

## SCRIPTURES FOR 6/3/07 LIFEGROUP LESSON

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### **John 20:19-21**

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

### **Matthew 28:18-20**

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of

the age.

### **Acts 17:26-27**

From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.

### **Luke 24:46-48**

This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

<p>NOTE TO LEADER: There is a lot of material here. Familiarize yourself with it so you know which stuff you are most comfortable with and what you will cut if you get short on time. Try to keep the lesson/discussion 20-30 minutes in length. Good luck and let me know if you have any questions. - Ed</p>
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# SENT: On a Mission From God

*Ed Taylor*

**NOTE TO LEADERS:** All items in *italics* are for your information and not designed to be read aloud.

**OPENING:**

ICEBREAKER or GET YA THINKIN' QUESTION: \_\_\_\_\_

OPENING PRAYER NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

**INTRODUCTION:**

*(Have someone read John 20:19-21)* This passage set the stage for 2,000 years worth of mission work.

**Q:** Jesus did four things in this passage that changed the lives of the apostles and should likewise change ours. What were they? (*appeared to them, calmed them, reminded them, sent them*)

**Q:** This would have been an ENORMOUS boost to the moral of the apostles. Why? (*they thought Jesus was dead, they were wanted by the police, they could now see Jesus' ministry for what it was, they knew that Jesus still trusted them*)

**DIG DEEPER:**

*(have someone read Matthew 28:18-20)* The words Jesus used that were translated "all nations" were *panta ta ethne*.

**Q:** What modern word we get from this Greek root? (*ethnic*) What did Jesus mean by *panta ta ethne*? (*all people groups*)

**Q:** Why does it matter? (*it means all people groups rather than all geographical areas, so it doesn't NECESSARILY involve going somewhere else; MOST of us are sent to HERE, not to the D.R., Africa, etc.*)

**APPLICATION:**

*(have someone read Acts 17:26-27)* Ed suggested that we were **SENT** ("As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."), **SENT HERE** ("all nations" "he determined the times set for them and the exact places"), and **SENT HERE ON A MISSION** (*have someone read Luke 24:46-48*).

**Q:** What was the mission? (*preach forgiveness of sins and repentance beginning in OUR TOWN [Jerusalem]*)

In order to accomplish this mission, Ed suggested that we would need to do two things as a **MISSIONAL** church:

**CONTEND** - Jude 3 *Dear friends,...I urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.* We need to hold tightly to the indisputable truths of Scripture, and we must...

**CONTEXTUALIZE** - 1 Cor 9:22-23 ... *I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel,...* That is we must hold matters of opinion more loosely in order to meet the lost where they are.

**Q:** What are some things we must hold tightly, that is **CONTEND** for? (*who Jesus is [son of God, born of a virgin, resurrected], what He did for us [died for our sins], what following Him means [repentance, service, intentional growth]*)

**Q:** What are some things we can hold loosely in order to **CONTEXTUALIZE**? (*style of music, meeting place/time, specific strategies, etc.*)

**INCARNATIONAL** - John tells us, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14), and Paul adds, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8) The Word was made flesh in Jesus, but now is made flesh in us. This is what people mean by **INCARNATIONAL** and it suggests certain expectations of us not only as a church, but as individuals.

**Q:** What would those expectations be? As the embodiment of Jesus in our context, how should we respond? (*try to do what Jesus would do, expect the power of the Holy Spirit, not be ashamed, etc.*)

**CONCLUSION:**

**TAKE A RISK**

**Q:** Did you understand Ed's challenge? (*we will do specific, simple research tasks this summer to try to better understand our specific context and report our finding to the rest of the church*) If you didn't get it before, but now you do, and you want to volunteer now, tell Ed.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES:**

GROUP NEEDS: \_\_\_\_\_ SHUT-IN MINISTRY: \_\_\_\_\_

WHO'S LEADING...

THIS WEEK: WORSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_ PRAYER: \_\_\_\_\_

NEXT WEEK: WORSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_ PRAYER: \_\_\_\_\_