

SOUTHWEST: LIFE GROUP BIBLE STUDY

5-6-07 - "Missional in The 21st Century Culture"

Suggested Ice Breaker:

- Jared is a missionary in the Bronx, NY. What struck you this morning and why?
- What boundaries is Jared reaching across in order to make disciples?

Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

1. **1 Corinthians 9:23** – Before we look at HOW Paul shared the good news to different groups of people, discuss WHY he went to such great pains to connect with people not like himself. What are the “blessings” he wants to share in?
2. **1 Corinthians 9:19** – Paul states a truth, a choice, and a motive here. Locate each one. Can you say as confidently as Paul any of these? Why or why not?
3. **1 Corinthians 9:20-22a** –How did Paul become “*like a Jew*”, or “*like one under the law*”, or “*like one not having the law*”, or “*weak*”? What does this mean for us today as we try to cross boundaries in our lives for the gospel’s sake?
4. **1 Corinthians 9:22b** – Paul summarizes his teaching here on how to connect in order to share. Do you share God’s good news with people? Do you have an intentional passion and plan like Paul? Do you know anyone who does?

Application:

1. What is it that we have for the world that is so good and so worthy of sharing?
2. If you ever have, share how you have “*made yourself a slave*” to someone in order to influence them towards Christ? Did it “work”?
3. Think of someone currently in your life that God might want you to conform to in order to influence them. Who is it and how might you do it?
4. The Southwest “missions program” is an effort focused on connecting people *outside* the Southwest church family to Christ (be it in Zimbabwe, Mexico, Brazil, or the Ukraine). You can contribute towards this *international* effort primarily through prayer and financial giving. Here *locally*, YOU are our “program” that is focused on connecting people outside the Southwest church family to Christ (be it in your neighborhood, your workplace, through your hobbies, or your family). Who do you see contributing to our *local* mission?
5. Some Christians are afraid that if a church focuses too much on people outside the church family, that those inside might be neglected. Other Christians are afraid that we have a predisposition towards caring for each other so much that we make the church’s mission of seeking and saving the lost a secondary calling. Which way does Southwest currently lean and why? Which way do you lean and why? What can you do about this?

Lifegroup Prayer: Pray that God give each member of your group the confidence and attitude of Paul...that our lives will be willingly submitted to God’s will for His International AND Local mission efforts through Southwest.