

Live on *mission.*



Bloomington Campus Sermon Study - 10.11.2026

Leader's Corner

God is on a Mission

John 3:16-17

Main Idea: God's mission flows from God's heart. He loves the world, moves toward people to rescue rather than condemn them, and invites us to join Him.

Main Passage: John 3:16–17

Main Practice: Join the Mission — Identify one place or person where God may be inviting you to move toward others with His love.

Leader Summary: John 3:16 is familiar enough that we can easily miss how active it is. God loved. God gave. God sent. God saves. His love moves toward a world in need of rescue.

This week, help your group move beyond simply appreciating God's love to asking: If this is the heart and mission of God, what does it look like for us to join Him?

Prayer and Praise

Begin by reading John 3:16–17 slowly together.

Opening Prayer:

Father, thank You for loving the world enough to send Jesus—not to condemn us, but to rescue us. Give us Your heart for the people around us. Help us see where You are already at work and give us courage to join You. Amen.

Worship Suggestions:

- * God So Loved — We The Kingdom
- * Reckless Love — Cory Asbury
- * Build Your Kingdom Here — Rend Collective

Group Discussion

God's Mission Reveals God's Heart

Read John 3:16–17 again.

1. What do these verses tell us about God?

Before focusing on what we should do, notice what God does.

- * He loves the world.
- * He gives His Son.
- * He does not come primarily to condemn.
- * He comes to save.

What part of God's heart stands out most to you in these verses? Why?

God's Mission Is a Rescue

Verse 17 says Jesus came so the world "might be saved through Him."

2. How is approaching someone to rescue them different from approaching them to judge them? Where can Christians sometimes get this backwards?

God's Mission Is Bigger Than We Think

The "world" in John 3:16 is kosmos. God's love isn't reserved for one nation, one kind of person, or simply the people we think deserve it.

3. Who is easiest for you to imagine God loving? Who is harder?

What might change if we genuinely believed God is pursuing people we would normally overlook?

God's Mission Is a Quest

God didn't simply love the world from a distance—He sent His Son.

Later in John 4, Jesus intentionally moves toward the Samaritan woman. He tells her:

"If you knew the gift of God..." — John 4:10

And Jesus says the Father is seeking people who will worship Him (John 4:23).

4. What do you notice about the way Jesus moves toward people? How does that challenge the way we think about living on mission?

Practice

From His Heart → To Ours → Through Us

God's mission begins in His heart, reaches ours, and then moves through us toward others.

So instead of simply asking, "What should I do?", begin here:

"God, who or what do You want me to care about because You care about them?"

Take a quiet minute and consider:

- * WHO is one person God may be putting on your heart?
- * WHERE is one place God may already be at work around you?
- * WHAT is one step you could take toward joining Him?

Share your response with the group.

This Week's Challenge:

Move toward one person.

Pray for them. Listen to them. Invite them. Serve them. Encourage them. Share your story. Simply take one intentional step toward someone with the love of Jesus.

As a group, also consider where God may be inviting you to participate together through opportunities like Mission Rev, mission trips, Single Moms, Celebrate Recovery, neighborhood outreach, or other places God is already at work.

Close by praying specifically for the people and places your group identified.

Further Study

John 4:4–26 — Jesus and the Samaritan woman

Luke 19:1–10 — Jesus seeks and saves the lost

2 Corinthians 5:17–20 — Ambassadors of reconciliation

Matthew 28:18–20 — Sent to make disciples

Reflection for the Week:

If God is already on mission around me, where is He inviting me to join Him?