DO what Jesus commands online as it is **IRL** (in real life).
5. We are **SENT** to **LOVE** people and **INVITE** them to follow Jesus **WITH US**.



What is this? – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, and live life together. We call them Life Groups. The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a parallel passage of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on the Connect Card in your bulletin.

Getting Started

Getting to Know You: Part of our goal together is getting to know one another. *Describe how well you know your neighbors. How did you meet them for the first time? How did you get to know them better? (Or what would be a way to get to know them better?)*

Review your message notes. What stood out to you from the message this week? Do you have questions? Disagreements? Discuss it with your group.

** This week's questions are adapted from:*

Ed Stetzer and Andrew MacDonald, Christians at Our Best: A Six-Week Guide to Living in the Age of Outrage (Carol Stream, IL: Tynedale Momentum, 2019).

Engaging Your Community

In 1 Thessalonians, Paul commends the church for their example in living out their calling in their community. **Read 1 Thessalonians 1:6-10.**

1. Paul says that the gospel was “ringing out” from the Thessalonian church into their community and beyond. What is your reputation in your community? How would your neighbors describe their interactions with you? If they had to explain what you are all about, what would they say?
2. What is your church's reputation within its community? When you mention to non-Christians where you go to church, what reaction do you get?
3. The Thessalonian church was an example of faith despite intense suffering. How can suffering (our own and the suffering of those in our community) provide a way to live out our Kingdom mission to our neighbors?
4. The Thessalonian believers followed Paul's example. Who do you know who lives out their Kingdom mission to their neighbors? What do they do that is so effective? Which of their practices can you incorporate as you engage your neighbors?

Take some time as a group to discuss the following questions about engaging our community.

5. How can the local church communicate the hope and truth in Jesus' Kingdom to our friends, neighbors, coworkers, and family? What can a community do that an individual cannot?
6. Think about the community our church is in. What are the unique needs around you? How can your church meet these needs?
7. Local churches are called to be places where we find the conviction and encouragement we need to live out our faith. Reflect on a time when you have experienced this accountability. How did this affect your faith?

A practical and powerful way to engage in a hostile world is to open our lives and homes to others. Read the following verses, then discuss why it's important to open our lives to those around us. (You might also discuss why it can be so hard, and how our faith helps us overcome those obstacles.)

Matthew 25:34-40 Hebrews 13:1-3 Leviticus 19:33-34 Romans 12:20 1Peter 4:8-10

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Pull out a piece of paper or use the space below and draw a small map of your neighborhood. Write the names of each of your neighbors surrounding your home. If there are houses you don't know the names of people, make a plan to learn their names in the coming weeks.

As a group, brainstorm ways you could reach out to, love, and invite your neighbors into friendship with you. How could *you* take the initiative to go from being neighbors to being "neighborly"? **Pray. Engage. Invite.** — You might also consider doing the same thing for your relationships at work, or in other areas of your life.

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

Pray

Share prayer requests in your group, and be sure every person is prayed for by name.



NOVEMBER CHALLENGE

Pray for a Neighboring Church.

Before you close, have someone in your group pull out their phone, open Maps, and search for "church". Spend some time praying for one of the local churches that pop up nearest to you. (If Wawasee Bible pops up first, go to the next one!)

Word Find for Colossians 4:2-6 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

² **Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful** in it with **thanksgiving**. ³ At the **same time, pray also** for us, that God may **open** to us a **door** for the word, to **declare** the **mystery** of **Christ**, on **account** of which I am in **prison**—
⁴ that I may **make it clear**, which is how I ought to **speak**. ⁵ **Walk** in wisdom **toward outsiders, making** the **best** use of the **time**.
⁶ Let your **speech always be gracious, seasoned** with **salt**, so that you may **know** how you ought to **answer each person**.

P P K W D N T O P E N A A T
A R G R A C I O U S D N L H
M A K E S T B E S T O S W A
U Y C O N T I N U E O W A N
K Y S I M D E C L A R E Y K
N Y E M O U T S I D E R S S
O G E P R A Y E R F T I P G
W D A G S P E A K A O H E I
A C C O U N T S R S A M E V
T L H B A L S O C T K C C I
C E P E R S O N H L B U H N
H A R M Y S T E R Y E Y W G
F R T O W A R D I T I M E C
U P N P G P R I S O N Y S C
L W A L K S A L T R G G M D